

Trustee Term of Office

1. Purpose of the Paper and background

This paper is to remind Board members of good practice relating to Terms of Office of Trustees and the implications of this for recruitment. Trustees have raised this issue previously.

2. Advice on Terms of Office

Charity Governance Code for smaller charities advises that

5.7.3 Trustees are appointed for an agreed length of time, subject to any applicable constitutional or statutory provisions relating to election and re-election.

The Code says that a Trustee should not serve for more than nine years unless there are exceptional circumstances, where a Board would need to retain a specialism until a replacement could be recruited.

3. Implications for the Board

Healthwatch currently has nine members and four of these will have served their nine years by 31st March 2022 and therefore would be expected to stand down.

We would like Trustees who are willing to stay involved with Healthwatch to do so to retain their expertise and insight through other volunteer roles.

Following the guidance above we would look to recruit new trustees this year to enable a period of handover and new Trustees to shadow Board members and attend Board meetings.

The process for recruitment will look to address:

1. Diversity eg. Age, ethnicity
2. Geography
3. Skills and experience eg. governance, social care, children and young people

As usual we will use Charity Jobs, local CVS networks, social media and partner organisations to publicise the opportunities.

At this stage we envisage going out to recruitment in May / June.

4. Decision for the Board

Board are asked to agree to the approach outlined above.

Steve Palmer

12.02.2021