

**Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel –
Monday 16 June 2025**

Update on future of integrated care boards

In March 2025, the government announced wide-ranging reforms to the NHS, including a directive for all integrated care boards in England to reduce overall running and programme costs by 50 per cent.

A model blueprint for the future form and function of ICBs was shared at the beginning of May .

Recent guidance from NHS England indicates that, to fulfil future functions effectively and sustainably, ICBs need to work across larger footprints, serve larger populations and take into account any new strategic local authority boundaries which emerge from the local government reform process, which is also under way.

As a result, BSW, Somerset and Dorset ICBs are exploring plans to cluster together.

This proposal is still at an early stage and no decisions have been made.

Update on integrated community-based care

In October 2024, HCRG Care Group was appointed the new provider of integrated community-based care for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, under a seven-year contract that came into effect on Tuesday 1 April.

The group will now develop and lead an innovative new partnership with the NHS, local authorities and charities that will aim to transform the care and support that people get to help them with their health and wellbeing at every stage of their lives, with more health and social care provided in or near their homes, in a more joined-up and streamlined way.

These plans align with the government's aims of moving from hospital care to community care, shifting focus from sickness to prevention and driving forward the digitisation of the health service.

A total of 1,950 colleagues transferred to HCRG on 1 April 2025 and, since that date, a 100-day safe landing plan has been in place to help address any emerging issues or risks.

The BSW Community Delivery Group, which is a system-wide group made up of partners from local authorities, the third sector, acute and mental health trusts and primary care, will oversee the transformation happening within community-based care.

This group will seek to ensure that any changes or improvements being implemented in the community reflects the views and priorities outlined in the system's overarching integrated care strategy.

HCRG's methodology for transformation is based on a person-centred design approach, and follows a four-phase process of discover, define, design and deliver.

This approach ensures that the service user is kept at the centre of all decisions along the journey, and co-design and co-delivery is built in to the process.

There are nine projects within the initial Transformation Programme, covering the following areas:

- All age single point of access with care coordination and digital front door
- Digital innovation

- Integrated neighbourhood teams
- Partnership development and community engagement strategy
- Community estates strategy
- Clinical pathway and service transformation
- Service identity and brand development
- Workforce transformation
- Outcomes framework development and benefits realisation

All of these projects are currently in the discover phase, with teams working to better understand current services and functions, while also conducting research regarding the art of the possible.

The next phase – define – will commence in the summer, and involve engagement with service users, colleagues and wider system partners.

HCRG Care Group intends to provide committee members with a more thorough, in-person update at the meeting in July.

Local uptake of Covid-19 booster vaccine

People living across all parts of Bath and North East Somerset who are eligible for the Covid-19 booster vaccination, which was first offered at the beginning of April, continue to come forward.

The booster vaccine provides people who are most at risk of falling seriously ill from Covid-19, such as those aged 75 and over, pregnant women and people living with a weakened immune system, additional immunity against the virus.

By targeting specific groups of the local population, the booster vaccine is not intended to generate herd immunity, but to ensure those most susceptible are adequately protected.

Since April 2025, approximately 60 per cent of eligible people in Bath and North East Somerset have had the booster vaccine, which is better than both the respective regional and national averages of 58 and 48 per cent.

Strong local appetite for routine MMR vaccinations in under-fives

The vast majority of families with young children in Bath and North East Somerset have been protected against measles, mumps and rubella.

Latest figures show that more than 96 per cent of under-fives in the local area have had at least one MMR vaccine.

Nationally, the figure stands at just over 92 per cent, while the South West average is slightly better at 94.8 per cent.

It is recommended for young children to have two MMR vaccines, with the first being given as they turn one and the second coming just after their third birthday.

The vaccines can also be given to older children, as well as any adults, who may have missed out on getting protected as a baby.

Late vaccinations can be arranged through a person's GP practice.

Publication of new 10-Year Plan delayed

The long-awaited 10-Year Plan for the NHS has been delayed, after initially being scheduled for publication in May 2025.

It is now expected that the plan, which was produced following an extensive months-long engagement exercise with members of the public, will now be published sometime in the second half of the year.

When it does, the plan is expected to outline how the NHS will evolve and adapt over the coming decade, and how it will utilise the latest technology to improve services, reduce waiting lists and speed up patients' access to care.

More information on the plan can be found online at www.change.nhs.uk.