

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>NHS SOMERSET INTEGRATED CARE BOARD ICB Board Part A</b>	<b>ENCLOSURE:</b> 0
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>27 March 2025</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Key Meeting Reports</b>	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Non-Executive Directors and System Group Chairs</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:</b>	<b>Jonathan Higman, Chief Executive</b>	
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	<b>Non-Executive Directors and System Group Chairs</b>	

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

### LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

(Please select any which are impacted on / relevant to this paper)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objective 1: Improve the health and wellbeing of the population <input type="checkbox"/> Objective 2: Reduce inequalities <input type="checkbox"/> Objective 3: Provide the best care and support to children and adults <input type="checkbox"/> Objective 4: Strengthen care and support in local communities <input type="checkbox"/> Objective 5: Respond well to complex needs <input type="checkbox"/> Objective 6: Enable broader social and economic development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objective 7: Enhance productivity and value for money
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### PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION / ENGAGEMENT

N/A
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### REPORT TO COMMITTEE / BOARD

<p>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.</p> <p>The Key Meeting Reports are provided for <b>Assurance</b>.</p>
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<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENTS – KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED</b> (please enter 'N/A' where not applicable)	
<b>Reducing Inequalities/Equality &amp; Diversity</b>	N/A
<b>Quality</b>	N/A
<b>Safeguarding</b>	N/A
<b>Financial/Resource/ Value for Money</b>	N/A
<b>Sustainability</b>	N/A
<b>Governance/Legal/ Privacy</b>	N/A
<b>Confidentiality</b>	N/A
<b>Risk Description</b>	N/A

## **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 2025**

### **1 ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 1.1 The Finance team gave verbal feedback on the Month 9 Agreement of Balances exercise which has been positive.
- 1.2 External Audit presented their audit plan and highlighted the risks which have a higher risk of material misstatement which were discussed and noted by the committee:
  - Management override of controls
  - Fraud in revenue recognition
  - Fraud in expenditure recognition
- 1.3 External Audit gave a verbal update against their audit of the Mental Health Investment Standard Audit. That feedback confirmed that NHS Somerset continue to meet the national spending requirement.
- 1.4 Internal Audit presented their audit plan for 25/26 which was discussed. The Audit Committee queried the number of days allocated to each domain in 25/26 and to consider whether some activity could be better focussed in the final plan which will soon be re-issued.
- 1.5 Internal Audit gave a progress update on; Key Financial Systems; HR & Payroll processes; Contract & Procurement pipeline. The committee also received an update on audits in progress.
- 1.6 Counter Fraud presented a proposed workplan for 25/26 which was agreed following discussion. The meeting noted the update to the anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy and the 24/25 progress report.
- 1.7 The committee received and approved the:
  - Procurement Policy
  - Standing Financial Instructions
  - Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy

### **2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 Only those captured as part of our external audit now underway.

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

**Items for Consideration/Decision**

4.1 None noted

**5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

5.1 The Audit Committee recognised the significant amount of work which our auditors and Finance teams are about to embark upon to give assurance before the accounts are signed off.

Chair: Grahame Paine

Date: 19 March 2025

## **REPORT OF THE PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2025**

### **1. ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 1.1
  - PCCC/PCOG Upcoming Changes (1)
  - NHS Operational Plan 25/26 and new GP Contract (2)
  - National PCN Pilot (3)
  - Updates on:
    - Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry (4)
    - Primary Care
    - Primary Care Quality
    - Primary Care Finance
    - Risk Register

### **2. NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 None

### **3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

- 3.1 None

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

#### **4.1 Items for Consideration/Decision**

None

#### **4.2 Reports for Information for Future Board Agendas**

None

### **5. CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

- 5.1 The Committee agreed new Terms of Reference for the committee and group pending further development of governance oversight of commissioning by the ICB.
- 5.2 The Committee was updated on the operational plan and, although much detail was still not announced, broadly welcomed the newly announced outline of the new GP contract.

- 5.3 The Committee was updated on the initial baseline data collection work by Frome and Mendip PCNs. There is a commitment to sharing system learning at local, regional, and national levels once the pilots have begun implementing their intervention models.

## **6. Primary Care and General Medical Service Updates**

- 6.1 List closures approved according to governance processes.
- 6.2 Primary Care Operational Group (PCOG) Updates for noting - in October, the PCOG were asked to respond virtually to two proposals:
- GP Flexible Pool - PCOG were asked to support the recommendation not to continue with the procurement and seek to extend the existing flexible pool provision with current providers until the end of March 2025 only. PCOG supported the recommendation
  - Ariel Healthcare Premises Reimbursement – PCOG approved the revised reimbursement
- 6.3 In November, the PCOG were asked to respond virtually to the below proposal:
- Boundary applications approved in PCOG
- 6.4 In January, the PCOG noted updates to the following areas:
- Ariel Resilience Funding Request 24-25 to support the final stages of the Harm Review after the closure of Springmead Surgery and a further request to support the QOF payments. PCOG supported the recommendations
  - North Petherton Surgery Development Proposal. Due to unclear funding streams the proposal was to carry out a much wider and in-depth conversation around how to approach premises applications going forward considering impact on revenue budgets.

## **7. Pharmacy**

- 7.1 The committee was concerned about an increase in temporary suspensions of provision but assured of close monitoring of the reasons for these related to one provider impacting the SW region.
- 7.2 To ensure continuity, clinical safety and fulfilment of delegated duties during an ongoing procurement process, the committee agreed the proposal of PCOG of 12-month contract extensions for primary care waste disposal.

**8. Optometry**

- 8.1 On the recommendation of PCOG the committee agreed a year extension, enabling a comprehensive review of service delivery options, for local enhanced services.

**9. Dentistry**

- 9.1 Noting the demanding requirement in the Operational Plan to deliver increased numbers of units of dental activity the committee noted the continuing challenge of delivering dentistry in the county.
- 9.2 The committee agreed to extend the contract with SWCSU for referral management services for up to 12 months pending the conclusion of a procurement process.

**Chair: Christopher Foster**

**Date: 17 March 2025**

## REPORT OF THE SOMERSET BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025

### **1 ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 1.1
- Joint Forward Plan
  - Better Care Fund narrative plan
  - The whitepaper 'Get Britain Working'
  - Healthwatch Priorities for 2025/26
  - 5 priority programmes update for 2024/25

### **2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 A plan for 'Get Somerset Working' was understood to be required.
- 2.2 It was noted that the work of the Neighbourhood and Localities priority needed to be moved forward at a greater pace and with a more concerted joint effort.

### **3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GROUP UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

### **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 The Somerset Board is where the county's Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership come together to consider progress on and plans for delivering our joint objectives. There was lively and engaged discussion on each of the items above with encouragement received on some but concerns about the progress on others. The realities of financial constraints and broader social challenges were acknowledged which are not helping progress in some areas. Equally, greater effort is required to help all partners engage.

Chair: Paul von der Heyde

Date: 14 March 2025



## REPORT OF THE SOMERSET COLLABORATION FORUM MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025

### 1 ITEMS DISCUSSED

- 1.1
  - Operational Planning – progress and next steps
  - Joint Forward Plan
  - Pooled budgets
  - Somerset Health and Care Academy
  - Priority Programmes 2024/25 – Exception Reports

### 2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED

- 2.1 None.

### 3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE SYSTEM GROUP UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

- 3.1 **Somerset Health and Care Academy** – An overview paper setting out progress with the development of the Somerset Health and Care Academy was considered. This contained three recommendations. It was agreed to develop a refresh of the academy vision which will be considered by the Academy Board for ratification, rather than bring back to the Collaboration Forum. Recommendations two and three (completion of a Memorandum of Understanding for all partners to demonstrate commitment to the project, and the development of a cost-sharing agreement for a joint academy director post) will be finalised once all partners are happy with the vision.
- 3.2 **Priority Programmes (PP)** - The group reviewed progress against the five system priority programmes for 2024/25 and agreed that for 2025/26 all programmes would continue with the exception of PP1 (Finance and Resource Allocation). This will change into a Clinical Pathway Redesign Programme which will be clinically led and support whole system redesign. It was noted that the specific pathways for review need to be agreed. This will be reflected in the Joint Forward Plan.

### 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 Further topics for future meetings of the Collaboration Forum include:

- System productivity and efficiency
- SW peninsula research and innovation programme
- Planned Care Strategy
- Oversight of the development of the Integrated Health & Care Strategy Outcome metrics
- Overview of the Better Care Fund.
- My Life, My Future Summary Update
- Better Care Fund Audit report
- Data sets – A&E attendances
- Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Integration
- Priority Programmes – savings identification

## **5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

- 5.1 The Collaboration Forum took reports and updates from different partners about recent progress and areas of current challenge/opportunity.
- 5.2 A major agenda item was the updates on the 2025/26 operating plan, which was a position at a point in time recognising that further work was required to deliver the national finance and performance expectations. Approval of the final plan will take place through the ICB Board.
- 5.3 The group also considered the position in relation to the Somerset Health and Care Academy which aims to create a highly skilled and flexible workforce for Somerset by providing enhanced and specialised training.
- 5.4 The group considered and discussed the Joint Forward Plan for 2025/26, in particular the request to formally close the priority for finance and resources and commence a new programme of work reviewing clinical pathways; with finance taking an enabling role sitting across all five priorities.
- 5.5 In addition, the group discussed the Learning Disability pooled budget, which is currently between NHS Somerset and Somerset County Council. The work to disaggregate this, following the Board's decision, and considered the other joint budget arrangements will take place outside of the Collaboration Forum but will be overseen there.

Chair: Jonathan Higman

Date: 14 March 2025

## **REPORT OF THE POPULATION HEALTH TRANSFORMATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2025**

### **1 ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 1.1
- Annual report – health inequalities requirement
  - Homeless health evaluation
  - Priority programme updates – hypertension and smoking
  - Programme workstream updates

### **2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 None

### **3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE POPULATION HEALTH TRANSFORMATION BOARD UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

- 3.1 Continuation of homeless health service expansion in 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 None

### **5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

- 5.1 The meeting covered key updates on various health initiatives and programmes. The Board is in a transitional phase as it awaits the appointment of a Director of Population Health and Health Inequalities.

Progress was made on priority programmes of as hypertension and smoking, with a focus on sustaining and expanding efforts in the coming year. The Board also approved continued non-recurrent funding for the Homeless Health programme in 2025/26, with a commitment to reviewing recurrent funding by June 2025. Updates were provided on ongoing workstreams, including neighbourhoods and the development of the Improving Lives platform, with a recognition of the need for continued communication and coordination across related programmes. Additionally, the Board approved recommendations for the national Health Inequalities report, with workstream leads tasked to contribute their sections.

Chair: Bernie Marden

Date: 17 March 2025

## **REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2025**

### **1 ITEMS DISCUSSED**

- 1.1
- Children and Young People's Plan update on progress – new dashboard presented with 50% of actions in the plan already reporting impact measures through the dashboard. Also received insight into the subject of street safety through the eyes of children and young people and what makes children and young people feel unsafe/safe.
  - The launch of the Transition Charter
  - Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) action plan update
  - Best Start In Life Programme update – reviewed achievements in the first year of the programme including school readiness digital packs now made available to all parents at the two-year health visitor check, improved training around school readiness and continence in the school environment. Early years SEND champions have also been identified in all health visitor teams.
  - Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership (SASP) Jump & Thrive Programme introduction – a pilot project for year seven children looking to improve behaviour, social inclusion, school attendance and attainment and enhanced social outcomes through embedding sport/physical activity-based support for students and families in school.

### **2 NEW ISSUES AND/OR NEW RISKS IDENTIFIED**

- 2.1 None

### **3 DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE/SYSTEM GROUP 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 Outcome of the SEND Accelerated Progress Plan Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) visit – included in Chief Executive's report

## **5 CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

- 5.1 Assurance received on progress of the Children and Young People's plan with progress dashboard making good progress. Assurance received on progress with the updates SEND Action Plan.

Chair: Shelagh Meldrum

Date: 11 March 2025