

Somerset's initial integrated health and care strategy

The changes to the Health and Care Act 2022 enables health and care organisations to improve services and outcomes through stronger joint working, and to take shared responsibility for tackling growing health inequalities within their population.

The Act also made changes to NHS organisations and established Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) as statutory NHS organisations. These replaces Clinical Commissioning Groups when they were abolished under the Act on 1 July 2022.

The Act also required ICBs and partner local authorities to form a committee, the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). A key accountability for the ICP is to produce an Integrated Health and Care Strategy, setting out how the assessed needs of the local population will be met, including that from Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs). This includes social care, primary and secondary care, physical and mental health, and health related services across the whole population regardless of age.

As a system we have made significant progress through the programme work under the Fit for my Future direction. Building on this the ICP is actively working to progress an Integrated Health and Care Strategy.

This document is our initial Integrated Health and Care Strategy. This provides our strategic direction and key aspirations at a high level. We have based this initial strategy on our understanding of health and care needs across Somerset at this time. This document will develop over time, particularly as we do more work to understand our population health needs and engage with our key stakeholders, partner organisations, our patients and our public.

Councillor Bill Revans
on behalf of Somerset Integrated Care Partnership

Our Somerset ICS vision and strategy

Improving Lives is the Somerset strategy owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This sets out how we will work to deliver improvements for our population. We take the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into account when defining the strategy.

The Integrated Health and Care Strategy will deliver the fourth element of Improving Lives and will guide our system planning and prioritisation.

Organisational strategies (for example, the clinical strategy, which underpins the merger of Somerset Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital), will be set in the context of delivering our overall system strategy.

Ahead of the ICS launching, we refreshed the strategy and engaged with a number of stakeholders to make sure it was fit for purpose, what we learnt from Covid; ensuring the strategy is inclusive and covers all ages of our population and meets the requirements of the ICS. We are mapping transformation programmes across the system to identify where we have gaps and need to accelerate activities in order to deliver the strategy.

SOMERSET COUNTY VISION

We have a vision for Somerset. Over the next ten years, we want all organisations to work together as a partnership to create:

- A thriving and productive Somerset that's ambitious, confident and focused on improving people's lives
- A county of resilient, well-connected safe and strong communities working to reduce inequalities
- A county infrastructure that supports affordable housing, economic prosperity and sustainable public services
- A county and environment where all partners, private, and voluntary sector, focus on improving the health and wellbeing of all our communities



Working Vision for the Partnership

In Somerset we want people to live healthy independent lives, supported by thriving communities with timely and easy access to high quality and efficient public services, when they need them.

What are the obstacles to us achieving our vision?

1

THERE IS A LACK OF FOCUS ON POPULATION HEALTH AND PREVENTION

Healthy life expectancy is decreasing for some groups and we do not focus enough resource and attention on prevention and wellbeing

2

THERE ARE FRACTURED, CLUNKY PATHWAYS AND PROCESSES

Our pathways are disjointed and frequently too long, wasting time and resources for people, carers and colleagues, and negatively impacting the environment

3

TOO MUCH RESOURCE IS SPENT ON HOSPITAL CARE

We are overspent, with too much attention and resource spent on hospital care, and not enough on children's services, mental health and community based services

4

INEQUALITIES ARE WORSENING

We have worsening health inequalities, impacted by COVID, with some groups having life expectancy 10-20 years below others

5

THERE IS POOR CO-ORDINATION OF CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

People with complex needs have poorly co-ordinated care wasting time, and leading to worse outcomes



Somerset Integrated Health and Care Strategy

1

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE POPULATION

Enable people to live socially connected, healthy, independent lives, promote early intervention and prevent avoidable illness

2

PROVIDE THE BEST CARE AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Ensure safe, sustainable, effective, high quality, person-centred support in the most appropriate setting

3

STRENGTHEN CARE AND SUPPORT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Develop and enhance support in local neighbourhood areas and bring care and support closer to home

4

REDUCE INEQUALITIES

Value all people alike, target our resources and attention to where it is most needed, giving equal priority to physical and mental health

5

RESPOND WELL TO COMPLEX NEEDS

Improve outcomes for people of all ages with complex needs through personalised, co-ordinated support



Our approach to working together in Somerset ICS



Everyone plays their part by working together and removing barriers in order to create the conditions which promote healthy, connected communities



We live within our means, and use our resources wisely to create a sustainable system



We have trusting and collaborative relationships



Engaged colleagues drive innovation from within high-performing teams, with strong supportive leadership




Our processes and systems make it easy for us to do the right thing and to get it right first time



We focus on and measure, things that matter to people, carers and colleagues



Our enablers...



Excellent communication, quality improvement and learning are at the heart of our work

Our organisations deliver the right people, working differently, in a compassionate and inclusive culture

We all work on a single agreed strategy

We make the best use of our collective assets and resources

Our digital technologies are connected, driving access and information sharing across our organisations

We work in partnership with communities, the voluntary sector, carers and people with experience



Our Somerset model of care

