

# Healthwatch Surrey – Complaints Policy

February 2024

## Complaints: policy and procedure

### Glossary

“**CIC**” means Luminus Insight CIC operating as “Healthwatch Surrey” in connection with performing the HWSy Services

“**HWSy Contract Manager**” means the staff member of the CIC appointed to contract manage the HWSy Services

“**HWSy Services**” means the Local Healthwatch services commissioned by Surrey County Council to be performed by the CIC.

### Our policy

Individuals and organisations have the right to express their views about the performance of the HWSy Services and the way in which the CIC conducts its business in connection with the HWSy Services.

Anyone who is dissatisfied with any aspect of the HWSy Services can make a complaint.

We will treat both concerns and complaints in the same way.

It is the policy of the CIC to:

- Listen carefully to your concern.
- Be polite, helpful and deal with your complaint fairly and efficiently.
- Let you know how we are getting on with your complaint, admitting any mistakes made and putting matters right wherever possible.
- Give the right of appeal against a decision made by the HWSy Contract Manager.
- Provide reasonable adjustments to the procedure set out below to empower those who need support in making a complaint, such as the right to be accompanied in any necessary meetings and providing accessible information formats.
- Use your feedback to improve our service for all who need it.

Complaints we cannot deal with:

1. Complaints or concerns about the NHS, which should be dealt with through the NHS complaints procedure.
2. Complaints about the provision of social care services which should be dealt with through Surrey County Council's complaints procedure.

Our team can signpost you to the correct organisation that is best placed to handle your complaint.

### **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

The CIC is committed to ensuring all complaints are handled free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The CIC will monitor this policy in order to identify whether it is having an adverse impact on any group of individuals and act accordingly.

### **Data protection**

To help us handle your complaint we will keep a record of all the information we gather. All information held and processed shall be treated in confidence. Such information will be shared with representatives of the CIC only to the extent required to resolve the complaint in accordance with this policy and procedure. If the details of a complaint are to be used for quality improvement or training purposes, express permission will be sought from the complainant and personal details will be anonymised from all information prior to it being used.

All personal information collected by the CIC shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as detailed in our Data Protection Policy.

## **How we will handle your complaint**

### **How to raise a concern or make a complaint about the HWSy Services or the CIC**

Let us know if you need our complaints procedure in a different format such as Easy Read, large print, another language or any other format and we will make

reasonable adjustments to support you in sharing your concern or complaint with us.

1. In the first instance we would encourage you to tell us as soon as possible if you are unhappy with our service so that we can understand your concerns and quickly try to put things right for you.
2. Providing information or discussing misunderstandings and misconceptions at this early stage may enable your concern or complaint to be successfully resolved. You can discuss with any member of the team or contact us via telephone, email or letter (contact details in step 3 below).
3. If your concern or complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, then you should notify the HWSy Contract Manager to enable an investigation to take place:
  - Telephone: 0303 303 0023
  - Email: [Samantha.Botsford@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk](mailto:Samantha.Botsford@healthwatchsurrey.co.uk)
  - Letter: GF21, Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Surrey, GU4 7HL
4. If your concern or complaint relates to the HWSy Contract Manager, then you can notify the CEO of Luminus Insight CIC:
  - Telephone: 0303 303 0023
  - Email: [Kate.Scribbins@luminus-cic.uk](mailto:Kate.Scribbins@luminus-cic.uk)
  - Letter: GF21, Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Surrey, GU4 7HL
5. The HWSy Contract Manager or CEO of Luminus Insight CIC (as applicable) will acknowledge your concern or complaint in writing (or in your preferred method of communication) within 5 working days. They will contact you to acquire as much information as possible and explain how your concern or complaint will be handled.
6. The HWSy Contract Manager or CEO of Luminus Insight CIC (as applicable) will review and arrange investigation of concerns and complaints. They will gather relevant information and carefully evaluate that information to decide on your complaint.

They will act to resolve your complaint within 15 working days, and will advise you of the outcome in writing, explaining the decision and how it has been reached. If more than 15 working days are needed, you will be contacted and updated with progress and a new timescale agreed.
7. If you are not happy with the outcome at this stage, you will be able to appeal. Let us know within 10 working days of receiving your written reply

from us, and your concern or complaint will be passed to the Chair (or Co-Chairs) of the Board of Directors of the CIC.

They will review the facts and consider all the evidence to decide if your appeal is upheld. They will share their findings and confirm their decision to you in writing within 20 working days. The concern or complaint will then be closed.

8. If you are still not satisfied you can take your concern or complaint to Surrey County Council, who can be contacted in the following ways:
  - o Contact centre: 03456 009 009
  - o Jean Pierre Moore [JeanPierre.Moore@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:JeanPierre.Moore@surreycc.gov.uk)
  - o Surrey County Council, Woodhatch Place, 11 Cockshot Hill, Woodhatch, Reigate, RH2 8EF.

You may also subsequently take your concern or complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman who can be contacted in the following ways:

- o By visiting: [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)
- o Telephone: 0300 061 0614

### **Review of policy document**

The Board of the CIC will review the effectiveness of the complaints policy and procedures set out in this document every two years. Any amendments to this policy and the procedures governing complaints will require a simple majority of Board Directors of the CIC voting in favour.

The amended policy document will be published on the website of the CIC as soon as practicable.

<b>Complaints policy and procedures</b>	
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