Halton & St Helens VCA

**MINUTES OF HEALTHWATCH ST HELENS DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Friday 18th October 2024**

**Beacon Building, St Helens**

**PRESENT:** Pam Meredith (PM)

Tom Hughes (TH)

Justin Hill (JH)

Jayne Parkinson Loftus, (JPL)

Dilys Quinlan (DQ)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Sally Yeoman (SY), Debbie Morris (DM) minute taker

Meeting started at 9.40am.

Chair: Tom Hughes

1. **Apologies**

Sally Yeoman

1. **Declaration of conflict of interest**

None

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of 19th July 2024 agreed as a correct record and signed by Chair.

1. **Matters arising**
* After discussion agreed to continue putting posts on X but not to pay for analytics.
* JH will be standing down from Halton & St Helens VCA board and will therefore stand down from Healthwatch Directors. Directors reviewed the Memorandum and Articles relating to appointment of directors (section 18 and 13) which states that 2 Directors can be from VCA, 1 member to be the Chair and 1 lay person, needs to be living or working in St Helens. PM will mention at next VCA Board meeting to assess if anyone wants to join Healthwatch Directors and need to advertise in newsletter for new Directors.
* Agreed to look at the election of the Chair position once the Board has been renewed.
1. **Manager Update**

Manager provided written report. Noted the following:

* Website development progressing well will be more user friendly but has been complicated setting it up.
* New contract approved for 5 years with option for another 2 years waiting for confirmation in writing.
1. **Monitoring report Quarter 1**

Manager provided written report.

* Draft monitoring report presented will send over completed report when complete.
* Directors asked JPL to look at why the members and organisations figures have decreased.
1. **Finance report**

Report provided showing deficit would like more details on this.

1. **AOB**
* Directors wanted to express their thanks to Justin and agreed that he will be missed at future meetings.
* JPL given a copy of the ‘Move it or lose it’ report to review.
* Noted that Edge Hill University has been awarded £2.5million to expand its expert research into the mental health of children and young people with a focus on St Helens, Knowsley and Wigan, and the wider North West. May be useful to contact Professor Greg Irvine to see if Healthwatch can support it.
* ONS reports 1in 9 adults has a high instance of smokers suggested that this might be a topic to be looked at next year. Another area suggested for potential review next year is inequalities in relation to the new government.

**Date of next meeting**

17th January 2024 at 9.30am

Meeting finished 10.56am

**Dates of future meetings**

To be notified