

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 15 JUNE 2026**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR****Health & Wellbeing Board Membership Update (June 2026)**

At the Leicestershire County Council meeting on 13 May 2026 there were some changes to the Cabinet portfolios. The new Cabinet Lead Member for Health and Public Health is Mr Paul Harrison CC so Mr Harrison becomes the new Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Mr Michael Squires CC remains a member of the Board in his new role as Cabinet Lead Member for Adult Social Care. Mr Charles Pugsley CC remains Cabinet Lead Member for Children and Families and therefore retains his place on the Board.

At the Board meeting on 25 February 2026 Matt Gaunt, Chief Finance Officer, Integrated Care Board was elected as Vice Chair for a period of two years.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand with increasing complex presentations for all elements of service delivery including hospital discharge, 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. The department is recruiting to additional posts to ensure timely completion of care and financial assessments and reviews. We are consulting on the new carers Leicestershire strategy and will work with partners to formalise a final strategy over the summer. Additional capacity is being deployed to enhance carer assessment and support services.

Despite a delay in national guidance, a 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. The Outcomes from this workshop directly informed the National BCF submission which was submitted on 19th May 2026.

NHS

While winter (in the calendar sense) is behind us and summer has very much arrived, pressures across Urgent and Emergency Care continue. Performance metrics that matter most to patients, such as ambulance handover times and time spent in Emergency Departments, have improved despite no significant change in attendance figures. These are positive developments and a testament to the considerable planning and collaborative working that supported the system through winter.

Sustaining these improvements remains challenging and reinforces the importance of making best use of out-of-hospital services. A key focus for the system is supporting people to remain well and independent within their own homes and communities wherever possible, reducing the need for avoidable hospital attendance and admission. Equally important is ensuring that people who do require hospital care are able to leave hospital promptly once they are clinically ready to do so, enabling them to recover in the most appropriate setting.

Achieving this requires continued partnership working across health, social care and the voluntary and community sector. Timely discharge planning, decision-making and the provision of appropriate onward care and support are essential to reducing delays and improving patient flow. By maintaining a collective focus on both admission avoidance and timely discharge, we can improve outcomes for residents, reduce pressures across the system and ensure hospital capacity is available for those who need it most.

National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP)

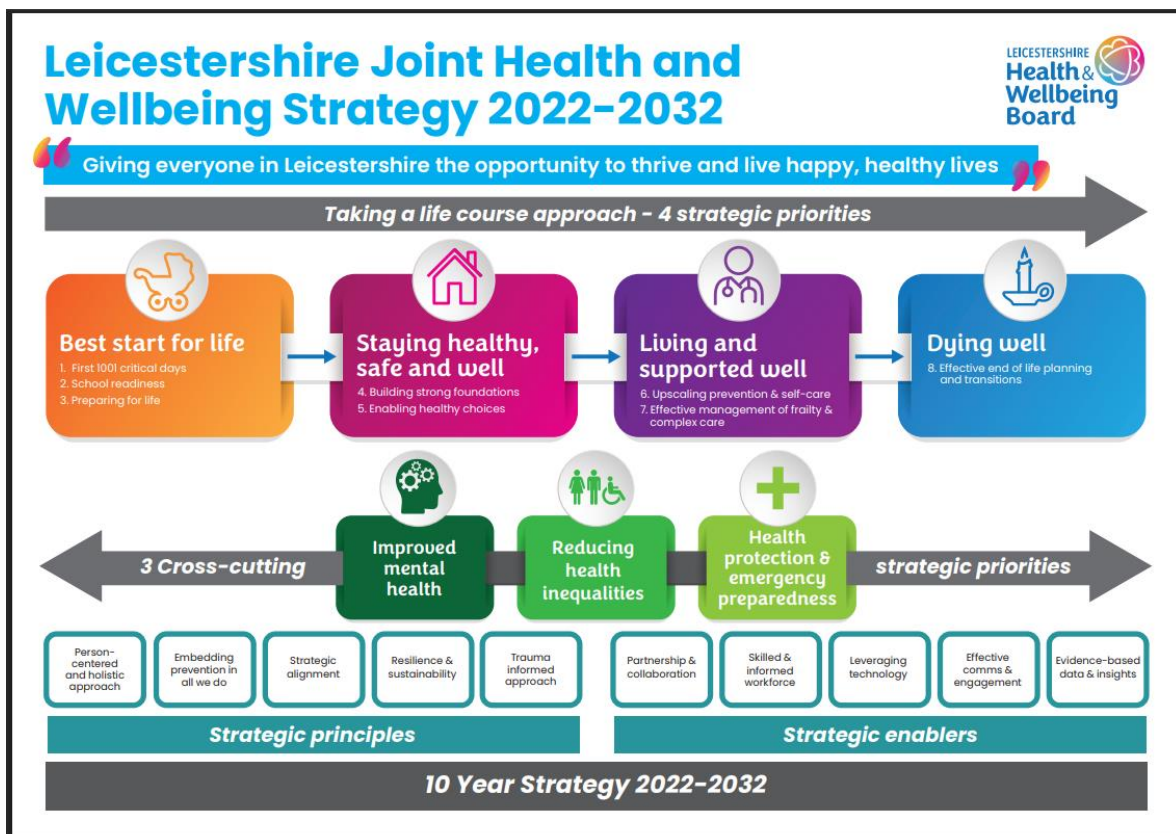
In Autumn 2025 West Leicestershire was selected to join the first wave of the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP). Aligning closely with the national 10 Year Health Plan, the programme will bring NHS care closer to home and provide better support for people with complex health conditions, keeping them well and avoiding unnecessary hospital attendances and admissions.

Working within the NHS (primary care, community care and acute care) and with social care and the voluntary and community sector, West Leicestershire established a programme to support house bound patients who have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. The programme brought representatives from across organisations into a multi-disciplinary team to work together to provide the most effective care possible for patients. The early outcomes from this work highlight the increased cross organisational working, increases in trust and understanding between organisations. We can also see that patient reviews for COPD, medication reviews and changes have all increased in this pilot group. 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, the learning is also being used to see how we can all support a wider group of patients live well in their community.

Key Messages

Following the review of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy during 2025, the revised strategy is now available on our website, alongside the accompanying Plan on a Page and Easy Read version, via this [link](#).

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out how partners will work together to allow everyone across Leicestershire the best opportunity to live long, good quality and happy lives.



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