

Health & Wellbeing Board – 4th December 2025**Chair's Position Statement**

As we approach winter and the increased pressures it brings on services, we want to emphasise the vital importance of staying up to date with vaccinations and immunisations.

An ICB Immunisation Programme team works closely with the 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 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 and is presently co-ordinating and overseeing the County autumn-winter vaccination programme. Care homes for older people continue to be prioritised for vaccinations, and this remains a key performance measure for the programme.

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 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 in mental health units has increased and Adult Social Care services continue to work hard to ensure all discharges are safe and timely.

A provisional date of 27 January 2026 has been added to the calendar for a Better Care Fund (BCF) 2026/27 development session. This will be for members of the board, the Integration Executive and the Integration Delivery and Commissioning Group and will look at changes to the current BCF required to meet any emerging national guidance and policy objectives. Currently, this is a provisional slot as national decision making has been delayed and the timing of the session may be amended to align with guidance from central government.

NHS

As expected at this time of year pressures in Urgent and Emergency care have grown. We have had days where we have seen extensive delays and patients waiting on ambulances, but are working across the system to minimise these, with a

focus on alternative community pathways, and encouraging the use of pharmacy first and 111 to direct people to the right place first, and we ask Health and Wellbeing partners to support us in this messaging.

We have seen an early respiratory surge this November, which means a second surge is likely, increasing vaccination uptake is a crucial element in managing these surges, and again, support in messaging around being vaccinated is appreciated. We have opened additional bed capacity within UHL and plan further bed capacity in community hospitals to support winter pressures, this alongside maximising community pathways will support the system to minimise delays for patients. The period of resident doctors' industrial action was managed well, and we saw no negative patient impact through this period. A further episode of industrial action has been announced for 17th – 22nd of December and planning for this period of has commenced.

Chairs Engagement Activity

Since September, I have continued to carry out the responsibilities of Chair and Cabinet Lead for Health maintaining a focus on partnership working and collaboration. During this period, I have taken part in a range of activities to support ongoing work and ensure continued progress. The following section outlines the key areas of community engagement events I have attended, which aim to improve the health & wellbeing of our residents.

- Attended a warm home event at Coalville Library hosted by the Local Area Co-ordinators offering winter health advice and practical support to help people stay healthy during the winter months. Visitors had the opportunity to speak directly with local services offering guidance on everything from keeping homes energy-efficient to accessing mental health and dementia support alongside community groups that residents can connect with to reduce isolation.
- Supported the 'Together for Men' conference held at Leicestershire County Cricket Club, which brought together public health professionals and community partners to raise awareness about mental health challenges faced by men.
- To mark a one-year milestone, the council's Quit Ready team ran an anti-vaping poster competition and received over 300 entries. The winning design, created by Delilah from Charnwood College. Leicestershire County Council's stop smoking team provide free, confidential, support and guidance to anyone who wishes to quit both smoking and vaping.

- Having had my flu vaccination, I will continue to encourage and support vaccination efforts countywide.



I attended the 'Celebrating 10 Years of Local Area Coordination in Leicestershire' event held at Leicestershire County Council in September. It was an absolute pleasure to meet the Local Area Coordinators (LACs) from across Leicestershire, as well as the residents and partners who have been positively impacted and instrumental to the success of the work in community. The event featured some truly inspiring guest speakers and community voices, who shared their remarkable stories. The large displays showcased the incredible work that has been

accomplished over the years. It was a powerful reminder of the impact and importance of our collective efforts.

It is incredible to think that the LAC initiative began back in 2015 with just eight team members as part of a pilot project. Fast forward to today, and the team has grown to an impressive 30 members, each bringing their own unique backgrounds, perspectives, and skills in connecting in community. Having positive relationship in community helps us to remain true to the LAC values of being place based and person centered.



Health & Wellbeing Board Membership Update

Matt Gaunt, Interim Chief Finance Officer, is taking one of the non-clinical ICB places on the Board.

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

Key Messages

Updates and key messages from the items presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 25 September 2025 are highlighted below:

- Neighbourhood Models of Care work continues with progression of the West Leicestershire Implementer Programme with a focus on respiratory illness.
- The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) has been published.
- Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy stakeholder analysis work has commenced to enable the development of a comprehensive communication and engagement plan.
- Continued promotion of staff vaccinations and administering vaccines on site have continued.