

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting 8th March 2018

Item Title Healthwatch report

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

The purpose of the report attached as Appendix A is to update the Health and Wellbeing board on the activities and impact of Healthwatch Shropshire. As the end of March 2018 is the end of the first Healthwatch Shropshire contract and 1st April 2018 the beginning of a new three year contract, this report is an opportunity to look back over the first five years, with a focus on the last 6 months, and look forward to the next contract.

2. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the information in the report and discuss and agree suggestions to inform Healthwatch as we plan for future work.

COVERING REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

4. Financial Implications New contract

The recommissioning process at the end of last year was time consuming but HWS is delighted to have retained the contract to provide Healthwatch services in Shropshire.

However, the significant reduction in funding has meant that HWS has had to plan its forward budget carefully. As a result, it was agreed at a recent Board Meeting that from 1st April 2018 HWS will reduce its opening hours to **four days per week** and will close on Fridays. HWS is confident that it will be able to deliver its statutory activities under the new contract, albeit at a reduced level. HWS continues to explore its options in terms of accommodation so that it can optimise its service delivery. This will all be communicated to all partners and the public over the next month.

The new contract integrates the HWS contract and that for IHCAS, both of which are affected by the reduction in funding. IHCAS will also be available 4 days per week .

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A – Healthwatch report 2018