

Health & Wellbeing Board – 29th May 2025**Chair's Position Statement****Health & Wellbeing Board Membership Update**

At the Leicestershire County Council election on 1 May 2025 Reform UK was the party with the most seats and Reform have formed a minority administration. The membership of the Council's Cabinet was confirmed at the County Council meeting on 14 May 2025. The new Cabinet Lead Member for Health is Mr Michael Squires CC, the new Cabinet Lead Member for Adult Social Care is Mr Joseph Boam CC and the new Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families is Mr Charles Pugsley CC. All three members are entitled to places on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

We also welcome Siobhan Peters representing the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to her first meeting of the Board.

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is entitled to have five representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board overall; two clinical and three non-clinical. Due to changes in roles at the ICB this is the last meeting Dr Nikhil Mahatma will be attending as an ICB clinical rep. Dr Mahatma is thanked for his contributions to the Board over the last year. Consideration is now being given to who at the ICB would be the most appropriate person to replace Dr Mahatma on the Board.

It was recently announced that starting from 1 July 2025 Toby Sanders, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire ICB, will take on the role of Interim CEO for LLR ICB, in addition to his current responsibilities. Toby Sanders will be invited to attend future Health and Wellbeing Board meetings as an ICB representative.

Finally, it has been confirmed that Cllr Cheryl Cashmore (Blaby DC) and Cllr Jeffrey Kaufman (Oadby & Wigston DC) will continue as the elected member representatives from the District/Borough Councils.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand across all the cohorts with increasing complex presentations for all elements of service delivery including formal mental health act assessments and services for young adults with a disability.

Recruitment and retention continue to remain a challenge for many adult social care providers but is mitigated in part by international workers carrying out social care work through the sponsorship scheme, supported by a regional team. The Council and care providers have maintained services to ensure flow through hospitals and provision for new community requests. The number of people awaiting a home care

service remains very low due to good capacity in the market, and the in-house HART service continues to deliver reablement to people supporting both increasing numbers of people in the community and to facilitate hospital discharges.

Limited capacity of older adults nursing care placements persists, alongside low numbers of people assessed as being eligible for Fast Track Continuing Health Care and Funded Nursing Care.

An ICB Immunisation Programme team works closely with the LLR councils, including Public Health and Adults and Communities Departments, to plan and implement priority vaccinations. In the last few years these have included Covid twice a year, flu annually, one-off RSV, and an opportunity for catching up with missed childhood vaccinations, all for the relevant prioritised cohorts. This cross-system teamwork on vaccinations is expected to continue indefinitely. Care homes for older people continue to be prioritised for vaccinations, particularly for residents and staff, and this remains a key performance measure for the programme.

NHS

The local NHS and care system continue to work together to deliver collective plans for 2025/26. There is an agreed set of actions, focussing on areas where performance, finance, equity, and / or quality are not to the standards expected for those we serve and are jointly working to implement improvements. The HWB will be kept updated on the progress of these plans through regular reporting. These will, in the main, be collaborative reports in partnership with adult social care and / or public health colleagues to prevent duplication.

DHSC have released their blueprint for the future construct of health services; the implications of this are wide ranging for health and care, and the ICB is working across local government and NHS providers to understand how this is best designed to meet the need of citizens. The timeframes for implementation are fairly short – changes to ICB's have to be enacted before 31st Dec 2025. Partners are being kept abreast of these changes as more information is released from central government.

Key Messages

Updates and key messages from the items presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 27 February 2025 are highlighted below:

- Feedback provided on the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) Progress on Best Start for Life report has been reviewed and incorporated into the latest version of the JLHWS Review data pack. This pack will be used as a key reference during the upcoming JLHWS Best Start for Life

strategy review sessions to ensure alignment with the insights and suggestions shared.

- Better Care Fund Quarter 3 2024/25 return - The previous report had incorrectly stated that during the first quarter of 2024-25 University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust experienced an increase in attendances of 30% when in fact the correct figure was 11%. This had now been corrected in the published data.
- Better Care Fund 2025/26 Planning - authorised the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, following consultation with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to finalise the Better Care Fund Plan before the national submission deadline of 31st March 2025.
- Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy Review Approach & Plan – Steering group was launched on 31 March and review sessions for each sub-group for the board are scheduled over the Summer.

Reminders

HWB Annual Report 2023-24

The HWB Annual Report 2023-24 has been published on the HWB website, and both the Full Report and Executive Summary can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/Health-and-Wellbeing-Board-Annual-Report-2023-24.pdf>

A video summarising the Annual Report to make it more accessible to all has been produced. The video can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/pWpr_LKpkyl

