

## **Draft Healthwatch Bury – Sensory and Physical Impairment Consultative Task and Finish Group**

### **Context**

Healthwatch Bury is an independent consumer champion for health and social care who ensure the voice of local people is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services.

In practice, Healthwatch organisations have the legal right to:

- ask for information and expect a response within a specific time-scale
- submit reports, make recommendations and expect a response within a specific time-scale
- refer matters to the local overview and scrutiny committee and expect a response
- enter and view specific types of premises where services and care are provided.

The aim of the Group is to gain a picture of the experiences with the health and social care system of people with sensory and physical impairments in Bury. In particular to look at how the services support adults to live, work, and engage in their local communities and to help inform the improvement and ongoing development of services across Bury.

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Objectives - to act as a user led consultative group that will:**

- i. Provide a collective voice for people with sensory and physical impairment to help inform strategy and service development of key statutory partners such as Bury Council and Bury CCG
- ii. Gather people's views and experiences of using health and social care services in Bury

- iii. Identify trends or gaps in relation to health and social care services
- iv. Engage in projects that will help highlight good practice and identify areas that need to be improved
- v. Act as a consultative group on issues relating to sensory and physical impairments
- vi. Access funds or grants to support the work of the group
- vii. To liaise with other related groups both local and national, Healthwatch England, Bury Council and the NHS as appropriate.
- viii. Help improve access to health and social care services for all people in Bury.

## **Membership**

- i. Members of the Group to include a representative from local community groups, charities and other relevant organisations for people with sensory and physical impairments who live, work or study in the Bury area.

## **Scope**

The Healthwatch Bury – Sensory and Physical Impairment Consultative Task and Finish Group will use a broad and inclusive definition of people with physical and sensory impairments:

- People with physical impairments, whether or not their condition is congenital, acquired or progressive (essentially a physical impairment through a loss or limitation to a physical function affecting a person's mobility, dexterity or stamina on a long term basis).
- Deaf people and people with a hearing impairment
- Visually impaired and blind people
- Deafblind people.

**To help to achieve the above aims, group representatives will:**

1. Contribute to constructive discussions and provision of feedback to the group
2. Represent the views and concerns of their groups
3. Feedback the work of the group to their community group or charity ( a template form to help is available)
4. Support the groups projects and gain wider support from their group/charity as required
5. Identify and support the application of potential funds and grants
6. Build a partnership with the other local groups/organisations to share information and work together

**Facilitation**

- i. The Group to meet bi-monthly and as necessary to carry out any specific work or actions
- ii. The group will elect its own chair from the membership who will work with Healthwatch Bury Board representative and staff to set the agenda, follow up actions and lead meetings
- iii. Healthwatch Bury will help support the group in raising concerns and issues with relevant commissioners and health and social care providers
- iv. Healthwatch Bury will support the meetings as required.