HEALTHWATCH WIRRAL CIC

Notes of the Healthwatch Wirral Board Meeting
held in-person on 18 June 2026 at 2pm.

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PART A - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions had been raised by the public.

1. PRESENT

- Bill Wyllie (BW) Healthwatch Wirral Board Director and Chair
- Karen Prior (KP) Healthwatch Wirral CEO

IN ATTENDANCE

- Laura Peter (LP) Healthwatch Wirral Business Support Officer & Minute Taker
- Paul Davies (PDa) Healthwatch Wirral Finance Support

APOLOGIES

- Prof. James Kingsland (JPK) Healthwatch Wirral Board Director
- Linda Jones (LJ) Healthwatch Wirral Board Director
- Nicola Thompson (NT) Healthwatch Wirral Board Director was unable to join via MS Teams due to technical issues.

2.MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the previous meeting 08 April 2026 were received and agreed as an accurate record.

3. REGISTER OF INTEREST

KP has a Trust Governor Role at Wirral Community Health & Care Trust. KP clarified that arrangements continue for the integration of Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) and Wirral Community Health & Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHC) and that the Boards of Governors for each entity currently continue to meet separately with a focus on the Governor membership to which they are aligned, and they currently also meet jointly.

PART B – PROCEDURAL, FINANCIAL

4. CURRENT FINANCES

PDa presented Financial Reports for April & May 26, and a comparison to same time last year. PDa reported an [..] an improved financial position.

5. HEALTH & SAFETY

KP stated that HWW staff have recently reviewed the renovated Patient Experience Hub area at APH, ahead of resuming regular attendance, and report not feeling 100% confident that all safety aspects for lone working in the Hub are apparent by WUTH. A small quantity of personal alarms will be purchased for HWW staff shared-use – and we will review the Hub at Arrowe in the coming weeks, following conversations with the Head of the Department.

6. COMPLIANCE

There were no GDPR issues or breaches identified this quarter.

7. HR & STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

KP reported that:

i. weekly staff team meetings have resumed and are proving beneficial
ii. annual staff appraisals will be scheduled in August, as usual.

KP proposed to Board to grant one additional annual days leave for staff on their birthday, which was agreed.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

KP reported ref:

i. Future of Healthwatch: HWW is keeping abreast of news & updates. Recent activity:
    a. the Government's Health Bill (aka NHS Modernisation Bill) successfully passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons 01 Jun and has now progressed to Public Bill Committee for line-by-line scrutiny, with evidence reports robustly in defence of retaining local HW due for submission by 16 Jul.
    b. HW Lead Officer's Network meeting 18 Jun.
ii. Safeguarding pathways are not clear within CADT, & WSAPB (Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board) recently felt not fully assured that SARs (Safeguarding Adults Review) processes were sufficiently robust. See also HWW Manager's report.

QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

9. HWW MANAGERS REPORT TO BOARD (KP)

KP presented HWW Manager's report and highlighted:

i. Kirsteen Sheppard has now left; Board noted gift was sent & thanks given.
ii. [...]
iii. KP added a possible addition to funding [...]
iv. Reports will be ready soon for recent E&V visits to St George's CH, CH45, & The Court CH, CH47, & will be submitted prior to next Board meeting.
v. Engagement work at Carers Conference (WCA) 08 Jun – KP shared thanks to new volunteer Penny Thomas for stepping in at short notice and demonstrating a good level of public engagement skills.

Management Action / Conformance Log

There were no Management actions or conformance issues identified to log this quarter.

11. REPORTS FOR BOARD

There were no reports submitted this quarter.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

12. CONTRACT .

See notes in HWW Manager's report.

13. Any Other Business

KP has recently had an initial meeting with HWW IT services provider Vigo [...]

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 2pm, at LBC.