

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 29 MAY 2025
REPORT OF THE STAYING HEALTHY PARTNERSHIP
JOINT HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY PROGRESS UPDATE
ON STAYING HEALTHY, SAFE & WELL

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on progress in relation to the Staying Healthy, Safe & Well priority of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2022-32.

Recommendation

2. The Board is requested to:
 - a. Note the progress being made in relation to delivering against the Staying Healthy, Safe & Well priority.
 - b. Note the progress being made in relation to delivering against the cross-cutting priorities.

Background

3. One of the statutory requirements of the HWB is to produce and deliver a JHWS. A Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) was carried out to provide the evidence base to identify the health and wellbeing needs of the local population. The JSNA along with contributions from key partners and stakeholders, helped to inform the JHWS priorities.
4. The ten-year JHWS was approved in February 2022 and aims to improve the health, wellbeing and equity outcomes of Leicestershire. The strategy follows a life course approach:
 - a. Best Start for Life;
 - b. Staying Healthy, Safe and Well;
 - c. Living and Supported Well;
 - d. Dying Well.
5. Three HWB subgroups deliver the priorities within each specific life course. A fourth subgroup was established in January 2023 to specifically address the

mental health needs across Leicestershire, recognising it cuts across all life courses and requires a greater focus.

6. Reducing health inequalities remains a cross-cutting theme and underpins the work of all four subgroups.
7. The Staying Healthy, Safe and Well strategic priority is split into two priority areas. Each priority area includes a set of commitments.
 - a. Building Strong Foundations;
 - b. Enabling Healthy Choices & Environments.
8. The Staying Healthy Partnership is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Staying Healthy, Safe and Well strategic priority of the JHWS and has a role to play in delivery of the cross-cutting priorities.
9. A report on progress was presented to HWB in May 2024.
10. This report provides an update on progress since the last report, challenges that would benefit from input from the HWB, and plans for the next 12 months in continuing to deliver against the Staying Healthy, Safe & Well strategic priority of the JHWS.

Progress against the Staying Healthy, Safe & Well strategic priority of the JHWS

11. The table below details the progress being made against each of the priority areas and commitments:

JLHSW Priority 1: Building Strong Foundations

Health in all Policies (HiAP)

- Health in All Policies in the County Council successfully embedded.
 - In excess of 150 have enrolled on the e-learning – this is open to all members of staff and has been completed from staff members from different departments
 - Just over 100 members of LCC staffed trained on the Health in All Our Decisions training. This has been rolled out within Leicestershire – we have prioritised teams and departments to train so far the training has been delivered to Democratic Services, Chief Executives team, Growth team, Environment and Transport management, Policies, and Education.
- Currently the HiAP training is being evaluated and a lesson learnt report is in progress.
- Further improvements in horizon scanning and agreements with Democratic Services, Policies Team and Transformation Team have been made.
- Engaging with Districts to roll out HiAP across the County.
 - Due to capacity, the roll out plan is to support one organisation at a time. We are working closely with North West Leicestershire to embed the Leicestershire County Council HiAP model into their organisation and supporting their team to do this through a Train the Trainer model.

Healthy work, workplaces and gaining meaningful employment

Healthy Workplaces Programme

The Healthy Workplaces Leicestershire programme helps organisations of all sizes across the county to become healthier places to work. The tailored programme has been designed in collaboration with, and for Leicestershire business, helping to ensure that the support that is most needed by the county's workforce is available to them and their organisation.

The data below indicates businesses that are currently engaged with the Healthy Workplaces Programme:

- 125 registered organisations across both Leicestershire and Rutland (73 Large, 28 Medium and 24 Small organisations). The programme works with companies from both the public and private sectors, spanning a wide range of industries such as education, hospitality, finance and construction, to name but a few.
 - District progress towards accreditations - Harborough close to committed, Melton achieved committed, NWLDC close to achieving committed & Charnwood working towards empowered.
- 106 of new businesses enquired
- 42 Workplace Health Needs Assessment carried out

- 23 companies purchased products from HWP.

Work Well Programme

- The LLR Work Well Programme has been devised to support the ICS vision of 'working together for everyone in LLR to have healthy, fulfilling lives.' It is a support service that addresses the rising flow of people out of work. It has been launched by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and aims nationally to support around 60k long-term sick and disabled people to start, stay and success in work through integrated work & health support. The LLR programme is one of 5 national Vanguard established to provide this service.
- In Leicestershire 15 PCNs have gone live in March 2025 with recruitment of Work Health Coaches (WHCs) and Seniors and Coaches underway.
- The LLR training hub has been commissioned to deliver work & health coach training and development, supervision & competency aligned to the personalised care framework and NHSE Care Navigation Competency Framework. There is collaboration with LCC and Adult Education Centre to build a skills and training package of core skills (functional, digital and personal).

Active Together – Healthy Workplaces

- In collaboration with local physical activity sector employers and CIMSPA, Active Together launched with the Local Physical Activity Sector Skills Plan 2024-2027 with recommendations and actions aligned to improving the conditions for, and ability of, the local sector to recruit, train, support and retain a representative, inclusive and skilled physical activity workforce while supporting the physical health and wellbeing of the people of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland. The plan includes actions to ensure a greater need for health-based learning and development embedded within establish physical activity sector training.
- Initial conversations with the Work Well programme team to consider how we can upskill the health and work coaches around physical activity to support signposting into physical activity services.
- Working in partnership with The Youth Sport Trust, Active Together, has led Generation Charnwood – a government-funded project to use sport to improve the wellbeing, life chances, and employability skills of young people in Charnwood.

Healthy Housing and homeless prevention

Health Impact Assessments (HIA)

- Worked closely with districts to ensure health and wellbeing is enhanced through Local Plans. This has included drafting policies, embedding HIA requirements on new developments going forward and appraising Local Plan policies against a health impact assessment.

- A local HIA template and guidance has been developed by Leicestershire County Council Public Health team. The level of information required in the HIA will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed.

Statutory Homeless Duties

- Districts continue to deliver their statutory homelessness duties, including prevention of homelessness.
- Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme continues across all seven districts.
- Link between homelessness and the Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) has been strengthened, in line with a ministerial requirement. Designated senior leads in place for the safeguarding board on homelessness.
- Rough sleeping initiative project, caseload position, rough sleeper mortality project outcomes and prevention opportunities across LLR reported to LSAB in Jan and March 2025, and will be included within the refreshed strategic plan. Important opportunity to ensure homelessness is seen as more than a housing issue, management of all partners is key.

Social Housing Regulation Act

- The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 came into force in April 2024. All district council landlords and registered housing providers (RP's) with 1000+ homes are subject to the associated requirements and must adhere to a set of standards known as consumer standards, which are monitored and reported on by way of inspection which will take place every 4 years. So far, one council has had their routine inspection – Melton Borough Council, and has received a compliant C2 judgement. Critically, the inspection showed that homes are safe, and tenants are supported. Improvement areas are being managed in a planned way.

Resilient, independent and supported older people

Public Health

- Public Health have continued to embed health considerations within Local Plans, covering health data, template policies and health impact assessment support both strategically and through policy to be applied to planning applications. A key focus on ageing populations and urban design considerations for elderly as well as accessibility needs have been included in all Local Plan work. Awaiting final consultation/examination across the County.

Local Transport Plan

- Local Transport Plan 4 phase 1 is complete with health as a core theme of the work moving forward. The work has a particular focus on the travel needs of the older population and the importance of inclusive travel modes.

Transport Improvements

- The partnership supports initiatives that promote the independence of the aging population including transport improvements such as:
 - FoxConnect improvements, as it's created positivity in terms of connectivity for our rural communities
 - There is a specific project across Melton and Rutland (Dynamic Demand Response Transport (DRT)) which has recently introduced Call Connect.

Supporting community cohesion

Sports and Violence Reduction

- Continue the partnership between Active Together, Street Games and Leicestershire Violence Reduction Unit to use local sport and physical activity assets to desist young people from engaging in violent crime and antisocial behaviour.

Air Quality and Health

Air Quality Needs Assessments

- Air Quality Health Needs Assessment completed, and recommendations embedded in action plan. Partnership formally adopted action plan in January 2025.

Explore a new approach to the design of our residential, employment and town centre environments

- The partnership has recently supported work to advance within the health and strategic planning system, and this will remain a key focus moving forward.
- Local Transport Plan 4 phase 1 is complete with health as a core theme of the work moving forward. The work has a particular focus on the sustainable active travel.

Reducing fuel and food poverty (cost of living crisis)

Food Insecurity

- Exercise underway to map food provision across Leicestershire, including food banks, community fridges, and food pantries.

- Food insecurity working group established with partners from across the county including reps from each district; with aim of sharing best practice / learning.

Housing and Respiratory Illness Project

One year since implementation, the programme has achieved significant progress:

- *Stronger Healthcare-Housing Partnerships*: The East Midlands Ambulance Service is now a key reporting partner, helping to identify and flag cases of damp and mould during emergency callouts.
- *Increased Housing Referrals*: Family help hubs and local healthcare services have fully integrated the housing referral system, increasing early interventions and preventative action.
- *Data-Driven Targeting*: A damp and mould mapping tool is in development, using data from housing associations and local authorities to identify high-risk areas and prioritise interventions.
- *Improved Health Outcomes*: Follow-up assessments on completed cases indicate reductions in medication use, fewer respiratory-related GP visits, and overall improvements in residents' health and wellbeing.

Warm Homes: Social Housing & Social Housing Fund

- Circa £10 million of funding secured (North West Leicestershire DC, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Melton Borough Council to carry out improvements to energy efficiency of council housing stock).
- A number of Leicestershire District Councils have recently secured funding from the recent wave of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund which will directly address affordable warmth and seeks to upgrade social housing stock to EPC level C as a minimum. Includes insulation, solar panels, lighting, windows and doors. Link here: [Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3 – successful Social Housing Landlords including local authorities and housing associations - GOV.UK](#). LLR allocations in March 2025 include:
 - Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council £1,150,253
 - North West Leicestershire District Council £8,069,584
 - Allocation as part of Midlands Zero Net Hub (£75m) –Leicester City Council, Melton Borough Council
- In response to concerns about low take up of Pension Credit, District Council partners have supported local communities by raising awareness of the support available via this, and the Age UK Leicestershire Warm and Wise Scheme.
- Warm Homes has successfully delivered Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) funding provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and is anticipated to deliver approximately 160 energy efficiency measures across 120 households.
- Implementation of county wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding providing energy efficiency upgrades to low income and health poor households.

- Delivery of HERO demonstrator project funded by Midlands Net Zero Hub (Home Energy Retrofit Offer) providing tailored advice through 1-2-1 home visits, free Energy Performance Certificate assessments and public events. 482 households have been supported to date. The project is on target to meet over 80% of the KPI target for 1-2-1 advice.
- Revised Warm Homes advice booklet resource.
- Leicestershire performs better than the regional average and national average for percentage of households experiencing fuel poverty (12.5% vs 15.1% vs 13.1%). Based on DESNZ 2022 statistics. Fuel poverty proportionally has increased across all metrics driven by higher average and increasing energy prices when compared with those prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and a spike at the onset of the conflict in Ukraine. The most recent data for 2024 only details the regional and national statistics showing a reduction to 10.9% and 11% respectively driven by lower energy prices.
- The Rural Food Hub Network, funded by UKSPF, aims to support residents living in rural areas of Melton Mowbray with emergency food and other essential items. The Rural Food Hub Network was developed as part of the council's cost of living offer to the Melton community. A number of hubs have been launched since February 2024, through the support of Government funding and provide vital support to residents in need, alongside other initiatives to support our communities such as the Household Support Fund and Pension Credit awareness events. New Food Hub launches in Asfordby – Melton Borough Council

Review impacts of climate change (including embedding national sustainable food places framework)

Sustainable Food Places

- Leicestershire has successfully achieved the Silver Sustainable Food Place, the first two tier county area to do so. We are now progressing for Gold.
- This work will now sit with the developing Whole System's Approach to Healthy Weight, Food and Nutrition programme, and will be focussing on areas including procurement practices, access to healthy and sustainable food and food insecurity.

JLHWS Priority 2: Enabling healthy choices and environments

Making Every Contact Count

MECC

- Healthy Conversation Skills webinar has been developed and delivered to LLR PCNS during protected learning time.
- Estates and Facilities staff within UHL trained up as trainers to deliver HCS training.
- Focus group with trainers completed to understand impact of the training on their roles.
- HCS training embedded as a product within Healthy Workplaces
- Conversations have started on embedding HCS training within ASC in LCC. Continued to deliver quarterly open learning and development session to LCC staff.

Enabling Healthy Choices (Comms & Awareness)

District and Partners Communication & Engagement

- Countywide partnership – LCC, Districts, with Active Together remains positive.
- Leisure contracts / facilities secured in Leicestershire in 24/25, notably Melton and Harborough with 10 year contracts agreed. Added value from the contracts, including specific interventions to address areas of health inequality (example – ‘Melton Mowbray West’) – a direct outcome of the Community, Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- Locally Relevant and Targeted: Case Study – Farmer’s Health Checks, Melton Mowbray Livestock Market. Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a key intervention through the Melton Borough Council UKSPF plan, this is a great example of a relevant service which is helping to bridge the gap for farmers, who may otherwise not have time or choose not to prioritise their health / checks. Up to the end of November 2024, 1298 physical and mental health checks had been carried out for over 1290 farmers (I have asked for the updated figures). It is delivered by a charity, LRSN, who also operate across Lincolnshire. This has been cited as a best practice project in national publications. It has recently been agreed to continue to fund the project for a further 12 months.
- Melton BC: Physical Activity Pathway & Farmers Health Checks
- Charnwood: Secured funding for subsidised leisure centre passes and have installed exercise equipment and engaged an instructor on our most deprived estate through a Loughborough University Active Healthy Living study. Two ‘healthy relationship’ groups supported by UWAVA (one for males and one for females) at one of our community hubs

- Hinckley & Bosworth: Regular health prevention updates are included in the Council's free newsletter that is distributed to 47,500 households 4 times per year.
- NWLDC: continued to deliver new programmes ESCAPE Pain and Active Menopause in addition to Steady Steps etc.
- Blaby: received 1,235 referrals into the service, with over 16,000 attendances in our programmes and 1132 participants across 42 activities.

HWB Partners Comms & Engagement

- The Health and Wellbeing Board microsite was developed: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/leicestershire-health-and-wellbeing-board>
- The website signposts to health and wellbeing support services across Leicestershire: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/leicestershire-health-and-wellbeing-board/health-and-wellbeing-support>
- Supported with the design of the HWBB annual report: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/other-bodies/about-the-health-and-wellbeing-board> and a video overview.
- Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Board X account: <https://x.com/leicshwb> continued to share and post messages to support residents to follow healthy lifestyles.
- Some of the key campaigns LCC promoted are stop smoking, weight management, Warm Homes, Healthy Workplaces, vaccinations, Family Hubs, Best Start in Life (first 1001 critical days), carers support, mental health (Start a Conversation , Mental Health Friendly Places and Mental Health Friendly Clubs).
 - Quit Ready stop smoking service – promoted messages across the year to encourage smokers to quit smoking using a range of communications tools including social media, digital advertising, articles in Leicestershire Matters (residents publication delivered to all households in Leicestershire), press releases and internally to council staff.
 - Promoted healthy lifestyle messages linked to national campaigns including Stoptober, Time 2 Talk day, mental health awareness week.

Active Together & Partners Comms & Engagement

- 3832 responses received as part of the LLR Physical Activity and Wellbeing Residents Survey. The aim of the survey was to understand the attitudes, behaviours and intentions of our local residents to support service delivery and messaging to get more residents to take part in regular physical activity.
- 18.9% of Leicestershire adult residents are inactive, with us performing better than England average (22.6%).
- 70.1% of Leicestershire adult residents are active, with us performing better than England average (67.1%).
- 45.1% of Leicestershire child residents are physically active, with us performing slightly below the England average (47.8%).

- Over 75 Let's Get Moving Champions have shared their inspirational stories on what being active means to them
- Place(s) Led Physical Activity Plans in place across the 7 districts and boroughs, with a physical activity delivery model focusing on:
 - people with specific health needs;
 - programmes aimed at inactive people with one or more stable health conditions;
 - programmes aimed at providing population-level interventions with brief advice and sign posting for self-help.

Healthy Weight Strategy

Whole Systems Approach to Healthy Weight, Food & Nutrition

- Through the development of the Whole Systems Approach for Healthy Weight, Food and Nutrition, the Healthy Weight Strategy and Food Plan are proposed to be amalgamated and form part of the governance structure for the WSA. Wider determinants also feature strongly through both previous work streams and will feature heavily in the WSA.
- An internal Food Systems workshop was held in Feb 25 to bring LCC senior leaders on the journey with a wider stakeholder workshop planned for May which will bring together a broad range of partners to map the local system and ensure that partners are working towards the same vision.

Physical Activity Elements of Weight Management

- Active Together and the district / borough councils and School Sport and Physical Activity Partnerships continue to support the physical activity elements of the Leicestershire Weight Management Service when required.

Sexual Health

Local Sexual Health Services

- Local sexual health services have been redesigned to improve accessibility of services for residents following a public consultation exercise that revealed a preference towards county-based provision. This now includes a standalone online SH service, a new service for county and Rutland residents from 01st April 2025, a review and re-procurement of the Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) offer.
- Leicestershire now performs in line with the regional averages and slightly better than the national average for chlamydia screening in females aged 15 to 24 (Leics 20.9% vs regional 22.7% England 20.4%).
- Leicestershire performs better than the regional average but significantly worse than the national average for HIV testing

- Leicestershire has consistently performed better than the regional and national averages for abortion rate in the over 25s (14.6/1,000 vs 16.1/1,000 vs 17.9/1,000)

Building healthy environments, fast food outlets alcohol premise density

Fast Food Outlets

- Local Planning authorities (districts) are being supported to build an evidence base and policy wording for hot food takeaway policies within Local Plans. Pilot of Public Health responses on hot food takeaway applications in Blaby has commenced. Work across Public Health to reduce density of fast food/gambling establishments and licensed premises in areas of health inequalities.

Progress against cross-cutting priorities of the JHWS

JLHWS Cross-cutting priorities:

- **Reducing health inequalities**

Learning Disability Health Checks

- National performance data from NHSE indicates that LLR has exceeded the Q1-3 AHC targets within our Operational Plan – more AHCs are now being completed earlier in the financial year
- Current local data indicates that 78.6% of people on the LD Register, aged 14+, have received their AHC during 24/25. The 75% target has been achieved ahead of last year's position, indicating that over 80% of people will have received their AHC by the end of 24/25
- The number of people added to the LD Register in LLR has continued to increase year on year – annual validation of individual practice registers carried out by the Primary Care Liaison Nurses
- System wide LD AHC Project Group established, led by LD Clinical Lead
- GP Ambassador Network established by PCLNs, including monthly informal drop-in sessions for GPs and Practice Nurses
- LD Friendly GP Practice Awards launched across LLR to raise awareness and improve access for AHCs
- QI project launched to improve uptake of AHCs for 14–19-year-olds, creating links with EHCP process
- LLR participating in a national NHSE pilot to examine feasibility of combining existing health checks for LD, Autism and Severe Mental Illness.

Temporary Accommodation Welcome Packs

- Temporary accommodation resources have been developed by both HBBC and MBC and will be shared with CHOG reps should partners wish to adopt and localise either resource.

I

Women's Health

A Health Needs Assessment is process of being finalised; to help inform the partnership plan, it will also inform a prioritisation review for the partnership too:

- Women's Health Hubs have been established and are running well. There are three hubs across LLR, with one based in Northwest Leicestershire, one covering Rutland and Melton and a final one within the City.
- An East Midlands Fertility Policy is in development. A fertility project group is in place which has undertaken a review of internal processes and is getting ready for when the new policy is finalised.
- A group covering Termination of Pregnancy has been established to improve TOPs services. New commissioning guidance has just dropped from national, more work needs to be done from these recommendations on quality and performance measures within the network but on the whole, LLR are performing well against the new guidance. A mapping exercise is also underway and will be reviewed in summer.
- Development of an action plan covering gynaecology.

Progress against recommendations agreed at the Staying Healthy Partnership Development Session

JHWS Recommended Priorities (CFP Development Session)

Agreed to spotlight the following priority areas. These focus areas are alongside the SHPs existing remit to monitor ('watch') and champion activity across a range of delivery areas:

- ***Health and the Strategic Planning System*** – build on and enhance the existing collaborative work to increase awareness, and consideration of health implications and requirements within planning policy and decision making.
- ***Healthy Weight*** – to come together and champion a whole systems approach and joint agenda and the co-ordination of resources towards healthy weight, food and nutrition.



Key Challenges

12. The challenges identified within each initiative will be addressed through the appropriate governance channels and, where necessary, through the Staying Healthy Partnership (SHP). Should any of these issues require escalation to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), they will be brought forward in a subsequent report.

Next Steps

13. The following section describes where further focus will be placed over the next 12 months:
 - a. Keep the momentum going on the great work currently taking place across the partnership as outlined in the tables above.
 - b. Place greater focus over the next 12 months on the areas where Leicestershire faces ongoing challenges.
 - c. Build on the work that has commenced in relation to health & the strategic planning system and Healthy weight.
 - d. Complete a review of JLHWS commitments for Staying Healthy, Safe & Well strategic priority.

Background Papers

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board 23 May 2024;

https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s182800/SHP%20JHWS%20Progress%20Update_23May24_v9%20FINAL.pdf

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/leicestershire-health-and-wellbeing-board/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

Appendices

None

Officer to contact

Mike Sandys, Director for Public Health

Email: mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk

Edd de Coverly, Chief Executive Officer Melton Borough Council

Email: edecoverly@melton.gov.uk

Relevant Impact Assessments**Risk Assessment**

14. Risk log managed as part of Staying Healthy Partnership governance.