Agenda Item 4

Health & Wellbeing Board – 26th February 2026

Chair's Position Statement

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 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 Homecare Assessment and Reablement Team (HART) service continues to deliver reablement to people supporting both increasing numbers of people in the community and to facilitate hospital discharges. The number of people waiting for discharge and who require care and support on discharge from all hospitals has increased and Adult Social Care services continue to work hard to ensure all discharges are safe and timely.

An ICB Immunisation Programme team works closely with the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (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 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (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, and this remains a key performance measure for the programme.

Despite a delay in national guidance, a Better Care Fund (BCF) workshop was held at the end of January to discuss funding for 2026-27. Members and all partners were represented with a presentation from the NHSE regional lead for the East Midlands to give an overview of the expectations for the next financial year. A clear steer on schemes to be reviewed along with a clear steer on additional funded elements for next year to support neighbourhood health and the shift to prevention was given. This will form a good basis for completing the submission when the national requirements are released.

Leicestershire County Council | Integration and Better Care Fund | Integrated Care Board NHS

Chairs Engagement Activity

In my role as Chair, I support the continued delivery of the Board's work and the ongoing commitment to public engagement as a core part of our approach. Below are examples of community activities I have supported, all of which contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents:

- Development of dedicated wellbeing resources to support the farming community.
- Delivery of messaging over the Christmas period highlighting the adverse effects of second-hand smoke.
- Participation in the filming of a video supporting the anti-vaping journey.
- Appeared in a video for the LLR men's mental Health Conference.

Men's Mental Health week took place in January, during which a wide range of events were held at Leicestershire County Council focusing on key issues affecting men's wellbeing. These included sessions on loss and bereavement, tackling stigma around mental health and fundraising activities in support of the Andy Man's Club and the 'it's ok to talk' message. These events helped raise awareness, encouraged open conversations and promoted peer support and I am fully supportive of initiatives that champion men's mental health. The Council will continue to support men's health through the Start a Conversation and Mental Health Friendly Places initiatives.

Key Messages

Updates and key messages from the items presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 4 December 2025 are highlighted below:

- The Mental Health Place-based Group is collaborating with the ICB to address the challenges of sharing data with partners.
- The neighbourhood implementer work in West Leicestershire has continued to progress, with a further update to be provided at HWB at its June meeting.
- Progress has been made on the JLHWS delivery plan, communication plans and data dashboards and this work will continue.

Supporting **Leicestershire's Farmers**

Farming is one of Leicestershire's greatest strengths. It shapes our countryside and supports our economy and our food chain.

From early mornings to late nights, farmers work hard to provide for others. They often work quietly in the background. As winter sets in, farming doesn't pause for the colder and shorter days. Harsher weather and constant demands can take a real toll.

This season, we're encouraging everyone to look out for one another and stay connected. These simple steps help people maintain balance and strengthen a sense of community. Even a shared job, a warm brew or a quick check-in can make someone's day better.

Michael Squires

Councillor Michael Squires, cabinet member for health, said: "This winter, we're continuing to listen, learn and stand alongside our farming communities. We want farmers to know support is available and no one should feel like they're carrying everything alone.

"We will continue to visit and spend time with farmers because we want to hear directly from them. Farming matters to Leicestershire. Supporting those who keep it going matters just as much.

"Reaching out, sharing information and staying connected are practical ways we can all support each other."

If you're part of the farming community, support is available, from Farming Community Network daily 7am to 11pm: 03000 111 999

For further information visit **leicestershire.gov.uk/farmers-support**

QuitReady
Leicestershire & Rutland

"Christmas and New Year is a time to celebrate with loved ones and it's also the perfect moment to think about the year ahead. Making your home smoke-free keeps everyone safe and if you're considering quitting, the New Year is an ideal opportunity to start."

Councillor Michael Squires, Cabinet Member for Health

This page is intentionally left blank