

Membership

Councillors

- Kate Foale (Chairman)
Steve Carroll (Acting Vice-Chairman)
- A Colleen Harwood
Roger Jackson
Bruce Laughton
- A John Ogle
Jacky Williams
John Wilmott

District Members

- A Trevor Locke - Ashfield District Council
A Paul Henshaw - Mansfield District Council
Tony Roberts - Newark and Sherwood District Council
A June Evans - Bassetlaw District Council

Officers

- Martin Gately - Nottinghamshire County Council
Christine Marson - Nottinghamshire County Council

Also in attendance

- Joe Pidgeon - Healthwatch Nottinghamshire

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was noted that at the Annual Meeting of Council Councillor Kate Foale was appointed Chairman and Councillor Colleen Harwood was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee membership and terms of reference were noted. Councillor Tony Roberts informed the Committee that this would be his last meeting with David Staples being appointed as the Newark and Sherwood District Council member.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor Colleen Harwood
Councillor John Ogle

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SCRUTINY

Martin Gately from Policy, Planning and Corporate Services gave a brief introduction to Health Scrutiny. He informed the Committee that the function of Health Scrutiny was included in the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. He outlined the principles of effective scrutiny as:-

- § Provides “critical friend challenge”* to executive policy-makers and decision-makers
- § Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
- § Is carried out by “independent minded” councillors who lead and own the scrutiny process
- § Drives improvement in public services

Mr Gately informed the Committee that they can review possible topics that they have concern over, gather evidence via public forums or study groups and then formulate a report with a view to presenting the report to organisations concerned.

The Committee noted the presentation.

HEALTHWATCH

Joe Pidgeon, Healthwatch Nottinghamshire gave the Committee an introduction to Healthwatch. He explained that three bodies had preceeded Healthwatch which were the Community Health Councils, the Patient and Public Involvement Forums and the Local Involvement Link. He stated that Healthwatch would cover issues relating to both adults and children and it had been commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council. It is a small registered, non profit making organisation based in central Hucknall. He reported that a web page had been developed so members of the public could have access to the work of Healthwatch.

The aims of Healthwatch are:-

- § Gather first-hand experiences of local residents and make recommendations to local providers
- § Consult with the public about proposed changes and influence future designs
- § Work in partnership with local statutory and voluntary groups to represent the views of the wider community and minority groups
- § Ensure proper representation of Nottinghamshire's diversity
- § Act as a hub for information at local and national level

It was felt that it was important that different organisations do not scrutinise the same topics and Mr Gately was asked to bring a report to the next meeting explaining how the Committee will relate to other organisations to ensure topics are not replicated.

Mr Pidgeon stated that there was a separate Healthwatch for the City of Nottingham but that he was working closely with them as they share some functions and work areas.

The Committee thanked Mr Pidgeon for his presentation.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Martin Gately explained to the Committee that they have a right to review on issues which are of concern.

It was agreed that over the coming months the areas of "Never Events" and misdiagnosis should be scrutinised. Other topics which were suggested were Newark Hospital Accident and Emergency Unit – mortality rates, patient transfer transport and end of life care issues.

WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was discussed and noted.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm.

CHAIRMAN

3 June - Health Scrutiny