



March 2024

Subject:	Diabetes Services for Sandwell residents
Presenting Officer and Organisation	<p>Phil Griffin Healthwatch Sandwell HAB Chair Alexia Farmer Healthwatch Sandwell Manager Sophie Shuttlewood Healthwatch Sandwell Projects and Partnerships Lead.</p> 
Purpose of Report	<p>This report is in follow up to a previous report presented to the Board concerning diabetes in Sandwell - October 2024 which is part of our work programme for 2023/24. The report attached captures the work and research Healthwatch Sandwell has undertaken to date.</p>

1 Recommendations

1.1 Receive the presentation for information.

2 Links to the following Board Priorities

Priority 1	<p>We will help keep people healthier for longer HWS report and raise issues regarding health and social care, identify areas of concern and hold key stakeholders to account</p>
Priority 2	<p>We will help keep people safe and support Communities HWS aims to tackle health and economic inequalities, reduce isolation, and promote community cohesion by reporting and raising concerns and issues with relevant key stakeholders</p>

Priority 3	We will work together to join up services HWS works in partnership with our community, voluntary sector organisations and the wider health system to build resilience and deliver a positive impact on health outcomes.
Priority 4	We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services HWS are a link for patients and non-patients to key stakeholders and decision makers in Sandwell

2 Context

10.1% of Sandwell patients are recorded as having **diabetes** which is significantly higher than the National average of **7.3%**. Sandwell figures are projected to increase to **11.4%** by **2030**. Healthwatch Sandwell chose to look at the picture of diabetes in Sandwell as a priority project for 2023/24.

Successful management of living with diabetes and reducing associated health risks requires patient and health care services to work together. NHS healthcare services have a responsibility to ensure patients are offered diabetes management **education** so that they are well **informed** and able to be **involved** in managing their condition and decisions about their care, including medications. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) also recommends an **individualised** approach, is required to meet patients' needs and circumstances including **dietary advice**, culture and beliefs.

Diabetes UK research highlights concerns around diabetes complications and care in the older population, especially **frail elderly** and for ethnic groups at higher risks of development of diabetes **African/African Caribbean** and **South Asian communities**.

Raising **awareness** of diabetes in communities and prevention work with patients diagnosed as **pre-diabetic** is key to minimising risk of development of type 2 diabetes and reducing the percentage of patients with diabetes in Sandwell and demand on diabetes health care services.

4 Engagement

Healthwatch Sandwell worked in partnership with Diabetes UK, some Voluntary Community Organisations and NHS primary care services to engage with Sandwell residents affected by diabetes and pre-diabetes to gather the picture for Sandwell.

5 Implications

Resources:	Healthwatch is funded through a contract with LA and an in-year contract value of £180k
Legal and Governance:	Governance is via the local Healthwatch Advisory Board who assures the work plans agreed every year through established performance reporting processes
Risk:	Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications
Equality:	EDI is a strong value which underpins everything that Healthwatch Sandwell does
Health and Wellbeing:	Our work programmes and the support we give to local people helps to address access issues and to improve outcomes for local communities
Social Value:	Healthwatch employs local people and has a number of volunteers engaged in its work
Climate Change:	We give a commitment to minimise carbon footprint by encouraging work from home and using virtual meetings wherever possible
Corporate Parenting:	Healthwatch Sandwell is supported by its parent organisation Engaging Community Solutions

6 Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

No background papers

Healthwatch Sandwell – Diabetes in Sandwell – Main report to be published and circulated March 2024.