

Report to the Scrutiny Board December 2024

Priority	Update
Healthwatch Update	<p>We have been working with a reduced capacity part-time team of two since August, and this has affected our ability to fulfil our statutory obligations, and some of our workplan, however we reviewed and concentrated on what we are able to achieve.</p>
Workplan	<p>Pharmacy – The Pharmacy First survey will be going live at the beginning of December and will be available to the public until the end of February 2025, when the service will have been available for 1 year.</p> <p>Youth Project – The rack card project to ensure Young People understand their health rights is ready to proceed, however there is no budget to print, and we are currently reaching out to Public Health to see if they are able to help.</p> <p>The card will be available digitally, and in printed format in Libraries, Schools, Colleges and Leisure Centers.</p> <p>GRT Project – We are working alongside Solutions4Health and speaking to the bargee community about how they access health services.</p> <p>Unpaid Carers – We are now writing our Case Study report around our Unpaid Carer project, and this will be ready by December.</p> <p>Slavic and Eastern European NHS Concerns - We had heard these cohorts of people, although living, working and paying into the National Health prefer to return to their original countries to access healthcare as it appears there is a concern regarding care in the NHS. - We are conducting a survey which will garner people's experiences and thoughts on this issue.</p>
Other Initiatives	<p>Women's Health Hub The Women's Health Hub pilot project has now started in West Berkshire covering Menopause and Pessaries. It will continue to be monitored and Healthwatch are continuing to attend the meetings, and advocate for the project to be continued at the end of the pilot.</p> <p>Continuing Health Care Programme Board Healthwatch West Berkshire have reached out to BOB ICB for an update on the Continuing Health Care Programme Board which was due to start in 2023.</p> <p>We are continuing to await a response.</p>

Looking Forward

- GP Access Project – This project is now finished, and reports covering both Berkshire West and the West Berkshire have been sent to the board.
- An event initiative for the elderly will be taking place in 2025. Hosted by Healthwatch this will showcase local and commissioned services to the general public. This is in response to feedback from the GP Access project telling us our elderly residents feel forgotten about and cannot always access or know about the services available to them.