

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th September 2023

Title: Barking & Dagenham Healthwatch Maternity Project and Workplan for year	
Report of the Healthwatch Manager	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Nathan Singleton, Chief Executive Officer	
Summary <p>The local Healthwatch, the consumer champion for both health and social care, aims to give local residents and communities a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within the borough. The role of the local Healthwatch is to undertake local research about what people who use services are looking for and identify gaps in service.</p> <p>Appended to this report are the reports arising from Healthwatch's Maternity Project, In collaboration with seven Healthwatch services across North East London we looked into the experiences of patients from minority or marginalised groups when accessing and experiencing maternity services. Healthwatch Barking and Dagenham collected the views of 42 responses in the borough.</p> <p>Healthwatch's annual work plan will also be shared with members. The workplan is determined by the information received from the public, and other considerations, also includes projects on different health and social care issues. The projects to be focused on between April 2023 and March 2024 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Health Care Plans• Community Dental Care• Mental Health and Social prescribing• Access to social care (South Asian community)	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Health Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <p>(i) The Health and Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) is recommended to note the reports and provide any comments to the Healthwatch representative at the meeting.</p>	
Reason(s)	

It is good practice for Healthwatch to share its information about health services with the HASSC to support the Committee in its 'critical friend' function.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- None

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: Maternity Choices Report