

## Healthwatch Essex update

Reference Number: HOPSC/09/20

<b>Report title:</b> Healthwatch Essex - update	
<b>Report to:</b> Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 4 March 2020	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the latest periodic strategic and activity update from Healthwatch Essex..

### 2. Action required

- 2.1 To consider the attached update from Healthwatch Essex and identify any issues arising and follow-up scrutiny work.

### 3. Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) established a national body, Healthwatch England (HWE), and a local Healthwatch for every local council in England with social care responsibilities.

Healthwatch England was established in October 2012 to provide a national consumer champion for users of health and care services. Healthwatch England has statutory powers to ensure the voice of the consumer is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services.

Each local Healthwatch is a 'body corporate' (ie a legal entity) which is a social enterprise, able to employ its own staff and involve volunteers and has to keep accounts and make its annual reports available to the public.

From April 2013, local authorities were required to establish a local Healthwatch organisation to:

- signpost people to local health and social care services
- collect and analyse the experiences that people have of local care to help shape local services
- feed views and any recommendations to Healthwatch England to act on at a national level.

## **Healthwatch Essex update**

The local Healthwatch organisations replaced Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).

In addition to providing signposting, receiving patient feedback and complaints and advocacy (if appropriate) services, local Healthwatch:

- has powers to request information from commissioners and providers of health and social care and to enter health and social care premises
- has a seat on the local statutory health and wellbeing board, a committee of the local authority.

Healthwatch Essex is grant funded by Essex County Council.

### **4. Update and Next Steps**

Update is attached.

### **5 List of Appendices**

See attached update from Healthwatch Essex.

### **6. Further reading:**

Further information on Healthwatch Essex can be obtained from their website at <https://healthwatchessex.org.uk/>

Centre for Public Scrutiny - Local Healthwatch, health and wellbeing boards and health scrutiny - Roles, relationships and adding value - [CfPS report](#)