

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 15 JUNE 2026
REPORT OF THE STAYING HEALTHY PARTNERSHIP
JOINT LOCAL 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 (JLHWS) 2022-32.
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 JLHWS. 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 JLHWS priorities.
4. The ten-year JLHWS was approved in February 2022, revised in 2025 and aims to improve the health, wellbeing and equity outcomes of Leicestershire residents. 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 priority and underpins the work of all four subgroups.

7. The COVID-19 Recovery cross-cutting priority has been removed and replaced by a broader commitment to health protection and emergency preparedness, which is now a new cross-cutting priority to be delivered across all four subgroups.
8. 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**
 - i. Health in and equity in all policies
 - ii. Healthy placemaking (**key area of focus 25-26**)
 - iii. Healthy workplaces and local economy
 - iv. Healthy homes
 - v. Healthy and safe communities
 - b. **Enabling Healthy Choices & Behaviours**
 - i. Healthy choices and behaviours
 - ii. Healthy weight, food and nutrition (**key area of focus 25-26**)
9. The Staying Healthy Partnership is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Staying Healthy, Safe and Well strategic priority of the JLHWS and has a role to play in delivery of the cross-cutting priorities.
10. The latest report on progress was presented to HWB in May 2025. Since the last report, the JLHWS has been reviewed, and this report provides an update on the revised commitments and includes:
 - a. an update on progress since the last report.
 - b. 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 JLHWS.

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 and includes a data dashboard to measure associated outcomes that can be viewed in **appendix 1**:

JLHSW Priority 1: Building strong foundations

Health and equity in all Policies (HiAP)

Health in all Policies

The Health in All Policies pilot programme has continued at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) this year, comprising of online and face to face learning, and submission of health impact e-forms, summarising health considerations made on key pieces of work submitted to Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet at the County Council. To date, over 260 learners have completed the LCC 'Health in All Our Work' e-learning and or 'Health in All Our Decisions' training, with learners reporting significantly improved understanding of health inequalities and increased confidence applying learning to their work. A qualitative evaluation of the LCC Health in All Policies programme was conducted this year as part of a Public Health Masters Degree dissertation project. This reported positive impacts from the training and intersectional work and increased knowledge and understanding of the building blocks for health. There were also a number of recommendations around next steps for the programme.

Following the successful LCC pilot and strong engagement at a district level, North West Leicestershire District Council is preparing to roll out the Leicestershire County Council Health in All Policies (HiAP) model in summer 2026, with Blaby District Council formally agreeing to adopt the LCC HiAP model at a Senior Leadership Team meeting in April 2026. This development from the initial LCC programme to system partner sign up aligns with the commitment from the Staying Healthy Partnership member organisations to HiAP adoption and roll out. It also recognises the critical role of district councils' statutory duties as some of the most powerful levers for shaping the wider determinants of health and reducing inequalities.

Nationally, Leicestershire's Health in All Policies approach and learning has informed and supported other local authorities through direct officer-to-officer engagement and national networks. We continue to support other authorities in creating and embedding their approaches, sharing Leicestershire's expertise and learning. We have held meetings with ten local authorities over the past 12 months, including Gloucestershire and Kent, alongside wider influence through the national HiAP Network. The Leicestershire approach has been recognised nationally as a gold-standard example of practice and will feature in forthcoming Local Government Association HiAP guidance as an exemplar model for other authorities.

The Local Transport Plan for Leicestershire Core Document 2025 – 2040 was formally adopted with ‘Enabling Health and Wellbeing’ as a core theme within the policy. This has then fed into the Enabling Travel Choice Strategy, with Public Health colleagues involved in the development of the strategy, which will be accompanied by a full, strategic Health Impact Assessment.

Over the past 12 months, the Leicestershire Public Health team has worked with planners in our District Councils where Local Plans were being renewed, to embed Health Impact Assessment requirements within policy.

The value of the HiAP programme lies in embedding health and equity considerations upstream in policy and investment decisions, reducing the risk of unintended harm, supporting more joined-up use of public resources, and helping to avoid avoidable pressure on services later on.

Next steps: We will continue to explore recommendations to strengthen our HiAP approach, including building internal capacity and advocacy through potential HiAP champions. We will improve visibility and shared learning further, through clear case studies demonstrating how HiAP has informed policy development and decision making to reduce potential risks to health and promote co-benefits for cross departmental outcomes. The programme roll outs with District Councils will be supported and early evaluation undertaken to share learning and explore additional potential organisations to adopt the programme going forward.

Health Impact Assessments (HIA) - District Update

- Continued working closely with districts to ensure health and wellbeing is enhanced through Local Plans, through assessing the impact of relevant policies within the local plan on health and wellbeing and recommendations for improvements.
- Regular proactive meetings to assist with the drafting and inclusion of a specific HIA policy within the forthcoming Local Plan, which will require developments that are of a particular type and over a certain threshold to undertake a HIA. This will encourage developments to consider the impact of proposals on health and wellbeing from the early stages of the process.

Healthy Placemaking

Healthy Placemaking

The Staying Healthy Partnership sponsored a Healthy Placemaking event in February 2026 to focus on this as a priority area. This brought together around 50 attendees from a range of organisations and departments across planning, public health, transport, housing,

the NHS, district councils and the voluntary sector to discuss opportunities and priorities for creating healthy places across Leicestershire. Delegates discussed how social and community factors, environmental conditions, access to amenities, enabling travel choices, enhancing access to nutritious food and supporting active lifestyles could impact our population and health inequalities, and how we could work together to address this. Attendees agreed to the re-establishment of the Healthy Placemaking Forum on a focused, topic-based basis, to reduce duplication and support the sharing of best practice, and more consistent and aligned policy approaches across the county. This has been presented to the Strategic Planning Group for agreement.

The Leicestershire Public Health team have conducted five strategic HIAs on emerging Local Plans within the county, working closely with Active Together to embed considerations on physical activity such as formal and informal spaces to live, work, travel and play. Pilot work with Planners in five District Councils has also taken place over the last 12 months to embed Health Impact Assessment requirements within Local Plan policy. These signpost to the Leicestershire Health Impact Assessment template which includes requirements to consider the impact of the proposal on social, economic and community factors, environmental conditions, access to amenities, connectivity, enhancing access to nutritious food and supporting active lifestyles.

The LCC Public Health team have been approached by three developers prior to the adoption of Local Plans to start pro-active conversations around HIA and place design on key strategic sites within the county. Conversations are in early stages and will include district health representatives and planners to ensure a collaborative approach. This also links to the action within the Air Quality and Health Partnership Action Plan to pilot work on healthy design in key strategic sites within the county.

To further strengthen routine health and wellbeing considerations in planning processes and use of health impact assessments, the Leicestershire Public Health team have worked with applicants on two National Significant Infrastructure Programmes within the county, to embed proportionate and accurate considerations of potential impacts and associated impact assessments within the application and examinations processes.

Evidence shows that good place design can improve physical and mental health, economic productivity, educational attainment, recruitment and retention of staff, community cohesion, social capital, civic pride, safety and crime rates, and sense of place. Our work this year on healthy placemaking has helped us start to gather a system wide agreement on what 'good' looks like for Leicestershire.

Next steps: Now that health related policy has been drafted for the Local Plans, extensive work will take place to support those leading on Local Plan examination processes to ensure the policies meet relevant requirements and are adopted. Alongside this, guidance will be created to support those drafting health impact assessments to ensure that the asks and procedures are proportionate and clear.

The relaunch of the Healthy Placemaking Forum will aim to positively contribute to communications and partnership working in an efficient way throughout the county.

Healthy Workplaces and Local Economy

Work Well Programme

WorkWell, as part of a broader government agenda linked to economic inactivity and recovery, is a key driver behind the ambition of 'Get Britain Working,' white paper. UK is the only G7 country to have not returned to pre-pandemic level of employment. For LLR, WorkWell fundamentally underpins our local health inequalities agenda, deepening social value and dignity, and supporting economic recovery. We also know good work is good for people, and WorkWell aims to support those with disability, and in LLR, specifically those struggling with MSK and mental health conditions, where these health-related conditions have become a barrier into work.

Key areas of progress:

- We have introduced and integrated 26 Work and Health Coaches into general practice, to work alongside the care navigation team (personalised care); Social Prescribers, Care Coordinators, Health and Wellbeing Coaches.
- LLR Training Hub have been commissioned by LLR ICB with WorkWell funding to provide the Work and Health Coaches a network and Community of Practice on a monthly basis, to provide local and national updates, training and CPD aligned to the NHSE Framework and competencies of Personalised care roles and outside of primary care and work in a complementary way.
- Since 1st April 2025 to 31st March, 1241 participants have started the WorkWell Programme, with a guided period of 12 weeks of low intensity personalised support with either a 'Thrive in Work Plan' if in work with barriers or a 'Return to Work Plan' in seeking employment with health barriers. The plan can be shared with a service provider of higher intense support i.e. Individual Placement and Support (IPS), Talking Therapies, Musculoskeletal services, and Adult Education Hubs.

Refer to the full report which includes next steps for the programme in **appendix 2**

Healthy Workplaces programme

The Healthy Workplaces Leicestershire programme helps organisations of all sizes across the county to become healthier places to work. The tailored accreditation programme has been designed in collaboration with, and for LLR business, helping to ensure steps are putting in place to embed a health and wellbeing which benefits both the employer and employee. Support can be provided with a

Workplace Health Need's Assessment, 3 step accreditation, MHFA & refresher training, Health MOT checks in house, healthy conversations support for managers and neurodiversity awareness training.

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

- 38 organisations across LLR are completing their Healthy Workplaces accreditation
- District progress towards accreditations:
 - Melton BC Empowered Feb 2026 (1st District to receive this result).
 - Charnwood to be awarded Empowered 6th March 2026.
 - NWLD committed – One step needed to complete committed and 2nd WHNA required
 - Harborough BC – Achieved Committed now working towards empowered
 - Hinckley & Bosworth, Blaby and Rutland – Working towards committed
- Over 50 businesses to date have completed their Workplace Health Needs Assessment identifying strengths and areas of opportunity to improve.
- Over 350 Health MOT checks completed to employees over the past 12 months.
- Over 50 Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA) trained up across LLR.

Healthy Homes

Warm Homes – Domestic energy efficiency retrofit

- The Public Health Warm Homes service has successfully completed Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) funding delivery in 2025. This funding is provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, supported by Midlands Net Zero Hub as part of a consortium and delivered a total of £1.2m capital works consisting of 145 energy efficiency measures across 108 low income off-gas grid homes against an anticipated delivery of approximately 160 energy efficiency measures across 120 households. This has achieved a significant average energy efficiency SAP score uplift of 21 points per home. This consortium project was led by LCC on behalf of 6 district authorities (excluding Oadby and Wigston, also delivering funding locally).
- Local Energy Advice Demonstrator funding was secured via the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, supported by Midlands Net Zero Hub to support uptake of government grant initiatives and has delivered locally as the Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO). Outcomes include 288 home visits, 573 residents receiving face to face advice and confirmation of 43 households accessing 71 energy efficiency measure improvements through to April 2025.

- Warm Homes Local Grant funding has been secured by LCC as part of another Midlands Net Zero Hub led consortium project utilising the next round of funding provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and has commenced delivery to retrofit low income private sector homes with energy efficiency measures to reduce energy bills and improve thermal comfort. This represents ~ £4.5m of capital measures to be delivered between 2025 and March 2028 to an approximate 326 properties. This consortium project is led by LCC on behalf of 6 district authorities (excluding Oadby and Wigston, also delivering funding locally). Additional resources for the Warm Homes service to refer into is also being explored as part of the Social Value element of delivery contracts.

Reducing fuel and food poverty (cost of living crisis)

- Winter Wellness Packs have been developed to support residents experiencing heating or financial crisis at immediate risk of ill-health due to a cold home. Packs consist of practical items to keep the person warm such as low-cost electric blankets, thermal wear, thermos and hand warmers. The stock of 500 packs is anticipated to last several years. A small number of dehumidifiers have also been purchased to gift to low-income households experiencing significant issues with damp and mould.
- The Warm Homes services continue to maintain an all-encompassing self-help advice guide to managing energy costs at home and operates a periodic newsletter.

Housing and Respiratory Illness Project

- Between 1 April 2025 and 19 March 2026 102 cases were received from frontline health and social care professionals.
 - 69 have had repairs raised
 - 58 have been closed to the project following intervention and resolution
- Successful interventions can range from advisory visits to advise on best use of existing heating systems, checks on energy tariffs to ensure best value, benefit checks to ensure that people are receiving what they are entitled to assisting with cost of heating homes, mould clean and clears through to physical repairs to property such as roof repairs window repairs damp proofing etc.
- 23 teams/organisations have used us in the last year as the single point of contact for concerns around damp and mould. This alleviates pressure on their time as they do not need to distract from their work to make referrals themselves.
- This year the team have made onward referrals to 23 teams/organisations which demonstrates the difficulty that the frontline professionals would have had trying to work out who to reach out to with these different teams
- Every case is monitored until they are completed and support given to the customer by chasing up any delayed works on their behalf and/or giving advice on what can be done to resolve any additional issues. Some cases are referred to more than one organisation. For example when repairs are completed the customer may present with concerns about how to use their heating or costs which will result in a secondary referral to one of the support charities such as Groundworks or Age UK.

- Development of the new Damp and Mould reporting portal is nearing completion which should reduce administration of cases by automating some of the referral emails, while maintaining the human side of the phone calls to customers by our team.
- The Warm Homes service has established a two-way referral pathway with the Housing and Respiratory Illness project This will facilitate support for residents experiencing ill health due to cold inefficient homes to access grant funding for energy efficiency improvements.

Healthy Homes – other

- Lightbulb team continue to deliver the Housing MOT to support health and wellbeing in the home
- Delivery of tenancy management support to support retention of tenancies improving overall wellbeing.

Homelessness

- Homelessness pressures continue to rise across the County and Rutland, driven by affordability issues, private rented sector change, and cost-of-living pressures.
- Cases are becoming more complex, with non-housing issues increasingly driving demand and length of stay in services.
- Temporary accommodation demand and costs remain a significant and escalating challenge, particularly for families with children and single-person households.
- The lack of new affordable homes coming on to the market and the significant decrease in properties coming back available increases the time households have to spend in TA. Some families, with a larger bed need have been in TA for over 2 years.
- Latest data (July–September 2025) shows sustained pressure at both prevention and relief stages, with consistent patterns in the reasons households present as homeless.
- Strong multi-agency collaboration is already in place, including CHOG, the Homeless Delivery Group, and the LLR Homelessness Alliance, but needs continued leadership support.
- Targeted initiatives are underway, including acquisition of temporary accommodation, rough sleeping interventions, supported housing needs assessment, and work with public health and criminal justice partners.
- The Government’s National Homelessness Strategy (launched late 2025) sets an ambitious long-term direction, including strengthened duties to cooperate, which will require collective local leadership to implement effectively.

Compliance with Social Housing Regulation Act 2023

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 came into force in April 2024. All district council landlords and registered providers with 1,000 or more homes are subject to the regulatory regime and must comply with a strengthened set of Consumer Standards. Compliance is assessed through routine inspections, scheduled to take place at least once every four years. Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are yet to be inspected. All district and borough councils with retained housing stock continue to work towards embedding the requirements of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and ensuring ongoing compliance with the Consumer Standards. The standards seek to ensure improved housing conditions for resident.

Healthy & Safe Communities

- The number of LCC Volunteers supporting Leicestershire Communities continues to grow, with over 1400 volunteers supporting activity in a variety of roles across Leicestershire.
- January 2026 saw the launch of the 'Mission Ready: Supporting Families on the Move' project. Funded through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, this project aims to ensure Armed Forces Families moving to LLR will have improved access to information, advice and guidance from LCC and partner agencies.
- The number of Neighbourhood Plans created across Leicestershire continues to grow – currently there are over 70 made plans in Leicestershire. More and more plans are including 'Community Aspirations' within them, giving some insight into the 'asks' of communities outside the planning system.
- Risk Ready Communities launched in March 2026, supporting individuals, households and communities across LLR to prepare for emergency situations, including power outages and floods.

JLHWS Priority 2: Enabling healthy choices and behaviours

Healthy Choices & Behaviours

Sexual Health

L&R Sexual Health Steering Group:

- Formed in 2025 Our L&R SH Steering group has been developed to:
 - champion the work of the sexual health system
 - align pathways across the system to ensure no wrong doors
 - agree and monitor strategic priorities
 - form a SH plan for L&R in line with the national strategy
 - review local data to inform programmes of work to support the SH plan.
 - co-ordinate transformation and link in with wider opportunities through other collaboratives

In line with the above, a sexual health plan is being developed by the steering group currently and this will drive our collective work. The strategic plan will be finalised late summer, actions will report into the Staying Healthy Partnership.

Drug & Alcohol Use

- The Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDAP) continues to meet regularly to review the delivery plan for substance use
- The integrated substance use treatment and recovery service continues to deliver and exceed targets for numbers of people in treatment
- Additional funding has been received for 2026/27 via the Public Health Grant which is designed to support additional numbers in treatment and those experiencing or at risk of experiencing rough sleeping
- Tracking of local data on need and take up continues via the substance use strategic lead, the Turning Point service and the CDAP

Gambling Harms

- The Leicestershire Gambling Harms Health Needs Assessment recommended a number of key priorities to prevent harmful gambling and progress is being made across partners
- First Contact + have introduced a screening process for harmful gambling and the Leicestershire and Rutland substance use treatment and support offer provided through Turning Point, now includes screening for harmful gambling
- Chapter One is working across Leicestershire and Rutland delivering a programme of training for professionals to raise awareness of harmful gambling and signposting for those in need of treatment and support along with affected others
- Engagement work with those impacted by harmful gambling will help to shape and influence next steps

Physical Activity (Active Together)

The Active Together Core Team and Partnership, have continued to deliver against the Physical Activity Framework, with a focus on targeting our inactive communities and addressing inequalities in access to physical activity. Our Annual Review, which outlines our key achievements against our Framework for 2025/26 will be published by end of June 2026 and will be able to be found at: [How do we deliver? | Active Together](#) . Some notable achievements:

- Funding secured from Public Health to work with localities to develop both a universal and targeted physical activity offer across Leicestershire, and provide capacity to advocacy for the role of physical activity across multiple agendas.
- Funding secured from the ICB to work with localities to deliver a Falls Prevention and MSK offer.
- Continue to work with our locality partners to provide a physical activity service which supports residents into appropriate activities such as Exercise Referral, Community Groups, Cardio-Pulmonary etc.

- Developed new relationships with Adult Social Care at LCC, working with the principle social worker to embed physical activity into existing workstreams.
- Sport England Place Universal funding provides a further platform to work with People and Communities to cement the importance of our Place based work across Leicestershire.
- Active Together continue to sit on facility strategy steering groups to ensure best outcomes for community usage e.g. Playing Pitch Strategies, Built Facilities, Local Football Facility Plans etc
- Work has continued around the Active Environments agenda, working closely with Public Health to ensure physical activity is considered in HIA's, S106, Local Plans etc
- The Funding Finder continues to successfully support organisations to access funding to continue delivery in local communities.
- Our Sports Welfare work has provided over 100 local clubs with both intensive and light touch support.
- Our Active Medicine offer has grown, with 58 GP practices are accredited or working towards Active Practice Accreditation.
- Continue to sit on the Leicestershire Community Health and Wellbeing Plan forums and associated Integrated Neighbourhood Team Meetings, embedding physical activity into the health care system.
- Over 20,000 users accessing the Active Together Website on a quarterly basis, with the job finder, activity tracker challenge and funding finder being some of the most visited pages.
- Local Government Reorganisation has provided the opportunity to engage our partners in a meaningful dialogue about the future of Physical Activity in the context of LGR and Devolution. Three advocacy papers developed to support the positioning of Physical Activity in the emerging Business Case. We have continued to reinforce with partners that AT is an LLR wide organisation and as such will treat all bids with both sensitivity and integrity.

Making Every Contact County (MECC) - Healthy Conversations

- UHL still delivering HCS training and have embedded this within the training for new health care support workers, with training for estates and facilitator workers completed as and when required.
- HCS training is still being delivered as part of Healthy Workplaces product and has been added to the Mental Health Friendly Places and Clubs programme.
- HCS training is a part of ASC in LCC CPD and wellbeing week and has been delivered for a 2nd year running. Re-visiting conversations to embed the training into wider service provision.
- Continued to deliver quarterly open learning and development sessions for LCC staff
- Conversations around delivering HCS training to support managers with the role out of new LCC ways of working policy

- Ad hoc delivery of HCS training continues where opportunities arise (and resource available) e.g. LCC connect to work employment officers, St Luke's hospital)
- Evaluation of the pre and post training surveys has been completed and will look to present at relevant staying health partnership meeting
- Still no financial investment in system delivery

Healthy Weight Strategy

Whole Systems Approach to Healthy Weight, Food & Nutrition

- The Whole Systems Approach continues to mature and gain momentum across partners. Following two successful partnership workshops in summer 2025, five shared priority areas have been agreed: **education, social influences, accessibility, advertising, and active lifestyles**. These provide a clear and consistent framework for collective action
- A streamlined governance structure is now in place, replacing previous arrangements and reducing duplication. This comprises a single Steering Group, supported by four sub-groups focused on food insecurity; food plan management (including Sustainable Food Places); Healthy Food Places and Access; and Skills and Active Living. This structure brings together relevant partners and organisations under a coherent system approach.
- Work is underway to develop a Strategic Plan for Food, which will sit beneath the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Plan will provide a shared vision and set of commitments, bringing together partner activity across the agreed priority areas and offering a clear line of sight between strategy, governance and delivery.
- Resident engagement is a central element of this work. A programme of local Food Conversations has recently been launched to understand people's lived experiences of food and healthy eating. Insights from this engagement will directly inform priorities and future action.
- The programme is also supported by strong academic partnerships, including collaborative work with local universities. This includes funded doctoral research exploring perceptions of the National Child Measurement Programme and how its local impact could be strengthened, alongside research into public understanding of ultra-processed foods and effective approaches to reducing consumption.
- In parallel, a number of complementary workstreams are progressing, including improving uptake of Healthy Start, supporting healthy eating within Short Breaks services for people with learning disabilities, and working with schools to strengthen food procurement arrangements.
- Physical Activity partners have attended the Whole System Workshops and will support the identified work stream around moving more as part of this work.

- The scale and complexity of improving healthy weight and food access across the county should not be underestimated. These are long-term, system-wide challenges that require sustained commitment, trust and resource from all partners. Public Health has played a convening and enabling role, investing time in stakeholder and community engagement to build shared understanding and alignment. The Strategic Plan for Food will be a key mechanism for maintaining collective focus, commitment and buy-in over time.

Sustainable Food Places (Gold Award)

- We are progressing work towards becoming a Gold Sustainable Food Place (SFP). We are aiming to submit our application during Q4 of 2026/27.
- As part of the submission, we need to demonstrate strong progress in several key areas. Current projects contributing to this include:
 - The development of a Grassroots Food Plan and the delivery of Food Conversations with local residents, VCSE organisations, and wider food system partners. These conversations aim to deepen our understanding of what people want and need from their local food system, helping us identify the most meaningful actions we can take to support its development.
 - Working in partnership with The Allerton Project, we have brokered £109,000 over three years from the Samworth Foundation for The Allerton Project to develop a sustainable farming cluster across Leicestershire. This initiative aims to engage farmers meaningfully, helping us understand their priorities, the challenges they face, and what they hope to achieve collectively as a cluster, as well as identifying where support, training, and capacity-building are needed.
 - Alongside the Food Conversations and the development of the Grassroots Food Plan, the Farmer-Led Project represents one of the standout areas within our Gold SFP award submission. It will make a significant contribution to strengthening our understanding of local communities and their connection to, and influence within, the local food system.
 - We are also progressing our work on rural food insecurity. This includes undertaking a detailed analysis of food provision and food access across the county to better understand gaps, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening support.
- We officially launched our bid for Gold during an event in Summer 2026, which was attended by over 80 local partners from a broad range of sectors including public bodies, private organisations, VCSE, educational establishments and local food producers.
- Partners are fully on board with this piece of work, as evidenced with our 'Going for Gold' video, which can be found here - ([*Leicestershire County Council Going for Gold*](#)).
- We are also in the early stages of working with local partners and farmers to support food provision, local supply chains and farmers mental and physical health ensuring this work connects with existing initiatives across the county, particularly of that seen in Melton.

- The Food Conversations will inevitably highlight a range of challenges within the food system, some of which may be beyond our direct influence. However, they will also provide a valuable opportunity to identify local issues that we can address, working collaboratively with partners to develop meaningful and achievable solutions.
- Throughout summer and autumn, we will continue to work with partners on the projects highlighted above. This will culminate in a visit from Sustainable Food Places where we can showcase local food activities in action. This is an exciting and excellent opportunity for us to showcase the great work happening across the County.

Progress against cross-cutting priorities of the JLHWS

JLHWS cross-cutting priorities (reducing health inequalities and health protection & emergency preparedness)

Health Inequalities

Learning Disability Health Checks

- National performance data from NHSE confirms that LLR has consistently exceeded the Q1 -3 targets within our Operational Plan - with more Annual Health Checks (AHCs) continuing to be completed earlier in the financial year
- Local performance data indicates that 84.2% of people aged 14+ on the LD Register received an AHC during 25/26, against a local target of 80%.
- The LLR LD Register has been a 3% year on year growth - annual validation of individual practice registers carried out by the Primary Care Liaison Nurses
- The local target for 26/27 has been agreed at 80%, with the revised national NHSE metric now requiring a AHC and a completed Health Action Plan; LLR has consistently performed strongly in completion of Health Action Plans following the AHC
- System wide LD AHC Project Group continues and is led by the ICB LD Clinical Lead
- During 25/26 the LDA Collaborative participated in a national NHSE pilot to examine the feasibility of combining existing health checks for people with a LD, Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and autistic people. A total of 531 checks were completed, and the independent evaluation is to be published at the end of April 26. The Collaborative is working with NHS England to develop a hosted webpage supporting other systems in England who are looking to implement a combined annual health check. Local plans are being developed to embed learning from the pilot, including development of a targeted health check for autistic people.
- During 26/27 our plans include:
 - Embedding a new Health Action Plan across primary care - roll out via the LD Ambassador Network
 - Further improving AHC access for people aged 14-19, including LD coding accuracy checks in CAMHS and Community Paediatrics and launch of the LD Screening Tool

Women's Health

- A comprehensive Women’s Health Needs Assessment has been undertaken, alongside extensive resident engagement led by Healthwatch with over 2,000 responses. Final analysis is underway, and together these will provide a robust evidence base to shape system-wide actions across prevention, primary care and secondary care, ensuring a more coordinated and equitable approach to improving women’s health outcomes.

Health Protection & Emergency Preparedness

Vaccination & Screening Programmes

- Screening coverage performance in Leicestershire is significantly better than the national average, except for the Newborn and infant physical examination (NIPE) screening indicator. There has been a significant increasing and improving trend over the most recent five years for breast cancer screening coverage as well as bowel cancer and abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening coverage. Cervical screening coverage has shown a significant decreasing and worsening trend over the most recent five time periods for both age groups, but there has been an improvement in the 25-to-49-year age group in the most recent period. Work continues to reduce health inequalities and improve screening uptake.
- Leicestershire’s vaccination uptake remains above national averages overall, with recent data showing infant vaccines and MMR 1 meeting the 95% target, but completion at pre-school still below target (including MMR2 at 91.0%). Work continues to improve timely uptake, tackle inequalities and sustain strong flu and RSV vaccine delivery for eligible cohorts.
- Delivery is being strengthened through VCSE/ community approaches designed to address access barriers and improve uptake in priority areas and underserved groups through the Public Health Investment Fund for vaccination and screening, focusing on low uptake communities and inequality groups.

Emergency Preparedness

- EPRR arrangements continue to support preparedness, response and recovery for threats to human welfare (including communicable disease and environmental hazards), with the local authority maintaining its Category 1 responder duties and working through the LRF and LHRP to coordinate health-related emergency planning at system level.
- LLR partners continue to test and strengthen emergency preparedness through a structured LRF/ LHRP training and exercising programme. Recent activity has included a multi-agency major incident exercise (Exercise Mercury) with post-exercise reporting

and learning actions, alongside pandemic preparedness exercising (Pegasus and related activity) with formal debriefing through LHRP governance.

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 healthy placemaking and Healthy weight, food and nutrition priorities.
 - d. Work closely with neighbourhood models of care programme and develop a neighbourhood plan as an addendum to the delivery plan.

Background Papers

Report to Health and Wellbeing Board 29 May 2025:

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s189913/0.14%20HWB%20Report%20Staying%20Healthy%20Safe%20and%20Well%20LATEST%2011%20Apr.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix A – Staying Healthy, Safe & Well Dashboard

Appendix B – Work well Report

Officer to contact

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Risk Assessment

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

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