

CABINET MEETING – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Procurement of a Healthwatch Sunderland Service

Author(s):

Report of the Director of Adult Services

Purpose of Report:

To seek Cabinet approval to procure a local Healthwatch Sunderland service to be the local, independent consumer champion for Health and Social Care

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) approve the procurement of a local Healthwatch service; and
- (ii) authorise the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care to procure and subsequently award a contract for a local Healthwatch Sunderland service

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Council has a statutory duty under The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by Health and Social Care Act 2012) to commission a local Healthwatch service. The proposed commissioning intentions shall enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected

There are no suitable alternative options to consider as the Council has a statutory duty to ensure the provision of a local Healthwatch service.

Impacts analysed;

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values? Yes

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

PROCUREMENT OF A HEALTHWATCH SUNDERLAND SERVICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to procure a Healthwatch Sunderland Service to be the local, independent consumer champion for Health and Social Care.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to;

- (i) approve the procurement of a local Healthwatch service; and
- (ii) authorise the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care to procure and subsequently award a contract for a local Healthwatch service

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, outlines the main legal requirements for provision of Healthwatch statutory activity in local areas.
- 3.2 Local Authorities must arrange for a corporate body, which is a social enterprise, to deliver an effective Healthwatch in their area. This is usually undertaken by commissioning a provider to work to a specification outlining how the service will be delivered, including the statutory activities and local requirements.
- 3.3 The Council has a statutory duty to commission a local Healthwatch service for the following activities:
- Promoting and supporting the involvement of people in the commissioning, the provision, and scrutiny of local care services.
 - Enabling people to monitor the standard of provision of local care services and whether and how local care services could and ought to be improved.
 - Obtaining the views of people regarding their need for, and experiences of, local care services and importantly to make these views known to those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing or scrutinising local care services and to Healthwatch England.
 - Making reports and recommendations about how local care services could or ought to be improved. These should be directed to commissioners and providers of care services, and people responsible for managing or scrutinising local care services and shared with Healthwatch England.
 - Providing advice and information about access to local care services so people can make choices about local care services.

- Formulating views on the standard of provision and whether and how the local care services could and ought to be improved and sharing these views with Healthwatch England.
- Making recommendations to Healthwatch England to advise the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to conduct special reviews or investigations (or, where the circumstances justify doing so, making recommendations direct to CQC); and to make recommendations to Healthwatch England to publish reports about issues.
- Providing Healthwatch England with the intelligence and insight it needs to enable it to perform effectively

In addition, Local authorities are required to ensure the arrangements are effective and represent value for money and to publish a report in relation to their findings on provision in their area.

3.4 Healthwatch Sunderland has been in place since 1 April 2013, providing a focus for the voices of citizens and ensuring that local people and communities have a stronger influence and challenge on how health and social services are commissioned and provided in Sunderland.

3.5 Healthwatch Sunderland has a key role to play in the Care Quality Commission assurance process, supporting the Council by gathering the views of people who use services, those close to them and their advocates. This feedback shall be used to demonstrate that the Council are fulfilling the Working with people quality statements:

1. "We maximise the effectiveness of people's care and treatment by assessing and reviewing their health, care, wellbeing and communication needs with them".
2. "We support people to manage their health and wellbeing so they can maximise their independence, choice and control, live healthier lives, and where possible reduce their future needs for care and support".

3.6 Healthwatch Sunderland has a role within the Adult Services Directorate's Quality Assurance Framework in terms of providing feedback regarding lived experience of using social care services, which is used to support the identification of areas of good practice and service improvement.

3.7 Feedback received from local people about their views and experiences of using social care services is vital in order to help shape future services. Healthwatch Sunderland therefore have an important role in successful commissioning.

4 Current Position

4.1 The Council currently commissions Pioneering Care Partnerships as the provider of Healthwatch Sunderland via a contract (funded by Local Reform government grant) which is due to expire on 31st March 2023.

5 Proposed Way Forward

5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to commission a Healthwatch Sunderland provider and there is a need to ensure commissioning arrangements are in place to meet this duty.

- 5.2 The procurement of a local Healthwatch Sunderland Service is expected to be effective from 1st April 2023 for a duration of up to 6 years. The value of the contract will be in excess of £500,000.

6. Reasons for the Decision

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty under The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended by Health and Social Care Act 2012) to commission a local Healthwatch service. The proposed commissioning intentions shall enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty.

7. Alternative Options

- 7.1 There are no suitable alternative options to consider as the Council has a statutory duty to ensure the provision of a local Healthwatch Service

8. Impact Analysis

- 8.1 **Financial Implications:** Provision exists within the Council's revenue budget for the Healthwatch service costs. The contract costs will be met from this provision.
- 8.2 **Procurement:** Corporate Procurement have been engaged and will work with the Commissioning team in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's own Procurement Procedure Rules.
- 8.3 **Legal Implications:** A competitive tendering exercise shall be carried out in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.

9. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- 9.1 **Co-operative Values:** Sunderland City Council is a co-operative Council and will act ethically in all its actions whilst adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin our decision making and actions.

