



**Central Area ICP Evaluation Update
Strategic ICP Meeting 13 June 2024**

This evaluation update is to capture the highlights and key proposals in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and outcomes from the Central Area ICP meetings held on 23 May 2023.

- 1. Longer and healthier lives for all*
- 2. Fairer health outcomes for all*
- 3. Best start in life for our children and young people*
- 4. Improving health and care services*

Central Area ICP Chair	Councillor Cllr Kelly Chequer
ICB – Chief Contracting & Procurement Officer	David Gallagher

Summary Update – Key Themes & Priorities highlighted

Since the previous report submitted to the Strategic ICP in December 2023, the Central ICP has continued to focus on partnership working to achieve a common practice to collaborate and share best practice. Healthwatch has presented reports to achieve these aims and the following common themes across the Central Area ICP have been highlighted:-

- Dentistry
 - A public survey had been carried out, over 3000 patients were contacted and 277 responses were received. The majority were happy but over a third advised that they did not have a regular dentist.
 - Two "mystery shopper" exercises had been undertaken. This involved someone telephoning practices advising they did not have a dentist and had been suffering with tooth ache for two days. 25% were offered urgent care; 17% sign posted to other services and 35% were advised to ring 111. On the second exercise requesting a routine appointment. 1.7% were offered an appointment within three weeks. However nearly 50% were offered a private appointment.
 - A full report about the Healthwatch dentistry work would be submitted to the ICB.
- Accessing GP Appointments
 - Healthwatch areas have shared information with the public about the difference roles that exist within practices.
- Mental Health & Autism
 - This is a priority for all areas and two significant case studies have been presented as part of Healthwatch's quarterly reports to the ICB.

Further work would continue in these areas and further updates will be provided at future meetings.

Members agreed that the Central ICP should submit a response to the consultation on the Community Water Fluoridation Expansion in the North East. A response was drafted and circulated around



Members for comment prior to the document being submitted and the overall position was in support of the expansion of fluoridation in the North East.

The Healthier and Fairer programme was also a key feature that was achieving a positive impact in the following key areas:

- The suicide rate had halved in the NENC. This was higher than average in England
- 92% of people with atrial fibrillation were now receiving appropriate treatment
- Smoking had reduced considerably and was reducing faster than the England average
- Areas for improvement included reducing the number of babies born before 37 weeks, improving outcomes for babies from disadvantaged and minority communities, ensuring all people with a serious mental illness have a physical health check each year and reducing obesity

Members were asked to prioritise resources across the system to support this programme of work. This would enable more work to be undertaken to achieve the aims of the programme and would also support preventing health inequalities across the system.

Plans for next steps & Future Agenda Items

Consideration was given in relation merging the North and Central Area ICPs to mirror North East devolution and the combined authority currently called LA7. Whilst Members generally supported the merger (subject to approval by the Strategic ICP) concerns were expressed that the local vision may be lost in discussions around the wider area. However, it was also acknowledged that the merger to the LA7 footprint could increase the possibility of access to new funding sources and could allow the combined ICP could help to drive forward common initiatives across the patch.

The Strategic ICP scheduled for June 2024 was stood down in response to the general election being called. This has been rescheduled for September 2024. There are no more Central Area ICP meetings scheduled pending the outcome of the merger discussions at the Strategic ICP.