

March 13, 2025

Joint Advisory Board Meeting

In attendance

Katherine Shaw (KS), The Advocacy Project Chief Executive Officer

Minna Korjonen (MK), Westminster and RBKC Advisory Board Chair

Cass Cass-Horne (CCH), Westminster Advisory Board Member

Gaenor Holland-Williams (GHW), RBKC Advisory Board Member

Gaynor Aalton (GA), Westminster Advisory Board Member

Abderrahman El-Guerbouzi (AEG), RBKC Advisory Board Member

Ekwa Ameyaw, (EA), RBKC Advisory Board Member

Fay Sandler (FS), Westminster Advisory Board Member

Gina Aston (GA), Healthwatch Service Manager

Blessing Ogunoshun (BO), Healthwatch Westminster Manager

Charlotte Williams (CW), Healthwatch RBKC Manager

Agenda

Welcome, introductions and apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Update on The Advocacy Project / Leadership

Update on the Integrated Care Board (ICB) NHS 10 Year Plan

Project updates - young people's mental health, palliative care, cost of living and childhood immunisation

Programme updates - Know your rights session (KYR) and Patient experience programme (PEP)

Healthwatch priorities 2025

Board Recruitment/Volunteering updates

AOB

Close

Welcome, Introductions, & Apologies

- The meeting commences with a round of introductions and welcoming new members.
- Staff members apologise for changing the meeting platform at such short notice from Zoom to Microsoft Teams, and have ensured that all meeting issues will be resolved well in advance, and that all meetings will take place on Zoom.

Minutes of last meeting

MK asks if attendees of the previous Advisory Board meeting have any comments about the meeting minutes, to which board members confirm that they have none and the minutes are approved.

Update on The Advocacy Project/Leadership

- GA/KS shares that:
 - o There are now 5 new trustees on the board who bring a wealth of experience in business, comms, finance, government and research.

- The strategy will be launched externally in June, we would like the advisory board to join us for the launch June 3rd, with invitations to follow.
- It has been a busy few months of focusing on responding to tenders including the large advocacy contract in bi borough.

Update on the Integrated Care Board (ICB) NHS 10 Year Plan

- CW informed the Board that the Integrated Care Board had contacted Healthwatch Westminster, RBKC, and Brent to host a workshop to inform residents about the NHS's proposals to modernise health services, with a focus on shifting care from hospitals to communities, leveraging technology, and prioritising prevention over treatment. CW also notes that there was a small amount of feedback from residents was due to a short lead-in period for the project with externally set time scales, which caused some citizens to be dissatisfied. Further information about the NHS ICB 10 year plan can be found, [here](#).

Project updates

- Young people's mental health project (YPMH)
 - BO informs the Board on the current project development in assessing the mental health needs of young people aged 18-25 who use primary mental health services throughout the Bi-borough. BO discusses a future project to collaborate with young people to give co-produced workshops on mental health and suicide prevention, which may pose safeguarding concerns. BO indicates that we will receive updates on whether we will receive supplementary funding from the Safeguarding Adult Executive Board (SAEB); nevertheless, if we do not receive funding, we will be able to carry out this initiative on a smaller scale.
 - Palliative care project
 - BO shines light on the current suspension of Pembridge hospice and the impact it will have on residents seeking palliative care in the community, particularly travel, given that residents are currently commuting outside of the borough. BO highlights the fact that community organisations are now working on the same project priority, and it may be more pragmatic to wait for the consultation's final

result. Staff are actively examining and following up on changes to the palliative care initiative and will keep the Board updated.

- BO also shared palliative care resources with the team via email, which is also available to view, [here](#).

- Cost of living project
- CW shares the findings of the cost-of-living study throughout the Bi-borough, emphasising the impact on vulnerable communities such as parents and low-income individuals.
- BO mentioned she has shared the findings with a number of community organisations, ICB, as well as members of the council.
- FS is interested in understanding the impact cost of living is having on disabled communities.
- BO stated that she has heard a variety of feedback from community engagements highlighting the impact cost of living has on persons with physical disabilities, particularly those who are not adequately supported in travelling to healthcare services.

- Childhood immunisation - Priority setting information
- CW introduces the topic of immunisation priority setting, specifically focusing on the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella).
- CW shares that the ICB immunisations coordinator has approached Healthwatch for support in engagement around immunisation in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham.
- FS highlights the proactive nature of Westminster in Children's Services and immunisations, noting issues during COVID where certain GP practices couldn't provide vaccinations.
- CW raises concern about the duplication of efforts, as the local authority and ICB also have responsibilities in promoting equitable access to vaccination.
- It was acknowledged that further study and conversations are required before reaching a decision, and the importance of a coordinated strategy to avoid duplication and promote effective vaccination efforts was emphasised.

Programme updates

- **KYR**
 - BO presents information about the new Know Your Rights initiative, which is being provided across the Bi-borough, with community organisations on a quarterly basis to supplement our existing guidance and signposting services, including the opportunity for residents to provide feedback to improve future sessions.
- **PEP**
 - Following a review of engagement materials from key strategic stakeholders, CW discusses progress with the new Patient Experience program with secondary care services in the community, and is actively working to expand the program to primary care services across the Bi-borough.

Healthwatch priorities 2025

- Board suggests they would prefer if more time were given to identify key priorities areas.
- FS highlights more support for communities with physical and learning disabilities, cost of living, and immunisation.

Board Recruitment/Volunteering updates

- BO shares that RD is currently onboarding new young volunteers, increasing our current pool of volunteers.
- GA confirms she is actively working on recruiting a chair for the Westminster ADV Board.
- CW introduces two new RBKC Advisory Board members, Ekwa (Public health student at Imperial College, specializing in epidemiology, particularly social behavioral research) and Abi (CEO of Strengthening Kensington Youth and Families).

AOB

- CC stated that he will be on annual leave for the next Advisory Board meeting, and suggested creating a WhatsApp group to stay in touch with any changes to meetings.

Close

- BO closes meeting assuring board members the next meeting will be on Zoom.

