

**Health & Wellbeing Board – 25th September 2025****Chair's Position Statement****Health & Wellbeing Board Membership Update**

Mr. Carl Abbott CC is the new Leicestershire County Council Cabinet Lead Member for Adult Social Care and therefore he becomes a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Toby Sanders is the Interim CEO of the LLR and Northamptonshire cluster Integrated Care Board and therefore he is taking up one of the ICB's non-clinical places on the Board.

Pete Burnett, Chief Strategy Officer, is taking one of the other non-clinical ICB places on the Board, along with Rachel Dewar.

We await confirmation of who the new Integrated Care Board Clinical Representative on the Board is going to be.

**Adult Social Care**

The Care Quality Commission published a report on how the County Council undertakes its responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. The CQC assessed the Council as requires Improvement. Whilst the outcome is disappointing, the Council notes the many positive comments and the commitment noted by the CQC. Improvement activity is already underway to address issues highlighted by the CQC.

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand with increasing complex presentations for all elements of service delivery including Care Act, Occupational Therapy, 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 the Council's Inspired to Care team, and 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.

## 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.

As we go into Winter the local NHS and Care Partners have drafted their local plan for managing pressures on services during Winter. This has been presented to the Leicestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. 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.

Back in May 2025 DHSC released their blueprint for the future construct of health services; the implications of this are wide ranging for health and care, and the ICB continues to work across local government and NHS providers to understand how this is best designed to meet the need of citizens. As part of this change recently the ICB announced its cluster arrangements with Northamptonshire ICB with Mr Toby Sanders currently the Interim Chief Executive of the Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland and Northamptonshire ICB Cluster. The timeframes for implementation remain fairly short with the main changes being enacted early 2026. Partners are being kept abreast of these changes as more information is released from central government.

West Leicestershire has been selected to join the first wave of the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP). Aligning closely with the national 10 Year Health Plan, the programme will bring NHS care closer to home and provide better support for people with complex health conditions, keeping them well and avoiding unnecessary hospital attendances and admissions.

This will be achieved with a focus on local engagement and involvement and health care and support organisations working collaboratively to shape the future of community-based care.

In July 2025 the government invited local authorities and health service leaders to submit applications, outlining existing examples of joined up working and innovation in their place footprint, to be chosen for phase one of the NNHIP. West Leicestershire is one of 43 places chosen from a total of 141 applications.

Each chosen place will be expected to team up with local health and care providers, voluntary and community groups and members of their communities to accelerate the rollout of their local services. The focus will be on speedy delivery and the sign-up of all partners to engage in different ways of working and achieving the best outcomes for patients.

There will be no additional funding provided for the chosen sites, but there will be access to resources including a national coach, subject experts, face-to-face regional workshops and the opportunity for sharing learning and good practice between the different sites.

The West Leicestershire implementer programme learning and resources will be shared with East Leicestershire, Rutland, Leicester City and Northampton/shire in real time to support the same progress in developing the neighbourhood model of care being made in these areas

### **Chairs Engagement Activity**

Over the past four months I have been getting familiar with my role as Cabinet Lead Member for Health, taking part in numerous inductions with partners across system, place and neighbourhood. These meetings have provided useful insights into the depth and breadth of work taking place across the county of Leicestershire and I have been impressed by the quality and dedication of contributions from all partners to enhance the wellbeing of our local communities.

I have also actively taken part in a range of partnership and community engagement events and meetings, which aim to improve the health & wellbeing of our residents including:

- granting an interview to Cross Counties radio for Lutterworth Community Market Place Event
- producing a video celebrating 10 years of Local Area Coordinators
- gaining valuable insights into the role and function of Local Area Coordinators through my visit to staff in Ashby. This provided an opportunity to see how the principles are applied in practice. As part of the visit, I spent time at a local food bank and explored the surrounding area to understand how community connections operate and make a difference. This experience deepened my understanding of the role and highlighted the differing needs that exist across the county.
- met with the school nursing team to discuss their activities and gain insight
- and shortly, I will be attending a visit to Turning Point



On 28 August 2025 I attended a Community Market Place Event at Lutterworth Sports Centre. This multi-agency event brought together over 40 local charities, services and organisations, offering residents access to a wide range of support including adaptation, disability & living well information, health checks, children's services and community engagement & volunteering to name but a few. It was a valuable opportunity to see the excellent work taking place locally and to engage with professionals, residents and service users.



Finally, I was very pleased, proud, and happy to attend the Local Area Co-Ordination 10-year celebration event held in the Council Chamber at County Hall where I was able to meet the LACs from across Leicestershire, as well as service users and partners.

**Key Messages**

Updates and key messages from the items presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 29 May 2025 are highlighted below:

- Points raised regarding the Resilience Strategy – particularly those concerning health issues during emergencies, such as access to medication for evacuated individuals and other vulnerable groups – will be referred back to the existing working group for discussion.
- A development session on the Better Care Fund (BCF) will be held ahead of submitting the BCF documents to NHS England.

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