

**Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel –
Monday 10 March 2025**

Engagement with local patients and community groups for NHS Ten-Year Plan

Community and patient groups in Bath and North East Somerset have taken part in a number of engagement sessions organised by the ICB throughout January and February.

The sessions have taken place as part of a national exercise to collect thoughts and opinions that will be used to develop the new NHS Ten-Year Health Plan.

The plan will set out steps to create a health service that is designed to meet the changing needs of the country's population.

It will focus on the three shifts that the government, the health service and experts all agree need to happen, which are:

- Moving care from hospitals to communities
- Making better use of technology
- Focussing more on prevention

The ICB's Communications and Engagement team looked specifically at gathering views from seldom-heard groups, as well as patient groups, to ensure a fair and representative collection of voices were listened to as part of the process.

Engagement sessions took place with the Muslim community at Bath Mosque, the BAME community at the Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association and the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller, boater and homeless communities through a session held with representatives from Julian House.

Patient groups from Midsomer Norton and Radstock also took part in the sessions.

Committee members who wish to submit their own views for the plan can still do so via an online survey at www.change.nhs.uk.

The NHS Ten-Year Health Plan is expected to be published in May.

RUH position on staff safety at work

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust takes the safety of its staff, patients and visitors extremely seriously.

The on-site security team is available 24/7, with the trust working closely with the police when necessary to do so.

The trust has a violence prevention and reduction policy in place to protect staff from incidents of conflict, aggression, violence and abuse.

All staff are empowered to give verbal warnings to patients and visitors, and have access to training to give them confidence in managing such situations.

Update on new mental health inpatient unit for people with a learning disability and/or autism

The Kingfisher Unit will be able to support up to 10 patients at any one time, with the building specifically intended for those whose needs cannot be met by existing inpatient units.

With the doors expected to open in Feb 2026, the unit will help keep people much closer to home and reduce the need for patients to be admitted to facilities far away from their family and friends.

The new unit, which is based in Bristol, will be run by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust and will complement another similar facility currently under construction in Devon.

Following the laying of the concrete floor in December 2024, the steel frame that will support the overall structure of the region's new mental health inpatient facility is now firmly in place.

People can follow the progress of the construction through the site's [web camera](#), which is livestreaming the build in real-time.

The new building, which has been co-designed with people with lived experience, will form part of the transformation of the end-to-end pathway. This will include work to transform the community support for people with a learning disability and/or autism over the next year.

Supporting effective toothbrushing among region's most deprived children

School children in Bath and North East Somerset are being supported to brush their teeth as part of a major NHS scheme to prevent tooth decay.

The Big Brush Club is a region-wide initiative, involving more than 890 primary schools, that encourages three to five-year-olds from more deprived backgrounds to understand the importance of effective toothbrushing.

Teachers hold short brushing sessions each day for children in nursery and reception, alongside other lessons about self-care, healthy eating and reducing sugar intake.

The programme has been commissioned by the ICB, in partnership with local authorities, including Bath and North East Somerset Council, and is delivered in schools by dentist provider At Home Dental.

Addressing poor oral health in children and young people within the local Core20Plus5 population has been identified as one of the ICB's key priorities when looking at reducing local health inequalities.