

Healthwatch Reference Group (HRG)

Notes of meeting 22nd November 2018

The People Participation Lead - Community Health Services provided detailed information about the role with East London Foundation Trust (ELFT).

ELFT was seeking, as far as practicable, to be user (client) driven and that people participation was always high on the agenda so far as Community Health Services were concerned - the practical difference was that rather than consulting on the delivery of services, ELFT were seeking to engage service users in the actual development of service provision.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these notes.

Care Farming - this was a presentation which is centred on the use of organic care farming as part of the work of the ELFT Recovery College Programme.

The care farming activity is about providing an outdoor location, which will support participants experiencing mental health issues and then assisting in their recovery - particularly through empowerment and supporting informal networks that participants may form as a result of their involvement

There are currently two gardening (Care Farming) sites in Bedford; viz Queens Park and Mile Road.

Reference was made to the proposed Health and Wellbeing Fair. The scheduled date is 29th May 2019. Sir Robert Francis (QC) Chair of Healthwatch England has been invited to formally open this major event.

Healthwatch Bedford Borough (HBB) has arranged for printed supplies of Healthcare Cards which homeless people can use as evidence, if they are refused NHS services on the basis of no "known" address. The cards are available on request from HBB.

The current membership of the Healthwatch Reference Group is shown on the next page.

**Should your group be in membership?? Please contact
enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk**

Note of Organisations represented at the Healthwatch Reference Group

ACCM (UK)
Age Concern Bedfordshire
Alzheimers Society
Autism Bedfordshire
Bedford Borough Council
Bedford Community Self Help Group
Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
British Red Cross
Carers in Bedfordshire
Citizens Advice Bureau
Council for Voluntary Service
East London Foundation Trust
Mature Citizens Action Group
Mind BLMK
Neuro Network
Noah Enterprise
Sight Concern
Sue Ryder St John`s Hospice Moggehanger
Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People & Families in Bedfordshire
YMCA Bedfordshire

**Should your organisation be represented at these meetings?
Please contact enquiries@healthwatchbedfordborough.co.uk**

“A strong voice for local people”