



HEALTHWATCH & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OBJECTS OF ASSOCIATION

The Company was formed as a not-for-profit company with exclusively charitable objects. The Company is committed to act for the public benefit through its pursuit of wholly charitable initiatives comprising:

- (i) **The advancement of health and the saving of lives, including the prevention or relief of sickness, disease or human suffering;**

and ...
- (ii) **The advancement of the relief and care of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, hardship and other disadvantage, through the provision of health or social care including accommodation**
- (iii) **The furthering of the effectiveness of public involvement and influence in health, social care and public health**

It is proposed that the new organisation be called the 'Healthwatch and Public Involvement Association' and established as a body for Local Healthwatch [LHW] organisations, Healthwatch members, individuals and organisations who are not part of Healthwatch, but actively work toward creating safer, more effective, more accessible and accountable health, social care and public health services.

The Association will actively work towards and campaign for influential, powerful and effective public involvement

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Supporting the development of Local Healthwatch and Healthwatch England [HWE] as powerful and effective bodies which enable the public to monitor, influence and improve health, social care and public health services.**
- 2) Promoting democratic and accountable public involvement organisations across England, which genuinely empowers patients, care receivers, carers, and all individuals and communities to influence planners, commissioners and providers of health, social care and public health services, in order to achieve safe and effective services.**
- 3) Investigating, challenging and influencing health, social care and public health bodies which fail to provide or commission safe, effective, compassionate and accessible services.**
- 4) Collaborating with other community and voluntary sector bodies, patients and service users to achieve the Association's objectives.**
- 5) Holding the government to account for its legislative and policy commitments to public influence in health, social care and public health services.**

KEY GOALS

- 1) To scrutinize the effectiveness of HWE, LHW, IAS (Independent Advocacy Services) and Complaints as vehicles for public influence, redress, criticism and improvement of health, social care and public health services.**
- 2) To reflect continuously on the effectiveness of Healthwatch in relation to recommendations of the Francis Report.**
- 3) To advise on effective ways of influencing commissioners, providers, regulators, policy makers.**
- 4) To advise on effective ways of learning from complaints, incidents, accidents and systemic successes and failures that occur in health and social care services.**

ACTION FOR SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE & EFFECTIVE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

- 5) **To communicate key messages and information rapidly and continuously to the Association's membership, communities and the media.**
- 6) **To promote the accountability of providers, commissioners and regulators of health, social care and public health services.**

PRIORITIES

- 1) **Equality, inclusion and a focus on all regions and urban/rural diversity**
- 2) **Continuous and timely information flows from and to members and the wider community.**
- 3) **Influence through interaction with Ministers, the Department of Health, [DH] NHS Commissioning Board (NHS England), Regulators, Local Authorities, [LAs] the Local Government Association [LGA] and other national and local bodies.**
- 4) **Establish a transitional Leadership Board with each Board Member discharging a specific role and wherever possible representing regions in England.**
- 5) **Ensuring that members of the Association shape the strategy and policy that drives the Association's work.**

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER BODIES AND CHARITIES

Sustaining and developing relationships with LHW, HWE, the DH, LGA, National Voices, Action Against Medical Accidents [AvMA] and other national and local voluntary sector bodies on the basis of shared interests and objectives, e.g. National Association for Community and Voluntary Action [NAVCA], Community and Voluntary Services, [CVS] and the NHS Alliance Patient and Public Involvement [PPI] Group.

FUTURE MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be invited from:

- **Current membership**
- **Local HealthWatch organisations**
- **Individual Local Healthwatch members/volunteers/participants**
- **Individuals who support the aims and objectives of the Association and who are active in their community or nationally**
- **Organisations working locally and nationally to influence NHS, local authority, social care and public health services.**
- **Lay people involved in Patient Participation Groups, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Specialised Commissioning Groups, Local Area Teams (NHS England) and Quality Surveillance Groups.**

PORTFOLIOS

- **To be agreed with members of the Transitional Leadership Group.**

PRIORITIES IN YEAR 1 - INFORMING & INFLUENCING NATIONAL POLICY

- **Being a critical friend and sometimes ally to HWE**
- **Focusing on independence and accountability of the Healthwatch system nationally and in all local authority areas**
- **Challenging the health and social care system to respond positively to the recommendations of the Francis Inquiry.**
- **Proposing major national priorities to influence the health, social care and public health systems, especially in relation to accountability, complaints, major incidents and revalidation of clinicians.**
- **Advising on short term development issues with Healthwatch nationally and regionally**
- **Continuing to campaign for a national system for indemnity for LHW members and volunteers.**
- **Developing a relationship with HWE committee members and briefing them individually on key issues of concern**
- **Acting as advocate for our members' interests with other bodies**
- **Building networks to underpin effectiveness**
- **Building local and national networks to underpin the Association's effectiveness.**

PRIORITIES YEARS 2 & 3 - BUILDING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC

- **Holding the health, social care and public health systems to account in relation to their duties to involve and to consult the public and to demonstrate positive outcomes**
- **Monitoring the effectiveness of HWE and LHW in relation to their statutory duties and accountability to the public**
- **Acting as a source of information and advice regarding safety, quality and effectiveness of health, social care and public health services**
- **Advising lay and community organisations on the levers of influence in health, social care and public health services.**

FUNDING

- **Subscriptions from individuals, LHWs and other organisations**
- **Applications for funding to the DH, Department of Communities and Local Government [DCLG], HWE and grant giving bodies.**
- **Funds to be raised from payments for commissioned research and survey work.**
- **Income via a fund-raiser employed on a commission basis.**

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