

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



<b>TO:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>FROM:</b>	Sarah Johns
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 4 December 2024

**SUBJECT: Healthwatch Update**

## 1. PURPOSE

To update the Board on Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen's workplan for 2024/25

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Note the content of the report.

## 3. BACKGROUND

Healthwatch was established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 as an independent consumer champion to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services and to speak out on their behalf. There are over 150 local Healthwatch across England. The role of a local Healthwatch is to listen to people, especially those who are most vulnerable, to understand their experiences and what matters most to them; influence those who have the power to change services so that they better meet people's needs now and into the future and to empower and inform people to get the most from their health and social care services and encourage other organisations to do the same.

## 4. RATIONALE

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen consults with residents and stakeholders each year to develop our annual workplan. This year, we are delivering projects on the following areas: -

- 1) Uptake of bowel screening in the borough with a focus on south Asian heritage community
- 2) Uptake of cervical screening with key focus on young South Asian women (this project is also an internship with the National Institute for Health and Care Research)
- 3) People's experiences of support for bereavement
- 4) People's views and experiences of domiciliary care in the borough
- 5) Young Health Champions programme which includes mental health support, uptake of the HPV vaccine and young people's experiences of support for the eating disorder Arfid
- 6) Support for carers with a focus on effectiveness of carers' assessments

In addition to these projects, we will carry out Enter and View visits in care homes and GP practices and provide an information and signposting service for residents who need advice on where to access support or how to make a complaint about a local health and social care service.

## 5. KEY ISSUES

Health outcomes for people living in Lancashire and South Cumbria are significantly worse compared to the national average and Blackburn with Darwen experiences significant health inequalities.

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen works with statutory and voluntary sector partners to understand the issues faced by our residents and how these might be addressed collaboratively, and seeks to drive improvements in health and social care for service users in Blackburn with Darwen.

#### **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None noted.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None noted

#### **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None noted

#### **9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None noted

#### **10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

None noted. An EIA checklist was completed for this report (which confirmed that a full EIA was not required).

#### **11. CONSULTATIONS**

**Not applicable**

<b>VERSION:</b>	
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<b>DATE:</b>	28/10/2024
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	
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