

**North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Executive Committee (Public)**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 2024, 11:50hrs in the
Joseph Swan Suite, Pemberton House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland**

- Present:** Kelly Angus, Interim Chief People Officer
Levi Buckley, Chief Delivery Officer
David Chandler, Chief Finance Officer
Graham Evans, Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer
Dave Gallagher, Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer
Jacqueline Myers, Chief Strategy Officer
Dr Catherine Monaghan, Medical Director deputising for Dr Neil O'Brien,
Chief Medical Officer
Claire Riley, Chief Corporate Services Officer (Chair)
- In attendance:** Rebecca Herron, Corporate Committees Manager (Committee Secretary)
Deborah Cornell, Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary
Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North East and North
Cumbria (NENC)
Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, County Durham Council for item
10.1 only
Siobhan Brown, Director of Healthier and Fairer for item 10.1 only
Richard Henderson, Director of Finance (Corporate) for item 11.1 only
- EC/2024-25/229 **Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions****
- The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- EC/2024-25/230 **Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence****
- Apologies for absence were received from Sam Allen, Chief Executive, Neil O'Brien, Chief Medical Officer, Ann Fox, Interim Chief Nurse and AHP Officer
- No further apologies for absence were received.
- EC/2024-25/231 **Agenda Item 3 - Declarations of interest****
- Members had submitted their declarations prior to the meeting which had been made available in the public domain.
- The Chief Finance Officer declared an interest under item 11.1 NENC ICB and ICS Finance Report – M7 2024/25 due to their spouse being a decision maker at Gateshead Health Foundation Trust.

The Chair noted the declaration of interest and the Chief Finance Officer can receive the report and attend the meeting but must refrain from taking part in the discussion or decision on this item. The Director of Finance (Corporate) has been nominated as Deputy for item 11.1.

There were no additional declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

EC/2024-25/232 Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 November 2024

RESOLVED:

The Executive Committee AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2024, were a true and accurate record.

EC/2024-25/233 Agenda Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes and action log

The Chair requested all Executive Committee members review and update their remaining allocated actions.

ACTION:

All Executive Directors to review and update their allocated actions on the action log within one week

EC/2024-25/234 Agenda Item 6 - Notification of urgent items of any other business

No items of any urgent business were received at this point in the meeting.

EC/2024-25/235 Agenda Item 7– Governance and Risk Management

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/236 Agenda Item 8.1.1 – Financial Sustainability Group and All Ages Continuing Care Strategic Transformation Group Highlight Report

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with update of the work of the Financial Sustainability Group (FSG), All Ages Continuing Care (AACC) Strategic Transformation Group and delivery of the ICB efficiency programme.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2024-25/237 Agenda Item 8.1.2 – Woman's Health Steering Group Highlight Report

The Chief Executive, Health Innovation, NENC noted that Women's Health innovations which are taking place are not captured within the highlight report. It was agreed that the innovations would be included within the highlight report moving forward.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2024-25/238 Agenda Item 8.2.1 – Place Subcommittee Minutes

County Durham - noted for information and assurance only.
South Tyneside - noted for information and assurance only.
Sunderland - noted for information and assurance only.
Gateshead - noted for information and assurance only.
Newcastle - noted for information and assurance only.
North Tyneside - noted for information and assurance only.
Northumberland - noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Subcommittee minutes as listed above for assurance.

EC/2024-25/239 Agenda Item 8.3 – Healthier and Fairer Advisory Group Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Healthier and Fairer Advisory Group Subcommittee Minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/240 Agenda Item 8.4 – Contracting Subcommittee Minutes

The Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer informed the Committee there is an approval decision required regarding the Elswick Practice Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) Contract.

The Contracting Subcommittee have approved an urgent 12 month Contract award which is within the Subcommittee approval limits. This will enable time to conduct a full tender process. The full tender is a 10 year contract with a value of c£10m which requires Committee approval.

The Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer raised a concern regarding the difficulty to appointment evaluators for the procurement process and requested the members speak to their teams to ensure the process is supported.

The Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary requested going forward any required approvals must be clearly noted on the paper front sheet to ensure none are missed.

The Minutes were noted for information and assurance.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee RECEIVED the Contracting Subcommittee Minutes for assurance
- 2) The Committee APPROVED the commencement of the Elswick Practice APMS Contract procurement process

EC/2024-25/241 Agenda Item 8.5 – Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Subcommittee Minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/242 Agenda Item 8.6 – Pharmaceutical Services Regulatory Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Pharmaceutical Services Regulatory Subcommittee Minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/243 Agenda Item 8.7 – Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Subcommittee Minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/244 Agenda Item 9.1 - Executive Area Directors Update Report December 2024

The Chief Delivery Officer provided a summary of items outlined in the report. The Committee was asked to particularly note from the report:

- Newcastle and Gateshead
 - NHS England and the Department for Education held their six months Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Review meeting with Gateshead System partners on 15 November 2024. Inspectors highly commended the work going on in Gateshead.
- North Tyneside and Northumberland
 - Both Northumberland and North Tyneside Overview and Scrutiny Committees have requested updates on GP access data. A standard response approach is being developed for such requests.

- North Cumbria
 - A Better Care Fund Review workshop took place on Thursday 21 November 2024 to consider how this fund can better support local discharge pressures
 - Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust are currently running engagement sessions to discuss the future of Yewdale Acute Mental Health Ward at West Cumberland Hospital. This engagement will continue through to the end of December 2024

The Chief Delivery Officer noted the Child and Health Well-being Network has been moved into the Children and Young People's Oversight Group. Monthly work updates will be included within this report moving forward. The risk and issues log has been transferred and is currently being reviewed.

The Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary encouraged the Chief Delivery Officer to link any risks with the corporate risk register where required.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance and NOTED the decisions and assurance logs included within the report.

EC/2024-25/245 Agenda Item 10.1 – Healthier and Fairer Deep Dive

At 11:55pm the Director of Public Health, County Durham Council and the Director of Healthier and Fairer attended the meeting to present the report.

The Director of Public Health, County Durham Council introduced the report which provided the Committee with update on the delivery of the Healthier and Fairer Programme.

The Healthier and Fairer Programme has built on long established relationships and a commitment to reducing health inequalities since the inception of the ICB.

The Director of Healthier and Fairer informed the Committee of the key points of the presentation:

- Executive Summary
 - Healthier and Fairer has a pivotal role in the delivery of the Clinical Conditions Strategic Plan, Core20+5 Adult and Core20+5 Children
 - Healthier Fairer Programme is on track to deliver or support the delivery of:
 - Longer term funded services
 - Clinical Conditions Strategic Plan
 - Waiting Well Programme expansion
 - A decile-specific metrics and outcomes framework

- Contribution to the ICB's Improvement Programme, Boost and the Learning Academy
 - Development of exit plans
- The total Healthier and Fairer allocation for 2024/25 was £16.8M
- What is out of scope
- What is in Scope:
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
 - Healthy Weight and Treating Obesity
 - Cardiovascular Disease and Hypertension Case-finding
 - Vaccinations (funded Childhood Immunisations Inequalities Programme)
 - Multiple and Complex Needs (Adult Core20+5 & Inclusion Health)
 - Deep End
 - Waiting Well
 - Asthma and Epilepsy (Children's Core20+5)
 - Public Health and Prevention in Maternity
- The Prioritisation Process
 - The primary technique used in the framework is multi-criteria decision analysis which is recommended for use in HM Treasury's Green Book; also endorsed by the London School of Economics, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the World Trade Organisation among others
- Potential and current value results and recommendations by programme
 - All programmes in scope align with Healthier and Fairer objectives
 - Most programmes are in the territory of expansion, not reduction, noting the opportunity to look for greater impact, value for money and efficiencies
 - Whilst all programmes are strategically aligned and offer potential value, the rank order is robust with some natural groupings/pairs (with limited difference).
 - The overall difference observed between these groups/pairs of programmes is sufficient to warrant further consideration when setting budgets
- Recommendations
 - Out of Scope Programmes - to continue investment at current levels as a minimum and evaluate effectiveness over the coming year/s
 - In Scope Programmes - to act on the findings of this exercise by allocating funding available on a recurrent basis informed by the results
 - Potential New Programmes - to develop a process for consideration of these as part of the 2025/26 investment planning round and potential new funding sources
- Five Year Forecasting Options
- Risks and Challenges

- The Healthier Fairer Programme plays a pivotal role in the delivery of the ICB's NHS Contribution to reducing healthcare and health inequalities and meeting its Legal Duties
- The current, largely annual, funding arrangements have affected the programme's ability to deliver full impact due to the short-term nature of the contracts and staffing
- If funding is not committed on a longer-term basis, the programme will not meet its full potential to impact on the reduction of inequalities

The Director of Healthier and Fairer requested the Committee approve two years plus three years of funding to 2029/30 with an evaluation checkpoint at the end of year two; based on the findings of the prioritisation exercise.

The Chair thanked the Director of Public Health, County Durham Council and the Director of Healthier and Fairer for the informative presentation.

The members discussed the presentation and key points raised were:

- The financial environment right now is really challenging
- This needs to be considered as part of the planning round to determine what we can do and what risk we can take
- What do we stop doing to make this happen
- This is excellent work
- The use of fixed term contracts requires a review
- Is there a halfway house of some stability in the programme
- We recognise it is important work that aligns with our strategy, however, as of today we cannot guarantee the exact funding budget
- This is a really good update
- It would be useful to broaden the scope of deep end to dentistry
- Innovation narrative is lacking within the update

It was noted that Healthier and Fairer is our flagship programme.

The Chief Executive, Health Innovation, NENC offered the Director of Healthier and Fairer support regarding joint reporting around innovations within Healthier and Fairer.

The Chair summarised the Committee supports the principles that have been set out around the allocation the funding against the prioritisation. However, at present the Committee cannot commit funding to Healthier and Fairer and it was proposed that the proposal is considered within the 2025/26 planning round.

ACTION:

The Healthier and Fairer prioritisation proposal to be considered within the 2025/26 planning round

RESOLVED:

The Committee DECLINED the recommended option two for two years plus three years of funding to 2029/30 with an evaluation checkpoint at the end of year two; based on the findings of the Prioritisation Exercise

At 12:47pm the Director of Public Health, County Durham Council and the Director of Healthier and Fairer left the meeting

EC/2024-25/246 Agenda Item 10.2 – ICB Project Management Office Update

The Chief Strategy Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update of the Project Management Office team function.

It was noted that this highlight report was a useful update for the Committee.

It was requested that highlight report contents are not incorporated into the paper front sheet and are inserted into the report template.

RESOLVED:

The Committee NOTED the contents of the update

EC/2024-25/247 Agenda Item 11.1 - NENC ICB and ICS Finance Report Month 7

At 12:56pm the Director of Finance (Corporate) joined the meeting

The Chief Finance Officer declared an interest under this item due to their spouse being a decision maker at Gateshead Health Foundation Trust.

The Chair noted the declaration of interest and the Chief Finance Officer can receive the report and attend the meeting but must refrain from any decision making on this item. The Director of Finance (Corporate) has been nominated as Deputy for this item.

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on the financial performance of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) and NENC Integrated Care System (ICS) in the financial year 2024/25 for the seven months to 31 October 2024.

The ICS is reporting a year-to-date deficit of £20.89m compared to a planned deficit of £20.89m, an adverse variance of £1.96m. This is a deterioration in the position from month six (£3.6m favourable variance) largely reflecting additional cost pressures relating to the 2024/25 pay award. This is currently being reviewed across the system.

Net unmitigated financial risk across the ICS is now estimated at £161m across the system. This largely relates to the delivery of required efficiency plans which are higher than those delivered in 2023/24.

At month 6 this unmitigated financial risk is estimated and has been reported to NHSE at £61m (reduced from £74m at month 6) although work continues across the system to review this. This includes unmitigated net risks of £12.7m for the ICB, predominantly relating to prescribing, Continuing Healthcare and delivery of efficiencies.

ICB running costs:

- The ICB is reporting an underspend position against running cost budgets of £1.62m year to date and a forecast underspend of £4.10m, mainly due to vacancies

ICB Revenue:

- The ICB is reporting a year-to-date surplus of £34.25m and a forecast surplus of £53.6m in line with plan.

ICS Capital:

- ICS capital spending forecasts are currently in line with plan however this includes an allowable 5% 'over-programming' hence the forecast is £9.11m in excess of the ICS capital allocation. This will need to be managed over the remainder of the year.

The Chief Finance Officer informed the Committee there are concerns regarding meeting the 2025/26 financial plan.

The Director of Finance (Corporate) informed the Committee in response to the COVID-19 outbreak a Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) postal process was developed by the Northern Cancer Alliance (NCA) and Gateshead Health Foundation Trust (GHFT) across the ICS/NCA footprint.

Due to the COVID block contract regime and the organisational changes implemented in 2022, not all funding was transacted into the GHFT contract mandate as per commitments made. GHFT continue to operate the service which is contributing towards the trust deficit position.

The Executive Committee is asked to ratify original agreement made by former CCGs and uplift the GHFT contract for 2024/25 by £1,403,891 to reflect ongoing service provision. Recurrent funding has been identified within ICB reserves from previous CCG budgets for this and in-year it is proposed to allocate costs against underspends from slippage to avoid creating a financial pressure in year for the ICB or ICS.

The Committee recognised the financial risks and the ongoing work to mitigate the risks.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **The Committee NOTED the latest year to date and forecast financial position for 2024/25,**

- 2) **The Committee NOTED there are a number of financial risks across the system still to be managed**
- 3) **The Committee APPROVED the uplift to the GHFT 2024/25 contract by £1,404k**

EC/2024-25/248 Agenda Item 12.1 - Integrated Delivery Report (IDR)

The Chief Strategy Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of quality and performance, highlighting any significant changes, areas of risk and mitigating actions.

The Committee was informed of the key messages as follows:

- **Urgent and Emergency Care**
 - Ambulance handovers deteriorated this month and risks remain around the volume of handover delays across 6 of our 8 Acute Providers.
 - Category two mean response times have deteriorated in October 2024 compared to September 2024 but year to date performance remains ahead of plan. As a result of deteriorating performance North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) have remodelled their forecast position and reported to NHSE that the average 30mins national ambition, across 2024/25, will not be achieved, forecasting to report 31:24 mins. NEAS national ranking for Category two performance remains 3/11.
 - The Accident and Emergency four-hour wait performance was at 75.8% and remains above the national average of 73.0%, however this is behind the NENC October 2024 plan of 80.1%.
- **Electives**
 - 65 week waits have decreased from 707 in August 2024 to 329 in September 2024 making four consecutive reporting decreases
 - NENC ICS continue to be the best performing nationally in September 2024 for Referral to Treatment performance with 68.4% of people on the waiting list for elective (non-urgent) treatment waiting less than 18 weeks. This compares to national performance of 58.5%
 - In September 2024 the ICB reported zero 104+ week waiters
- **Cancer**
 - Cancer 62-day performance decreased from 6.1% in August 2024 to 65.8 in September 2024; dropping below the Operational planning trajectory of 69.2%
 - Cancer faster diagnosis standard increased from 77.0% in August 2024 to 77.4% in September 2024 and is in line with the national expectations of 77%.

The Chair noted it would be beneficial to publish the performance infographics to inform the public of the number appointments or surgeries

which have been completed on a monthly basis and requested a discussion to be held with the Chief Strategy Officer regarding the content.

ACTION:

The Chief Corporate Services Officer to liaise with the Chief Strategy Officer to discuss and agree the content for performance infographics publishing

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for information and assurance

EC/2024-25/249 Agenda Item 13 – Commissioning

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/250 Agenda Item 14 – Strategic Plans and Partnerships

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/251 Agenda Item 15.1 – ICBP011 - Driving at Work Policy

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer informed the Committee the Driving at Work Policy has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Driving at Work Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP011 - Driving at Work Policy

EC/2024-25/252 Agenda Item 15.2 – ICBP017 - Fire Safety Policy

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer informed the Committee the Fire Safety Policy has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Fire Safety Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP017 - Fire Safety Policy

EC/2024-25/253 Agenda Item 15.3 – ICBP018 - Health and Safety Fire and Security Strategy

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer informed the Committee the Health and Safety Fire and Security Strategy has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Health and Safety Fire and Security Strategy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP018 - Health and Safety Fire and Security Strategy

EC/2024-25/254 Agenda Item 15.4 – ICBP019 - Health and Safety Policy

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer informed the Committee the Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Health and Safety Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP019 - Health and Safety Policy

EC/2024-25/255 Agenda Item 15.5 – ICBP054 - Adverse Weather Plan

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the Adverse Weather Plan has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Adverse Weather Plan.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP054 - Adverse Weather Plan

EC/2024-25/256 Agenda Item 15.6 – ICBP013 - Incident Response Plan

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the Incident Response Plan has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Incident Response Plan.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP013 - Incident Response Plan

EC/2024-25/257 Agenda Item 15.7 – ICBP014 - Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Policy

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Policy has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP014 - Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Policy

EC/2024-25/258 Agenda Item 15.8 – ICBP015 - On-call Policy and Framework

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the On-call Policy and Framework has been reviewed and updated through the normal review process.

The Committee is asked to approve the updated On-call Policy and Framework.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP015 - On-call Policy and Framework

EC/2024-25/259 Agenda Item 15.9 – ICBP053 - Business Continuity Policy

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the ICBP053 - Business Continuity Policy is a new policy.

The policy has been significantly developed it in terms of the approach to developing and maintaining business continuity.

The Committee is asked to approve the Business Continuity Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP053 - Business Continuity Policy

EC/2024-25/260 Agenda Item 16 – Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business for consideration.

EC/2024-25/261 Agenda Item 16.2 - New Risks to add to the Risk Register

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee a risk has been added to the risk register around the Great North Air Ambulance Service in recognition of significant challenges they have around business continuity.

The Committee were assured meetings were taking place and offers of mutual aid have been extended. Steps are being taken to try and maintain the service while we address the underlying issues.

The Chair requested the Chief Finance Officer ensures the financial position is reflected correctly on the risk register.

ACTION:

The Chief Finance Officer to ensure the financial position is reflected correctly on the risk register

No further risks were identified.

EC/2024-25/262 Agenda Item 17 - CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 13:30hrs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 January 10:30am.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Allen'.

Date

14 January 2025