

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 13th January 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: GP Access & Out of Hours Provision
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to the Health Policy & Performance Board the Healthwatch report on 'GP Access & Out of Hours Provision'

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the contents of the report and associated Appendix.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Healthwatch Halton is the consumer champion for health and social care in Halton. Its purpose is to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services and to ensure their voices are heard and responded to.

From the launch of Healthwatch in April 2013 one of the main issues raised by local people was around the difficulties accessing local GP services. Having made note of the findings from the local feedback and the from national surveys it was decided that a Healthwatch Task and Finish group should be set up to look at 'Access to GP Services and Out of Hours GP Provision' across Halton.

A public survey was launched by Healthwatch Halton at the end of March 2014 and ran until the end June 2014. In total 491 surveys were completed with received responses covering all GP practices in Halton.

A number of recommendations have been put forward in the report produced by the Healthwatch Halton Task & Finish group. This report has now been sent to Halton CCG for a formal response to the recommendations, which is due in January 2015.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

In terms of access to health services, please note the recommendations and the positive outcomes if implemented by commissioners.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None as a result of this report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

If recommendations implemented by commissioners, it will improve access to health services in Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None as a result of this report.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None as a result of this report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 A lack of consideration of the recommendations could have a negative effect on Halton people accessing health services.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None associated with this report

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act