

Representation at NHS Trust Boards and HCC Committees Report of the Chair

Introduction

The Board has discussed the issues concerning HwH representation on the various Boards and HCC committees. The purpose of this paper is to propose how we should take this matter forward. With regard to the County Council, the main Committees we attend, Health scrutiny and the Health and Well-being Board, Healthwatch is a statutory member and currently I attend these meetings in my capacity as chair.

As part of holding to account, we have regular (usually quarterly) meetings with the Trusts and CCG's in Hertfordshire. Normally we are represented at these meetings by the Chair, Chief Executive, relevant Board member and as, required, relevant staff member. No changes are proposed to these arrangements.

The main concern has been about Board representation at Trust/CCG meetings. The arrangements vary, but certain characteristics are common:

- HwH attends as observers; speaking rights vary but in general we are given a slot to give comment
- We only attend the public sessions
- Feedback from Board members on the meeting is infrequent

Proposals

The focus has been on Board attendance at meetings rather than Board members having an overview of a Trust/CCG activities. This needs to change, and the overall focus of the proposals is to give Board members the responsibility for that overview.

The detailed proposals are as follows:

- Board members are given responsibility for a particular Trust/CCG
- Each HwH Board meeting shall have an item on the agenda 'Reports from Board members on Trust/CCG activities, which gives an opportunity (but not a requirement) for the Board member to make a report
- The minimum expectation is that Board members will provide an annual report to the Board on their Trust/CCG
- Within the normal HwH requirements on behaviours etc, Board members will decide the best way for them to carry out their duties. Whether or not to attend a particular Trust/CCG meeting will be a matter for them, in consultation with the Trust/CCG and HwH Chair/CEO as necessary.
- The Board member will be expected to attend the regular 'holding to account' meeting between the Trust/CCG and HwH

Current Vacancies

At present there are various vacancies for Board members to take the leadership role for particular Trusts and HCC Committees.

These are:

1. HCT (previously Maryrose)
2. E&NHHT (previously Steve)
3. Adult Social Care (previously Carol)

4. Children and young people (previously Maryrose)
5. Public Health (previously Alan)

We are therefore looking for Board members to volunteer to take on these roles.

Steve Palmer
Chair
12.02.2021