

## Board meeting – 17 November 2025

### Summary minutes

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**Date:** The Healthwatch Dorset local Board met on Monday 17 November at 10am, online

**Board members present:** Viv Aird (Chair) and Margaret Guy (Vice Chair), Judy Crabb and Gary Alessio

**In attendance:** Louise Bate and Adele Snell (Healthwatch Dorset)

**Apologies:** Amanda Shirlin-Brown, Sue Warr and Helen Webb

**1. Declaration of interests:** There were no declarations of interest

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:** These were agreed

**3. Matters arising:** Welcome to Gary who has agreed to join the local board.

- **Meeting with MPs:** Current understanding is that legislative changes to the Health and Social Care Act 2012, are due to go to parliament in the new year. Guidance for how to implement the changes will follow. Over 10,000 signatures on the [Government petition](#) and still waiting for a response.
- Lloyd Hatton (MP for South Dorset) met with Margaret and Louise. They raised the lack of acknowledgement of the work of volunteers. He is very supportive and will raise a question with Wes Streeting.  
*Action: Louise to send a follow up email.*
- Edward Morello (MP for West Dorset) met at Bridport PACT Fair. *Action: Gary to adapt and forward template letter from Margaret to Edward.*
- Vikki Slade (MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole) *Action: Louise to reach out to raise awareness.*
- Simon Hoare (MP for North Dorset) *Action: Louise to reach out to raise awareness.*
- Neil Duncan-Jordan (MP for Poole) has signed the [Early Day Motion about local Healthwatch](#).

- Tom Hayes (MP for Bournemouth East), Jessica Toale (MP for Bournemouth West) and Christopher Chope (MP for Christchurch) have already had contact from us. *Action: Louise to send a reminder and key messages.*
- Millie Earl (Leader of BCP Council) came to visit the HWD Office and met with the team – very supportive.
- Wiltshire Council have recently passed a motion defending the independent voice of Healthwatch in the area. *Action: Louise to circulate to board for information.*
- Louise met Jonathan Higman, the Chief Executive of the new ICB Cluster, and shared our concerns about keeping an independent voice.
- Aware that we need to adapt to a changing world but still deliver the independent voice. Action – Louise will ask EC for an update on their strategy.
- Spoke about the proposal to no longer require public governors in hospitals, some trusts are being fast-tracked & Dorset Healthcare is one of these. *Action: Judy and Louise to keep up-to-date with this.*
- **Healthwatch Dorset Contract:** Our commissioners are very supportive. HWE have confirmed that finance has been agreed up to March 2027.

#### **4. Progress Report:**

**a) Access to Help and Care:** Lucy has met with different groups facing health inequalities, Lindsey is working with pupils from Bournemouth School for Girls and at all public events, we have been asking the same 3 questions regarding access to help and care. Are other PPGs interested in replicating the Purbeck PPG survey? *Action: Louise to ask another PPG to be involved and to pull together all this information to produce one cohesive report about Access to help and care.*

**b) Hospital at Home:** Report has been published and received good feedback. Have been asked to present at a Carers Project meeting in December. Hospital at Home will be a big feature of future care, helping with the flow of discharge from hospital. Action: Louise to find out about Hospital at Home funding.

**c) [Experience of 1st and 2nd Generation Immigrants](#):** Report has now been published and will be presented at the Bournemouth Central Primary Care meeting in January with some of the pupils. 25 new pupils are volunteering with us this year, forming 3 groups focusing on women's health. This format seems to be working well for us and the students, allowing them to use their enrichment time to research health and social care projects that they have an interest in and HWD are able to tap into the right people for the students to present back to.

**d) [Weymouth College/Kingston Maurward](#):** Lindsey has recruited new youth volunteers and they will be surveying young people about trusted online sources of information. NHS Dorset are starting up their Young People's Mental Health transformation project again which we had previously supported '[Your mind, your say](#)' (Oct 2023). Links with youth PPG's in Purbeck and North Dorset might also be useful in this project

**e) [Urgent and Emergency Care with DCH](#):** There has been a delay, but Lindsey to follow up interest in this project.

**f) [Smoking Cessation](#):** Commissioned project from Public Health, Lucy has been talking to working-age men about stop smoking services. Report to Public Health by the end of the year and then publish more widely next year. The project will also include some case studies looking at pharmacies and local GP websites to see how accessible their stop smoking services are.

**g) [PLACE Visits \(Hospital-led\)](#):** Visits at DCH, Bournemouth, and the Nuffield have all taken place, but concern that without the patient experience and clinicians, how useful are they to HWD? Is this just a box-ticking exercise for the hospitals? What is our impact, and what changes because of the Place Visits?

**h) [Enter and View \(HWD led\)](#):** Visit taking place on Monday, 24th Nov at Royal Bournemouth Hospital A&E. These are led by us and based on patient experience. This will be a good follow-up to the [Urgent Care Report](#) (Oct 2023)

## **5. Priority Setting for 2026 Workplan:**

There are a range of subjects that could be considered for next year. Need 2-3 good pieces of work, but may need to allow capacity to adapt to work that may crop up in the year, and projects should include expected outcomes. Possible ideas include:

- Analogue to digital
- Sickness to prevention
- Hospital to community
- Children/Young people's mental health transformation
- Local themes from Information and signposting feedback
- Dentistry
- Access to Primary Care/ System Connect
- Shared Care

*Action: Louise to draft project outline list for board consideration and discussion at next meeting.*

## **6. Any Other Business:**

- Quotes on the Quarterly report received positive feedback about helping to hear the patient voice in the feedback received.
- Thanks to all the staff for the work that everyone is doing.

Viv Aird, Chair of the Board, thanked everyone for their time today, wishing everyone a merry Christmas and the group agreed the date for the next board meeting, Monday 19 January 2026, to be held online.

### **For further information:**

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