

**Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel –
Monday 15 September 2025**

Chair announced for new integrated care board cluster

Rob Whiteman has been announced as the new Chair of the Dorset, Somerset and BSW integrated care board cluster.

Previously Chair of NHS Dorset, Rob's appointment comes as ICBs across the country, including those in the south west, come together across much larger geographical footprints as part of the government's planned changes to the form and function of integrated care boards.

Rob has a proven track record of working in senior roles across both the NHS and local government, with some of his recent positions including Chair of North East London Sustainability and Transformation Programme, non-executive director and Chair of audit at Whittington Health NHS Trust and Chief Executive of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

While work is continuing at pace to formally establish the new cluster organisations, the three existing ICBs remain focussed on delivering their respective operational plans and developing programmes that will deliver the improvements required by the recently published 10 Year Health Plan.

Speaking about the appointment, Rob said: "I am delighted to have been appointed as the Chair for our new cluster across NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset.

"My focus will be on continuing to work collaboratively with all our partners to make our communities the healthiest places to live."

ICB Chief Executive Officer announces departure

The ICB's Chief Executive Officer, Sue Harriman, will leave the organisation at the end of September 2025 to take up the post of Chief Executive of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Speaking about Sue's departure, former ICB Chair, Stephanie Elsy, who left the organisation at the end of August, said: "I would like to extend my congratulations to Sue on securing this exciting opportunity to lead a major acute trust at a time of significant change for NHS provider organisations.

"I am of course very sad to see Sue leave BSW ICB, as she has brought exceptional leadership to our ICB over the last three years.

"It is under Sue's thoughtful leadership that we have forged strong working relationships with our partners across the complex and diverse BSW system, established our innovative community-based care contract – a shining example of the strategic commissioning advocated in the new NHS 10-Year Plan, and supported partners and providers during periods of unprecedented operational demand.

"Sue has been a visible and inspiring chief executive officer whose nursing background means that she has never forgotten what it means to serve on the front line of health and care delivery, and how the work we do every day makes a tangible difference to the way our local NHS operates."

A chief executive officer for the new integrated care board cluster is expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Overview of how decisions around local pharmacy provision are made

The purpose of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment is to understand the needs of a given population, and to help decisionmakers in that area plan new services and identify any gaps within current provision.

The PNA, which is valid for up to three years and publicly available through the Bath and North East Somerset Council website, is used by NHS England when making judgements on applications to make changes to a local community's pharmacy provision.

While a local area's Health and Wellbeing Board has a legislative duty to develop and update the PNA, the board itself is not responsible for making decisions around opening, consolidating or closing pharmacy services.

The Department of Health and Social Care sets out the approach for changing the provision of service within a given area, and states that gaps may exist in three ways:

- Geographical location of premises
- Geographical provision of services
- Timing of service provision

While there may be some changes over time in the location or opening hours of particular pharmacies, the PNA assesses provision across localities as a whole.

It also aims to ensure that gaps are not identified inappropriately, nor in locations where the market cannot sustain another provider.

PNAs will consider issues such as future housing developments, GP practice changes and major infrastructure projects which could affect the need for local services.

PNAs should also plan for potential pharmacy closures, if these are known.

It is also acknowledged that local areas may experience other problems with access to pharmaceutical services, which fall outside of the scope of the PNA.

These include availability of medicines, staffing levels and waiting times.

Concerns relating to these issues should be referred to the Commissioner of Community Pharmacy Services at the NHS South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub.

Hospital passports for members of the Gypsy, boater and traveller communities who have a learning disability and/or autism

The ICB has worked with providers to help more individuals with a learning disability and/or autism, who are at risk of hospital attendance or admission, to receive a hospital passport.

These passports are used to help ensure people do not need to tell their story more than once, and that when people present to health services, their reasonable adjustments and needs can be met.

There are a small number of people with a learning disability and/or autism living in Bath and North East Somerset who are members of the Gypsy, traveller and boating communities who have such passports.

It is currently not possible to provide everyone with a health passport and this work is targeted at those at greatest risk, such as individuals who have frequent attendances and admissions to hospital under the high intensity user programme.

Working together to co-design the future of neighbourhood health, including the delivery of integrated neighbourhood teams, presents further opportunities to develop health passports.

[Further opportunities to find out more about new Trowbridge Integrated Care Centre](#)

More drop-in sessions for people living in and around Trowbridge to find out more about the town's new integrated care centre have been planned.

Taking place throughout the autumn and winter months, this latest round of information events follows an earlier programme of community engagement, which saw representatives from the ICB speak to more than 170 residents about the new centre, share images of the finished article and listen to local people's views and opinions.

The new £16 million centre will replace the outdated Trowbridge Community Hospital and deliver the ICB's long-term strategic vision of putting more services in the heart of local communities.

When up and running in early 2026, the centre will act as a hub for multiple health and care services, with teams from different organisations working together under one roof to help provide local people with a seamless, more joined-up experience of the NHS.

The full list of upcoming drop-in sessions can be seen below:

- Friday 19 September, 9.30am – 1.30pm, Trowbridge Library, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge
- Friday 3 October, 11am – 3pm, Shires Shopping Centre, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge
- Friday 24 October, 11am – 3pm, Asda Supermarket, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge
- Saturday 8 November, 10am – 3pm, Trowbridge Town Hall, Market Street, Trowbridge
- Wednesday 10 December, 8am – 1.30pm, Trowbridge Market, Fore Street, Trowbridge

[Update on region's new £20 million specialist mental health facility](#)

Work to put the finishing touches to a new purpose-built specialist mental health inpatient facility in Bristol is well under way.

The Kingfisher will be a state-of-the-art care environment, fully equipped to provide personalised support to autistic people and those with learning disabilities whose needs cannot be met by existing community mental health services.

Having this modern facility based locally will help to ensure that more patients living in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire receive the specialist care they need closer to home, while also reducing the likelihood of people being cared for out-of-area and away from family and friends.

The Kingfisher has been designed and built with input from service users, people with lived experience of the type of the care the new unit will be providing, as well as their families and carers.

On-site bedrooms will feature an additional living room space, containing desks and window seats, with the unit also offering many outdoor spaces, including individual gardens attached to each bedroom, which will provide an enhanced sensory environment.

When fully open in 2026, the facility will be able to provide short-stay admissions for those in genuine need of supervised hospital-level care.

[Call for pregnant women and young children to get vaccinated against flu](#)

Flu vaccinations are now available for pregnant women, two and three-year-olds, children in school and youngsters with certain long-term health conditions.

Although flu is a highly infectious disease which can cause symptoms much worse than a heavy cold, the flu vaccine is a safe way of providing protection against the virus.

Pregnant women should get the flu vaccine to protect not only themselves, but also their baby, as pregnancy can alter how the body fights off infections.

Two and three-years-olds, children in primary or secondary school and those between the ages of six months and 18 years with a long-term health condition are also eligible for a flu vaccine.

The vaccine helps to protect children from flu and reduces its spread to others, such as classmates and family members.

From 1 October, the flu vaccination offer will be extended to include people aged 65 and over, those aged between 18 and 64 who are part of a clinical risk group, frontline health care workers, residents in long-stay care homes and those who are in close contact to immunocompromised individuals and carers.

While the NHS is sending out millions of invitations this month to remind those who are eligible to come forward as soon as possible, people do not need to wait for an invitation to book.

Vaccine appointments can be arranged quickly and easily on the NHS website, through the NHS App or by calling 119.