

Healthwatch Kingston Board Meeting (Part A)	Date: Tuesday 26 November 2019
Report Title: Chair's Report	Author: Liz Meerabeau, HWK Chair, Trustee/Director
PART A Agenda Item 5	Appendix: No

FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

The Board is requested to note the content of this report.

Healthwatch Kingston is now fully staffed and we are engaged in a wide range of activities and interactions with our local stakeholders. We are also strengthening and refreshing our governance. At the time of writing we are awaiting a General Election, but whatever the outcome health and social care is changing and as Chair I have represented HWK and in some instances the South West London Healthwatches in helping to steer these changes. Health care in particular is regulated by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which mandates competition between individual organisations. However, for several years there have been what the King's Fund describes as 'fundamental and far reaching changes in how the NHS works', with a new emphasis on collaboration. NHS England has drawn up a list of sections of the current legislation which should be repealed when there is parliamentary time, although the King's Fund has cautioned against too much structural change at a time when the system is under great pressure.

The Five-Year Health and Care Plan for South West London has been completed (although the actual launch has been postponed due to purdah) with a companion document for the London Mayor's office. Both of these documents emphasise prevention, and recognise social inequality. The Plan also has information on workforce, digital and the estates strategy.

Integrated Care System

Over the last two years the Health and Care Partnership has encouraged much more open discussion between its organisations, and South West London has applied to become an Integrated Care System in April 2020. Preparation for this has included self-assessment of current collaboration, shared vision and capacity for transformation; financial management and more streamlined commissioning; integrated care models including population health management and addressing inequalities; and workforce. One of the effects of the 2012 Act was to dismantle co-

ordinated workforce planning, so a recreation of this capability has been challenging but very necessary.

Nationally, the involvement of local government in the creation of ICSs (and before that, Strategic Transformation Partnerships) has varied but is improving. The King's Fund comments that 'governance and organisational arrangements are only as good as the quality of relationships between people and organisations' and I'm sure that at HWK we would heartily agree. HWK looks forward to playing our part in the 'place' or local committee of the ICS, and we will be writing to the chair to enquire when we will be invited to those meetings.

The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board is also likely to change. HWBs were established by the 2012 Act and were essential for integration in a system which mandated competition but that has now changed to a model of collaboration.

CCG Merger

In parallel, the CCG merger will also take place in April 2020. The six South West London Healthwatches are continuing to have discussions about how the views of the whole population can be properly represented in one SWL CCG, but we are also concerned about transparency of decision-making since the local sub-committee of the CCG has no requirement to meet in public and yet at least 80% of the funding is likely to be devolved to that level.

Primary Care Networks

Lastly, two of the clinical directors of the new Primary Care Networks have contacted HWK and we look forward to progressing discussions on how they meet the needs of their local populations. In particular, this work may complement our project to strengthen HWK interaction with PPGs, and our Time to Change work.