

Item 10

REPORT

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 July 2014

Subject Heading:

Report Author and contact details:

Policy context:

Financial summary:

Role of Local Healthwatch (LHW) with the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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To decide if representatives of Local Healthwatch organisations in Outer North East London should continue as non-voting co-opted members on the Committee.

There are no apparent financial implications of the Committee's decision on the role of Local Healthwatch representatives.

SUMMARY

This report asks the Committee to consider whether the existing arrangements for the co-option of representatives of the Local Healthwatch organisations should continue in the new Council term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee decide whether or not to allow one co-opted, non-voting member from each of the following Healthwatch organisations:

Healthwatch Barking & Dagenham
Healthwatch Havering
Healthwatch Redbridge
Healthwatch Waltham Forest

REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Local Healthwatch organisations (LHW) play an important role in seeking to review and improve services in both health and social care. Overview and Scrutiny Committees also have a statutory duty to consider matters referred to them by LHWs.
- 1.2 For the past four years, a representative from each of the four LHWs (or predecessor bodies) covering the Outer North East London boroughs has been co-opted onto the Committee. The four Healthwatch representatives do not have voting rights but are given the same rights to ask questions of witnesses and are otherwise treated as full members of the committee. At the start of a new Council term, Members are invited to consider whether they wish to continue with the present arrangements in this regard.
- 1.3 It should be noted that, regardless of the decision on Healthwatch co-optees, meetings of the Joint Committee are normally held in public and it therefore remains open to any Healthwatch member to attend any meeting. At the discretion of the Chairman, Healthwatch attendees, as well as other members of the public, will also retain the opportunity to ask questions of witnesses giving evidence or to address the Committee.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

None.

Legal implications and risks:

Although the Joint Committee is required to consider matters referred to it by Healthwatch, it has no statutory obligation to co-opt any Healthwatch members onto the Committee.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None.

Equalities implications and risks:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.