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**To: Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5)**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Subject: Referral by Healthwatch Coventry related to commissioning of Patient Transport Services.**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 This note is intended to introduce the agenda item stemming from a referral from Healthwatch Coventry related to the commissioning of local Patient Transport Services.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Board are recommended to consider the documents provided with the agenda and any additional information provided by Healthwatch or the Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (CRCCG) and make any appropriate recommendations to commissioners related to future commissioning plans.

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established Healthwatch as a both a local body commissioned by local authorities, and a national body located in the Care Quality Commission. As part of the statutory powers of local healthwatch the Act allows referrals to local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) such as this Board.
- 3.2 Patient Transport Services for Coventry (and Warwickshire) are provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service under an historic contract negotiated with local Primary Care Trusts. Indeed NHS Coventry began work with colleagues in Warwickshire to re-tender this contract prior to the formation of Clinical Commissioning Groups. Healthwatch Coventry has taken a keen interest in the commissioning of this service, given a high degree of patient interest in the ability of the current contract / provider to meet the needs of the Coventry population.
- 3.3 Late last year following a process of engagement with Healthwatch Coventry regarding the specification for a new tender, a decision was taken by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups for Coventry and Warwickshire to postpone the re-tendering of this contract with a one year contract extension being put in place to maintain the current provider.
- 3.4 The letter from Healthwatch Coventry requesting the Board investigate this matter is appended to this briefing note, as is the response from the CCG.
- 3.5 It is open to the Board to make recommendations to local NHS bodies for further information or a proposed course of action following consideration of this item. Members will be aware that NHS bodies are required to respond after considering any such recommendation's within a specified period and provide any information requested.

**Briefing Note Author**

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**25<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**