



**LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND JOINT HEALTH  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 27 NOVEMBER 2024**

**EAST MIDLANDS INTEGRATED CARE BOARDS FERTILITY POLICY:  
CASE FOR CHANGE**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, LLR INTEGRATED CARE  
BOARD**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of the East Midlands Integrated Care Boards Fertility Policy: Case for Change engagement phase.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. It was agreed that the five East Midlands Integrated Care Boards would undertake a review of existing fertility policies with a view to aligning them to improve equity of access to fertility treatments.

**Background**

3. Currently, there are differences across the East Midlands in the criteria for how people can access the treatments. The NHS wants to create one policy for the whole region, to make access fairer for everyone.
4. The NHS review of the policy addresses these differences in the criteria for people who can access treatment, such as age, body mass index (BMI) and the number of treatment cycles available.

**Proposals/Options**

5. The review has informed the Fertility Policy: Case for Change (Appendix A). The engagement phase was launched on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and will run until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
6. The key proposals are that, as is currently the case, one cycle of IVF treatment will be offered across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. However, in addition, it also considers access for single women and same sex couples.

**Consultation**

7. At this stage, a full public consultation is not required. This is the engagement phase for the case for change where the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) is inviting people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to have their say on how fertility treatments are provided by the NHS in the East Midlands by completing a short questionnaire which is open to everyone:  
<https://leicesterleicestershireandrutland.icb.nhs.uk/be-involved/fertility-review/>
8. Updates on the engagement process, including how the feedback is being used, will be shared on the LLR ICB website.
9. Following the engagement phase, feedback will be evaluated with a view to draft a policy. A further engagement phase will then take place.

### **Resource Implications**

10. There are no resource implications in the context of this paper.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

11. As stated, the engagement phase will run until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025, after which feedback will be evaluated that will inform the draft policy. The timetable for this is yet to be determined and is dependent on the level of change required.

### **Conclusions**

12. This report has been provided to ensure that the Committee is sighted on activity being undertaken.

### **Background papers**

13. The full Fertility Policy: Case for Change is attached as appendix A.

### **Equality Implications**

14. The purpose of the fertility policy review is to improve equity of access to fertility treatments. As such, an EQIA has been produced (available on request).

### **Human Rights Implications**

15. There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

### **Other Relevant Impact Assessments**

16. There are no other relevant impact assessments arising from this report.

### **Appendices**

17. Fertility Policy: Case for Change (Appendix A).

### **Officer(s) to Contact**

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