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NHS Somerset

Report to the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board on 30 March 2023

Title: Chief Executive's Report	**Enclosure C**

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Clinical Lead:	Not applicable
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Summary and Purpose of Paper

This paper sets out key items for the Board to note and discuss, arising since the last meeting of the Integrated Care Board (NHS Somerset) on 26 January 2023. It focuses on relevant changes in the National context and highlights key issues to note pertaining to the Somerset Integrated Care System.

Recommendations and next steps

The Board is asked to **Note and Discuss** the Chief Executive's report.

Impact Assessments – key issues identified				
Equality	Access to Primary Care services for the population previously served by Springmead surgery			
Quality	Potential quality risks associated with the demand pressures being experienced across the system and the closure of Springmead surgery			
Privacy	None, this is a public report			
Engagement	Public and Staff engagement via NHS 75 and the NHS Staff Surgery			
Financial / Resource	No direct financial issues highlighted in the report			
Governance or Legal	None identified			
Risk Description	None identified			
Risk Rating	Consequence	Likelihood	RAG Rating	GBAF Ref
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides a summary of key items of strategic and operational note for the ICB Board for the first period since its last meeting on 26 January 2023.

2 NATIONAL CONTEXT

NHS England mergers with NHS Digital and Health Education England

2.1 On 1 February 2023, NHS England and NHS Digital legally merged in the first step towards creating a new, single organisation to lead the NHS in England.

2.2 The move brings the NHS' national data and technology expertise into one organisation, creating a closer link between the collection and analysis of data to help drive improvement in patient outcomes.

2.3 The merger of NHS Digital and NHS England comes ahead of the incorporation of the body responsible for the education and training of the health workforce – Health Education England – into the new NHS England on 1 April 2023.

2.4 The integration of NHS Digital, Health Education England and NHS England will put workforce, data, digital and technology at the heart of plans to transform the NHS, enabling better, more joined-up decision-making at system, regional and national levels, and aims to deliver more effective and efficient use of collective resources.

NHS 75 – Help to create our Somerset Story

2.5 On Wednesday 5 July 2023 the NHS will be celebrating its 75th Birthday.

2.6 Formed at a time of great uncertainty in 1948 but created with optimism and hope the founding principles of the NHS remain as relevant and valued today as they did then. While a lot has changed over the past seven decades, the NHS has remained a constant in all our lives – a true British institution. One we should all be incredibly proud to be a part of.

2.7 Today the NHS in Somerset treats more patients than ever before and none of it would be possible without the skill, dedication, and compassion of everyone who works across the county to support patients.

2.8 In preparation for the celebrations the NHS in Somerset is building a set of stories showcasing people who are currently working in all different parts of the service. All colleagues play a vital role, day in, day out, but this is an opportunity to recognise the role everyone plays in the NHS.

2.9 We are working across the system to build up a picture to see how things have changed. So, if you would like to share your story, we encourage you to get in touch – help us to build a picture of Somerset from across the years so we can celebrate all that we have achieved.

2.10 Share your story via somicb.communications@nhs.net

3 SOMERSET SYSTEM

Operational Overview

3.1 NHS and Social Care services in Somerset have remained under significant pressure throughout the period from Christmas.

3.2 In addition to the traditional demand pressures associated with the Winter period, the system has experienced periods of pressure from COVID and other winter viruses, together with the on-going impact of industrial action.

3.3 It is encouraging that an offer has been agreed which aims to settle the nursing and ambulance service industrial action and robust plans were put in place across the system which effectively managed the risks associated with the first period of action by junior doctors. However, concern remains around the action notified for the period 11-15 April, which comes on the back of the four-day Easter weekend.

3.4 The performance impact of the pressures is highlighted in the integrated board assurance report. However, it is worth noting that, despite the pressure on the urgent and emergency care pathways, good progress has been made in the ambition to reduce elective waiting times with the system predicting that the number of people waiting over 78 weeks for elective treatment will be approximately 360 cases ahead of plan at the end of March 2023.

3.5 The NHS and Social Care in Somerset have also been working to reduce the number of people waiting in hospital for their onward care needs to be met. Despite this the number of people waiting has remained a significant challenge throughout the Winter period. A workshop was held in early March at which a set of principles were agreed that will underpin a revised and simplified intermediate care service. Work to design and implement this will be a priority into the first period of the new financial year.

NHS Staff Survey 2022

3.6 The results of the NHS Staff Survey were published on 9 March 2023. The NHS Staff Survey is one of the largest workforce surveys in the world and has been conducted every year since 2003. The survey offers a snapshot of how people experience their working lives.

3.7 All statutory organisations in Somerset have a track record of delivering strong results and this year is no different with Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset Foundation Trust being ranked the

highest in the Southwest in the headline measure of staff "agreeing" or "strongly agreeing" that they would recommend those organisations as a place to work.

3.8 On the same metric NHS Somerset ranked 4th best of the 42 Integrated Care Boards in England, with a high response rate of 79%.

3.9 NHS Somerset was amongst the best in the country in the majority of themes with an initial assessment of the more detailed data indicating the following positive themes:

- Compassionate leadership
- Positive teamwork
- Improved access to training & development
- Increased diversity & inclusion

3.10 Work is underway to engage with colleagues on the results and an action plan will be developed to address any priority areas of focus.

3.11 The full results are available via the link Staff Survey 2022 results

SPARK Somerset – Impact Snapshot 2022

3.12 Attached as Appendix 1 is an infographic that provides a snapshot of all the work that SPARK Somerset has undertaken, supporting the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector Somerset during 2022.

Closure of Springmead Surgery in Chard

3.13 NHS Somerset took the difficult decision in February to permanently close Springmead Surgery in Chard. The closure, which took effect on Friday 24 February 2023, was a result of unsustainable staff shortages and on-going recruitment problems.

3.14 Patients of the practice were automatically transferred to Ariel Healthcare, who run the neighbouring practice, and who have worked closely with ICB colleagues to ensure a smooth transfer of care. A helpline was established to support patients effected by the change.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust CQC Inspection report

3.15 At the end of January, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published its report into Somerset NHS Foundation Trust after it inspected the trust in September last year. Previously, the CQC inspected services based at Musgrove Park Hospital in January 2020 and community, mental health and learning disability services in October 2018.

3.16 This inspection of Somerset FT before the planned merger with Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust provides a very good indication of the strengths of the services that the CQC inspected. The CQC inspection focused on acute wards for adults of working age and the psychiatric intensive care unit, specialist community mental health

services for children and young people and community end of life care services. It also considered how "well-led" the organisation is. Some of the CQC's ratings from its previous inspections of the services that it did not inspect in September 2022 remain in place.

3.17 The trust's overall rating remains good. It is rated outstanding for caring, good for effectiveness, responsiveness and the well-led domain, and requires improvement for safety.

3.18 The CQC has rated the Trusts community mental health services for children and young people (CAMHS) as outstanding and its community end of life services and our acute wards for adults of working age and psychiatric intensive care unit as good overall.

3.19 It is particularly pleasing to note the progress that has been made to improve and develop the CAMHS service. The CQC praised the team's innovative approach, including working with voluntary sector partners, that has resulted in achieving a no wait list for children and young people to access the service, a decrease in referrals and therefore caseloads for staff, and better outcomes for those who did not meet the criteria to access the service.

New NHS health and wellbeing hub opens in Bridgwater

3.20 People from Bridgwater and the surrounding area are benefiting from a new health and wellbeing hub that has opened in the town this winter.

3.21 The exciting new development, which is located in the former Victoria Park medical centre building, provides a range of services for people of all ages, from pre-natal to end of life care and provides a potential model for other communities in the future.

3.22 The Hub is run by Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, in partnership with the Bridgwater Bay Primary Care Network. It provides equal access to health advice and a range of support for the population to empower and enable people to manage their own long-term conditions. https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/?news=new-victoria-park-health-and-wellbeing-hub-opens-in-bridgwater

Baby Friendly Initiative Gold revalidation – Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

3.23 On 1 February 2023, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust was advised by the designation committee that their maternity service has maintained its Gold Baby Friendly Award.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust was highly commended for the quality of the evidence submitted and the thorough way in which the necessary processes to embed and further develop care related to the Baby Friendly standards had been planned and implemented.

App trial helps to support parents of new babies in Somerset

3.24 Parents of new babies in Somerset are now benefiting from an app which supports with feeding and parenting in the first 1001 days after birth.

3.25 The Anya app from LatchAid Ltd, is being offered to families across Somerset in the first 1,001 days of their baby's life to support with pregnancy, parenting and infant feeding.

3.26 The length that new mums breastfeed has doubled in the 12 NHS trusts that have introduced the Anya app – up from 3-4 weeks to 6-8 weeks. Healthcare professionals can direct expectant parents to the app store to download it for IOS or Android.

David McClay - Chief Officer of Strategy, Digital and Integration

3.27 David McClay will join NHS Somerset on 24 April 2023 as our Chief Officer for Strategy, Digital and Integration. David brings with him a wealth of experience from a career that has spanned over 20 years in a variety of roles across both the Scottish and English health systems.

3.28 Early in his career, David led commissioning reform in Northeast Lincolnshire where he worked closely with GP leads to introduce practice-based commissioning of acute services, engaging with local communities to develop social marketing campaigns.

3.29 He worked in the Scottish Government within the Improvement and Support team, leading the improvement of dementia services, involving charities, academia, and people with dementia to develop the Scottish Dementia strategy.

3.30 Recently he has led the production of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire, as well as the planning and digital portfolios at the Royal United Hospital in Bath - working with clinical leads to implement paperless working and task automation.

3.31 He sits on several national groups related to sharing digital best practice and smarter data flows.

Media Activity

3.32 Our media report – 'In the news' is attached as Appendix 2.

Jonathan Higman
Chief Executive
24 March 2023