

REPORT TO:	NHS SOMERSET INTEGRATED CARE BOARD ICB Board Part A	ENCLOSURE: K
DATE OF MEETING:	25 September 2025	
REPORT TITLE:	Key Meeting Reports	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Non-Executive Directors and System Group Chairs	
EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:	Jonathan Higman, Chief Executive	
PRESENTED BY:	Non-Executive Directors and System Group Chairs	

PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	SELECT
Approve	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations, (authorising body/committee for the final decision)	☐
Endorse	To support the recommendation (not the authorising body/committee for the final decision)	☐
Discuss	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications	☐
Note	To note, without the need for discussion	☐
Assurance	To assure the Board/Committee that systems and processes are in place, or to advise of a gap along with mitigations	☒

LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
(Please select any which are impacted on / relevant to this paper)

- ☒ Objective 1: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population
- ☐ Objective 2: Reduce inequalities
- ☐ Objective 3: Provide the best care and support to children and adults
- ☐ Objective 4: Strengthen care and support in local communities
- ☐ Objective 5: Respond well to complex needs
- ☐ Objective 6: Enable broader social and economic development
- ☒ Objective 7: Enhance productivity and value for money

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION / ENGAGEMENT

N/A

REPORT TO COMMITTEE / BOARD

The Key Meeting Reports are a record of the most recent Board Committee and System Group meetings. They are presented to the ICB Board and are published in the public domain through the NHS Somerset website, to provide clarity and transparency about the discussions and decisions made, and to ensure the principles of good governance are upheld.

The Key Meeting Reports are provided for **Assurance**.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS – KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED (please enter 'N/A' where not applicable)	
Reducing Inequalities/Equality & Diversity	N/A
Quality	N/A
Safeguarding	N/A
Financial/Resource/ Value for Money	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Governance/Legal/ Privacy	N/A
Confidentiality	N/A
Risk Description	N/A

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

1 ITEMS DISCUSSED

- 1.1 The committee heard from the central Counter Fraud team as to structures and initiatives underway.
- 1.2 Our External Audit Partner updated the committee on current issues and specified the audit fee for the coming year, which now includes the audit of Specialist Commissioning.
- 1.3 Internal Audit walked us through the completed audits:
 - Better Care Fund – the committee noted this report which jointly audited the work of Somerset Council and NHS Somerset. The audit highlighted some governance issues which are being currently improved, with an update to be brought back to the December Audit Committee
 - Continuing Healthcare (CHC) - Learning Disabilities (LD) – which usefully followed on from a presentation at the Finance Committee on CHC activity, where the committee noted the continuing work to efficiently meet the needs of our community experiencing learning difficulties
 - SW Collaborative Commissioning Hub – Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry Hub audit report - the committee noted the assurance given in this important audit work
- 1.4 The committee received the normal risk management update and took a deep dive into the Data Security Protection Toolkit (DSPT). The committee discussed the significant cyber attacks experienced in 2025 and explored how NHS Somerset might demonstrate 'preparedness' as part of the DSPT.

2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED

- 2.1 The internal audit reports included some areas of risk which may not yet be captured in the normal risk reporting. These will be reviewed for incorporation moving forward.
- 2.2 The far-reaching counter fraud discussion highlighted that the link between cyber security and cyber engineered fraud may require strengthening which will be pursued.

3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE AUDIT UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

- 3.1 To recommend acceptance the external audit fee for 2025/26.

4 ITEMS REQUIRING ESCALATION TO THE ICB AND/OR OTHER SYSTEM BOARDS

Items for Consideration/Decision

4.1 None

Reports for Information for Future Board Agendas

4.2 Continuing awareness of the Data Security Protection Toolkit and its deployment across NHS Somerset – an update to be considered for future Development session.

5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY

5.1 The committee was assured by the audit activity around Better Care Fund management and the CHC LD activity. Nationally, the NHS is implementing ISFE2 (updated accounting system) on 2 October 2025 where assurance was given of our readiness. The annual report on the key register paper was presented, discussed and noted, highlighting the need for our continued vigilance around declarations of interest in all activity.

Chair: Grahame Paine

Date: 17 September 2025

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE (SCC) MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

1 ITEMS DISCUSSED

- 1.1
 - Symphony Healthcare Services (SHS) Merger Proposals
 - Burnham Medical Centre and Highbridge Medical Centre
 - SHS Burnham Minor Injury Unit (MIU) Pilot Relocation Proposal
 - Primary Care Report (from PCOG)
 - Dental – UDC and Approach for 2025/ 26
 - SCC ToR Annual Review
 - SCC Commissioning and Cluster Update

2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED

- 2.1 None (though to note, the SCC currently does not have a risk register currently)

3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

- 3.1
 - Approval to merge Burnham Medical Centre and Highbridge Medical Centre
 - Approval of a pilot programme to relocate the MIU from Burnham-on-Sea Community Hospital to Burnham and Berrow Medical Centre (subject to caveats).

4 ITEMS REQUIRING ESCALATION TO THE ICB AND/OR OTHER SYSTEM BOARDS

Items for Consideration/Decision

- 4.1 None

Reports for Information for Future Board Agendas

- 4.2 None

5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY

- 5.1
 - In its second outing the Strategic Commissioning Committee began to grapple more purposefully with the question of how it should add value within the context of a changing landscape, whilst bearing in mind that Somerset will continue to remain a place, nonetheless. Unsurprisingly perhaps – and positively – it sought to do so by maintaining focus on the population (people/ patients), and the delivery of care to them.

- There was an item that had been due to come to the committee for decision, but as an assurance committee of the Board, the outcome instead needed to be shared outside of the meeting. It was noted that early communication of such limitations may help manage expectations and support partner engagement.

Chair: Suresh Ariaratnam

Date: 8 September 2025

REPORT OF THE SOMERSET BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

1 ITEMS DISCUSSED

1.1 There were no public questions.

The agenda covered:

- A new approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- NHS 10-year plan
- The clustering of ICBs
- The consequences of clustering for Somerset
- Improving Lives Strategy review
- Safer Somerset Annual report
- Shared data and intelligence update
- Receipt of Healthwatch Annual Impact Report

2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED

2.1 The revisions to the JSNA were welcomed.

The consequences of the 10-year plan and the clustering of NHS systems were understood and while opportunities arose the need to deliver current plans was reinforced.

There was caution about significant change to the Improving Lives strategy during the significant organisational changes which are afoot.

The willingness to share data and determination to deliver the benefits of joined up data were welcomed.

3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE SOMERSET BOARD UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

3.1 None

4 ITEMS REQUIRING ESCALATION TO THE ICB AND/OR OTHER SYSTEM BOARDS

Items for Consideration/Decision

4.1 None

Reports for Information for Future Board Agendas

4.2 None

5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY

- 5.1 With the planned changes in the structure of Systems and the future of Integrated Care Partnerships in the mix, it was encouraging to see the enthusiasm for the Somerset Board's construct. The developments on the JSNA and the shared data work should lead to far better collaboration amongst all providers. While the future construct of 'Place' within the clustered system remains unclear, there was a sense of shared ownership around the room and a joint commitment by the Board to mutual working between all partners for the delivery of the best health and care outcomes for the population whom Somerset Council and NHS Somerset ICB serve.

Chair: Paul von der Heyde

Date: 18 September 2025