

**Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny  
Panel – Monday 13 January 2025**

**Vaccinations for measles in children living in Bath and North East Somerset**

Data relating to the number of children vaccinated against measles and flu is managed by NHS England at both a regional and national level.

The school-aged seasonal flu programme is effective at reducing transmission from as low as 30 per cent uptake, as long as there is widespread coverage and uptake is early in the season.

As of 30 December, uptake among primary school-aged children in Bath and North East Somerset is 65.09 per cent and 53.53 per cent among secondary school children. These are excellent outcomes for the school aged programme.

For measles, which is highly infectious, herd immunity can only be achieved by an uptake of 95 per cent.

The latest available uptake data can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk). The data shows that uptake of two doses of the MMR vaccine by the age of five in Bath and North East Somerset was 89.7 per cent, which is higher than the England rate and 0.3 percentage points below the efficiency standard of 90 per cent.

All systems in the south west have schemes in place to increase coverage across all ages. Published figures will only ever show the coverage up to the age of five.

Locally, there is still some resistance against the vaccine, which hesitancy rates increasing among areas of deprivation.

In 2025, there will be a significant change to the schedule planned which could improve uptake in the long term by bringing forward a child's second dose appointment to 18 months. This, however, will have a significant impact on the comparability of the year-on-year data.

**Waiting times for physiotherapy care in Bath and North East Somerset**

In response to the query of whether HCRG Care Group has produced an equality impact assessment (EQIA) for its physiotherapy waiting times, the ICB can confirm that health providers would not normally be expected to complete a task of this nature.

Instead, the process to be followed for all health providers is a clinical harm review process, which ensures patients who require urgent treatment, such as those in need of physiotherapy post surgery, are prioritised.

HCRG has its own clinical harm review process, and this is attached as appendix one.

The group has also confirmed that waiting lists in December are on target for recovery.

**Name chosen for region's new mental health facility**

The Kingfisher has been unveiled as the name of a new specialist mental health inpatient service for people across the south west with learning disabilities and autism.

Selected following a public vote, the Kingfisher, which is based in Bristol and scheduled to open in 2025, will provide tailored mental health care and support, and provide accommodation for up to 10 patients at any one time.

Dozens of names were originally proposed for the new facility, with a short list of the most popular taken to a second public vote.

The Kingfisher was chosen after securing more than 400 votes.

Ben Stunell, a peer mentor who has supported the project, said: "Choosing a name that felt accessible for all, connected to the local environment and representative of something beautiful and meaningful was very important for those of us with lived experience."

Building work on the new £20 million facility began in May of this year, and it is hoped that when open the unit will bring an end to long-distance hospital placements for mental health patients, making life better both for individuals who need hospital treatment, and for their families, friends, and carers.

The development of the Kingfisher is being supported by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB, with further support from NHS England.

### [Emergency department at Royal United Hospital performing above average](#)

The emergency department at the Royal United Hospital in Bath has been recognised as performing better than expected.

Inspectors from the healthcare regulator, the Care Quality Commission, made the claim following responses to a survey in which people rated their experience of care in the department.

The number of people who rated their care as positive was found to be significantly above that of the national average.

Toni Lynch, Chief Nursing Officer, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, said: "These are very positive results, and they are testament to the commitment and hard work of everyone in our emergency department, who go above and beyond every day for the people we care for and the people we work with.

"It was particularly pleasing to see that patients felt they were treated with dignity and respect, which reflects our trust's values.

"We are committed to communicating well, listening and acting on what matters most to our patients, while consistently delivering the highest quality care and outcomes."

The CQC survey looked at the experiences of people who visited the RUH's emergency department between 1 January and 29 February 2024.

### [Update on BaNES Health Inequalities Funding evaluation](#)

An update on the evaluation of schemes that are being delivered using the ICB BaNES Health Inequalities Funding is being prepared and will be given at the Panel meeting.