



**Brent**



*Clinical Commissioning Group*

## Health and Wellbeing Board 24 January 2017

### Report from Healthwatch Brent

For endorsement

Wards Affected:  
ALL

### Healthwatch Brent Community Chest update

#### 1.0. Summary

- 1.1. Healthwatch Brent is the independent voice through which Brent residents can share their experiences of using health and social care services.
- 1.2. CommUNITY Barnet is commissioned by the London Borough of Brent to deliver the local Healthwatch contract.
- 1.3. The contract commenced from 1 July 2015 for an initial period of 12 months and then extended for a further 12 months. This report presents a summary of the projects funded through the Community Chest prepared by the Healthwatch Team.
- 1.4. The report is attached as an appendix for reference.

#### 2.0. Recommendations

2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the progress Healthwatch Brent has made in delivering the contract
- Note the contents of the report for information.

#### 3.0. Context

- 3.1. Healthwatch Brent works with 11 of Brent's charity, voluntary and community organisations.
- 3.2. It is delivered by a Brent-based central core team, a partnership of Brent based voluntary and community organisations and a team of volunteers.
- 3.3. The work programme of Healthwatch Brent aligns to all five priorities of the Brent Health and Wellbeing board namely:
  - Giving every child the best start in life
  - Helping vulnerable families
  - Empowering communities to take better care of themselves

- Improving mental wellbeing throughout life
- Working together to support the most vulnerable adults in the community

3.4. Healthwatch Brent is delivered on a Hub and Spoke model. The Hub is the first point of public access and delivered by the core team located in Wembley. The Spokes consist of two groups – the Healthwatch Brent Advisory Board whose role is to support the core team and shape the work programme around the needs of Brent residents. Membership of the Healthwatch Brent Advisory Board includes Age UK Brent, Brent User Group, Brent Patient Voice, Mosaic LGBT Young People’s Group, Community Health Action Trust.

3.5. The Promotion and Reach Partners with their strong and vibrant networks are able to cascade messages from Healthwatch Brent to local residents. The partners include: Ashford Place, Brent Carers’ Centre, Elders’ Voice, Jewish Care, Brent Mencap.

3.6. Our strategic priorities for Healthwatch Brent include:

- Encouraging greater participation in health and social care
- Collecting evidence of increasing engagement with those residents from under-represented communities
- Demonstrating that Brent residents feel more able to express their views and to report they are listened to
- Showing how Healthwatch Brent has been able to make a constructive contribution to support and enable informed decision making through the representation of the authentic voice
- Healthwatch Brent offers value for money
- That Healthwatch Brent service offers added value

3.7 As part of our delivery, Healthwatch Brent committed £20,000 to establish a Community Chest which aimed to increase the capacity of local organisations to provide evidence based reports from less heard communities, increasing public awareness of Healthwatch Brent and increasing the number and range of views we gather.

Healthwatch Brent reserved £20,000 to create a Community Chest providing grants to local groups and organisations to enable them to –

- Increase awareness of the role of Healthwatch Brent;
- Support our work of reaching and engaging more people;
- Ensure there is input from seldom heard voices on health and social care issues;
- Provide support to small community groups to allow them to host events;
- Increase the capacity of local organisations to provide clear evidence that support good practice or the needs of a service group;

- Recognise and harness the expertise of local organisations;
- Support local organisations, if required, to produce quality reports; and
- Produce evidence based reports to Brent statutory partners, including –
  - Health and Wellbeing Board;
  - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
  - NHS Brent CCG boards and committees;

3.8 We created two grant programmes:

Large Grant Programme (maximum £3,000) to fund activities to support good practice or identify the needs of a service group. These applications were required to provide clear evidence of need and had to be approved by the Advisory Board.

Small Grants Programme (maximum £600) would raise awareness of the role of Healthwatch Brent. Applications have been approved by the Healthwatch Brent team.

3.9 To date 18 organisations successfully received funding from the Community Chest.

3.10 The key achievements include:

- Through the reports, the Community Chest has relayed the experiences of 291 Brent residents to key Brent forums such as the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The role and activities of HWB have been presented to 550 new people, including how they can use HWB as a route to their experiences being heard by key decision makers.
- These 550 people have directly benefited from the wellbeing work of our partner organisations.
- The capacity of 11 local organisations was expanded to allow them to use their specialist knowledge of difference sections of Brent's diverse communities.

#### **4.0. Financial Implications**

4.1. There are no financial implications as all costs are within the current agreed contract.

#### **5.0. Legal Implications**

5.1. Healthwatch Brent was established through the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to give users of health and social care a powerful voice both locally and nationally and formally launched in 2013 as an independent charity.

- 5.2 From 1 July 2015 its services have been delivered as an arms-length department of Community Barnet (CB) a charity and company limited by guarantee.
- 5.3 Financial and contract accountability remains with CommUNITY Barnet's Board of Trustees and delegated through the Chief Executive Officer to the Head of Healthwatch.
- 5.4 The contract is expected to run until 30 June 2017.

#### **6.0. Diversity Implications**

- 6.1. The reports presented reflect Healthwatch Brent's commitment to equalities and believes that they support Brent Council in meeting its Public Sector Equality Duty as defined in Section 148 of the Equality Act 2010.

#### **7.0. Staffing / Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **Background Papers**

Background papers are available on request.

#### Contact Officers

Julie Pal - CEO CommUNITY Barnet: [Julie.pal@communitybarnet.org.uk](mailto:Julie.pal@communitybarnet.org.uk)