

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Health Select Committee
	DATE:	27 th August 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Lesley Cooper Service Manager Healthwatch Rotherham 01709 717130
	TITLE:	Information for the Health Select Committee from previous scrutiny
1. Background		
1.1	Following the introduction to the new Healthwatch Rotherham Service at the July 2020 meeting it was agreed that a short update on activities and key issues would be provided at each HSC Meeting	
2. Key Issues		
2.1	<p>Formation of a Steering Group</p> <p>We have recruited 5 volunteers from various backgrounds who form our Steering Group, to date we have held 2 meetings where a three year work plan 2020/23 has been agreed along with priorities for the remainder of 2020/21 which are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health issues arising as a result of Covid-19 • Changes made to healthcare services during Covid-19, what has worked and what hasn't • Adult Social Care <p>Within each of the priorities we will look at what impact they have on our BAME communities.</p>	
2.2	<p>Recruitment of Staff</p> <p>A recruitment drive took place in July with interviews mid August and we have successfully appointed an Engagement Officer and an Information and Research Officer, both will take up their positions on Monday 5th October 2020</p>	
2.3	<p>Engagement Work</p> <p>Face to face engagement is still currently on hold and we continue to use digital platforms and telephone calls to gather our information. We have seen an increase in calls coming into the service during Q2 (double the ones received in Q1) these have been on a variety of issues mainly related to Covid (lost property whilst in hospital, testing sites and access to GPs) We have also been involved in #BecauseWeAllCare which is a joint campaign being run by Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission, the first focus has been on hospital discharge where we have directed residents to the national survey and collected case studies locally. We are looking at producing a report of these findings during September.</p>	

3. Key Actions and Timelines	
3.1	<p>Connecting with GP, Dentist and Hospital Patient Groups</p> <p>Work has already begun ahead of the Engagement Officer taking up their position, contact has been made with the PCN Clinical Director and we will be looking at how we can work together. Healthwatch already has a presence on the Patient Experience Group at TRFT and more recently we have been speaking to the new Engagement and Inclusion Lead at TRFT and already have shared information and ideas on a number of projects including the discharge from hospital and the introduction of virtual consultations. We feedback any information regarding dentistry to Healthwatch Yorkshire & Humber who sit on the Dental Commissioning Executive meeting for NHSE, in addition to this we are in touch locally with clinical advisors from NHSE&I and receive regular updates on the service which we can pass onto residents.</p>
3.2	<p>Healthwatch Newsletter & Healthwatch Hour</p> <p>Producing a newsletter and the setting up of the Healthwatch Hour (an online engagement activity) will form part of the workplan for the new Engagement Officer and will now be produced in Q3.</p>
3.3	<p>Medical Student Placement</p> <p>During November/December Healthwatch will have two medical students from Sheffield University on placement – this year due to the pandemic it will take place virtually and we will be tasking the students with two pieces of work based on loneliness and obesity in the borough which they will be able to research and produce a report including recommendations to service providers and commissioners.</p>
4. Recommendations	
4.1	<p>Health Select Commission to note the information contained in this briefing.</p>