

To: Healthwatch Surrey Board

From: Matthew Parris

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Board Champions for Groups at risk of health inequalities

This note informs Board Members of what it means to be a Board Champion for a Group **at risk of health inequalities**. Board Directors are asked to review what is being asked, and to confirm responsibility amongst Directors to ensure all communities have a champion.

Background

The Board considered a proposal in March 2019 for a new role for Board Directors. It was proposed that each Board Director would keep a 'watching brief', and build links with, a community at risk of health inequalities. The Board was asked to consider the proposal and provide feedback. Having taken account of this feedback, this note defines the role, outlines the support available and proposes some next steps.

Being a 'Champion' for a group at risk of health inequalities

For each community, a champion is responsible for:

- Maintaining a watching brief and keeping abreast of news / policy developments in health and social care which are of particularly interest or importance
- Being familiar with the health and wellbeing needs and understanding the health inequalities issues and situation in Surrey e.g. by knowing about information in the relevant chapter of the Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Regularly networking with VCFS groups that support the community's health and wellbeing so that we know about each other's people and plans and to raise awareness of Healthwatch Surrey's role so that people are more likely to share experiences with us
- Identifying opportunities to collaborate with VCFS groups and funders to further amplify the voice of the community
- Ensure the Board considers this community when developing strategies and plans (be a champion on the Board)
- Flag any new business opportunities

The support available from the staff team will include:

- An individual briefing which will include some links to important sources of information
- An introduction to a group and/or contact
- A point of liaison in the team to avoid duplication and to facilitate access to our database of contacts (Sarah Brown, Engagement Officer)
- A pro-forma for providing reports on meetings, so that we can ensure good two-way flow of intelligence and keep our influencer mapping up to date.

The role will be working particularly well when:

- Insight into the needs of and health and wellbeing issues faced by communities is regularly brought into Board discussions
- Board Directors are able to provide another source of insight and perspective to inform the staff team's project and outreach plans
- More VCFS contacts are added to our database and to our influencer mapping
- Reports are regularly completed about meetings with VCFS groups

Proposed allocation of roles

Board Director	Community
Andrea	Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic
<i>Andrea (with Maria supporting)</i>	Mental health + <i>substance misuse</i>
Don	Prisoners
Jason	Homeless
John	LGBTQI ¹
Laurence	Learning Disabilities
Lynne	Carers
<i>Maria (with Andrea supporting)</i>	Children & Young People (inc children with disabilities and SEND)
Peter	Adults with disabilities including learning disabilities
Tacye, Lynne and Deborah	Older people

Important background reading

Ahead of individual briefings there is some important context that all Board Directors will need to be considering when developing relationships and gathering information about communities.

These documents are a draft² copy of the Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy an analysis of health inequalities in Surrey and an analysis of the barriers to seldom heard groups.

Next steps

- The Board to confirm allocation of Board Directors to individual roles
- The staff team to provide 1-1 briefings by email and a follow-up phone call

¹ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex

² This draft was formally approved at the last meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board