

Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 23 July 2024



Report from the Executive Director of Strategy and Population Health

North West London

North West London ICB

North West London's Joint Forward Plan

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Joint Forward Plan
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Toby Lambert Executive Director of Strategy and Population Health, North West London ICB.

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 North West London ICB, in common with all ICBs, is required to produce a five-year Joint Forward Plan (JFP) that shows how the ICB and its NHS partners intend to deliver services to the population of North West London in line with the strategy set by the Integrated Care Partnership. The ICB is required to produce and publish this plan on an annual basis, before 31st March each year. The deadline for submission to NHS England was changed to July 5 2024 in recognition of the delays to the planning guidance for 2024/25 and the calling of the general election.
- 1.2 The ICB is also required to share the plan with each relevant Health and Wellbeing Board, who in turn are required to respond with their opinions as to whether the plan takes proper account of their joint health and wellbeing strategies.
- 1.3 NHS England guidance on the pre-election sensitivity period limited the ICB's ability to discuss the JFP before the London mayoral and assembly elections, and NHS England has specifically instructed ICBs not to discuss at any meeting in public until after the general election. This has made it impossible for HWBs to respond with their opinions, though officers from some local authorities sent comments in lieu of formal HWB feedback.
- 1.4 A summary of the JFP is provided at the end of this cover note and the full document is attached.

The plan contains:

- plans and outcomes across nine different priorities, decided through a prioritisation process.
- plans for the enabling work streams to support the priorities.
- borough plans setting out alignment with NWL priorities to achieve scale and separate, local priorities.

Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies Joint Forward Plan

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Comment on the suggestions for improving the process for the next Joint Forward Plan;
- 2.2 Note that, while the draft Joint Forward Plan (JFP) was provided to Health and Wellbeing Boards for comment, successive pre-election sensitivity periods made formal feedback from HWBs impossible within the set deadline; and
- 2.3 Note that the JFP was submitted to NHS England on 5 July (the deadline set).

3.0 Detail

3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 The Joint Forward Plan is a statutory document that sets out how Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and their partner NHS trusts propose to exercise their functions in the next five years. These should be reviewed before the start of each financial year.
- 3.1.2 In November 2023 North West London's Integrated Care Partnership published our Health and Care Strategy for North West London. The ICP brings together our eight local authorities, the NHS and wider partners. The strategy sets out how we will improve outcomes in population health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and tackle inequalities, enhance productivity and value for money and support broader economic and social development.
- 3.1.3 The Joint Forward Plan takes the strategy (including the borough joint health and wellbeing strategies), the nationally set NHS operating plan¹ and agreed national and local targets and translates these into meaningful milestones and activities. It clarifies where the NHS will prioritise resources and objectives now and where we should invest in the future. It hence reflects and complements the Joint Health Wellbeing Strategies developed by each of our boroughs.
- 3.1.4 Our borough based partnerships and provider collaboratives will continue to have their own specific plans to improve health and wellbeing and to deliver the operating plan. However, aligning these with the Joint Forward Plan will mean that we can concentrate resources across the system in the most effective way possible.

¹ The 2024/25 priorities and operational planning guidance was published on 27 March. The JFP was developed using our best intelligence as to the likely content of the guidance.

3.1.5 Delivery will require cross-system collaboration from our providers through provider collaboratives, ICS programme teams, clinical networks, voluntary and community sector organisations (VCSEs) and borough teams. The board will receive assurance on delivery of the JFP through reports supplied to Performance Committee.

3.2 Context

- 3.2.1 North West London ICB, in common with all ICBs, is required to produce a five-year plan that shows how the ICB and its NHS partners intend to deliver the ICS strategy. The ICB is required to produce this plan each year.
- 3.2.2 The process of producing the Joint Forward Plan, as well as being a statutory requirement, is part of the organisational effectiveness work stream within the organisational design programme. It aims to:
 - Show how the six priorities identified in the strategy translate into a work programme;
 - Deliver consistent plans and priorities and improve coordination across the ICB (and thereby reduce bottlenecks resulting from conflicting priorities between different parts of the ICB and the wider ICS);
 - Identify areas where working at scale across North West London to develop a shared offer and models of care that can tailored locally will enable us to go further and faster in delivering for our population;
 - Be consistent with the ICB's medium term financial strategy;
 - Ensure that local priorities that are not shared between North West London's borough Health and Wellbeing Strategies can continue to be progressed locally; and
 - Be deliverable within the reduced capacity of the ICB.
- 3.2.3 Planning is taking place against a challenging backdrop in common with the NHS across the country, our services have been under immense pressure in the last couple of years. Although NW London is one of the best performing healthcare systems, we have:
 - A financial challenge, with a spend per head lower than average, insufficient capital to meet our estates need and a commitment to reallocate funding within NW London to services that need it most, rather than where it has been spent historically
 - A **productivity challenge**, requiring a challenging 3.7% efficiency gain in addition to normal expectation of productivity improvement, so we can free up the funds to invest in better, more equitable services; and
 - An organisational challenge, with new statutory duties and a requirement to restructure our workforce, but also new opportunities through changes to the way we work across our partnerships and our providers coming together as collaboratives to capture the benefits of scale, reduce unnecessary variation and create greater resilience.
- 3.2.4 This means that our focus in the initial period of the plan has to be on reducing waiting times and maximising productivity so we can provide equal access to a common set of high quality services regardless of where our residents live. During this time, we will also be testing proactive approaches that prevent, reduce or delay the onset of need, support our residents to stay

- well and identify and support people at risk of or diagnosed with illness through providing best practice interventions.
- 3.2.5 Our aim is to be ready to roll out these programmes over time work together with our local authorities and voluntary sector partners, within the context of a resilient and productive NHS.

3.3 Process

- 3.3.1 We acknowledge that this is the first time that the ICB has attempted to prioritise and plan across its entire portfolio of work and has taken place within a very short timeframe. This first iteration of the JFP is capable of considerable improvement and subsequent JFPs will take on board lessons learnt and feedback from the first iteration to improve the process and the quality of the output each year.
- 3.3.2 In developing the plan, we took the following approach:
 - Each programme, clinical network, borough team and collaborative submitted their proposed work streams and plans for the next five years, and in more detail for the earlier years.
 - A prioritisation framework to support the leadership in selecting 5-10 shared initiatives was drawn up and taken through a working group. This covered the following domains:
 - a. Alignment with the Health and Care Strategy;
 - b. Contribution to health outcomes and inequalities;
 - c. Alignment with national requirements, including the NHS E operating framework and the medium term financial strategy; and
 - d. Delivery feasibility.
 - We took views from system leaders on their priorities;
 - A town hall meeting bringing together representatives across the ICS leadership was held in mid-February to discuss their plans, the initial prioritisation outcomes and what needed to be true to ensure the new priorities could be delivered well without additional asks;
 - Based on feedback from the Town Hall the programmes, clinical networks, borough teams and collaboratives resubmitted their plans, including enabling programmes assessing feasibility of delivering requirements and we refined the priorities.

3.4 Summary of the Joint Forward Plan

3.4.1 The JFP contains nine priorities with corresponding activities, supported by four enabling work streams. It also includes a summary of each borough's plans.

Priorities

Priority	Intended outcomes	Focus in early years	Focus in later years
PRIORITY 1: Reduce inequalities and improve health outcomes through population health management (PH M)	 PHM based service design and investment decisions embedded in all settings including integrated neighbourhood teams. Improved value for money and better able to meet population need and tackle health inequalities. 	 Deliver PHM & Health Equity Academy – upskilling staff, starting with primary care; map financial position to need. Deliver core common offer, address hesitancy. 	 Intelligence Function with PHM underpinning our approach across the system for all conditions. Complementary services where common offer does not deliver for specific groups.
PRIORITY 2: Improve children and young people's mental health and community care	 Consistent core healthcare offers for children resulting in equitable outcomes for health conditions in childhood, and for reducing risks in later adulthood Local and national qualitative and quantitative evidence unders tood and shared across partners Integrated multi-professional partnership to provide seamless integrated healthcare to children 	 Reduce waiting list for child and adult mental health services (CAMHS) Close gap in school nursing provision for looked after children and children with special educational needs Implement child health and family hubs Deliver children and young people speech and language therapy priority quick wins 	Transformational improvements for specific conditions with known health inequity Equity of experience of care
PRIORITY 3: Establish Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) with general practice at their heart	 Clarity for residents on how to get the care they need. Avoidance in hospital and care home admissions Earlier detection of people at risk of ill health, earlier diagnosis of ill health and improved quality of care for people with long term conditions 	 Establish and roll out standard operating procedures for the three Fuller areas, plus elective care Extend same day access across all INTs Establish core common offer for frail / elderly 	Focus on all residents and families to have care plans who need them with high adherence and making best use of local authority and community resources Early and accurate diagnosis of disease
PRIORITY 4: Improve mental health services in the community and for people in crisis	 A reduction in unwarranted variation and equality in health outcomes, access to services and experience An increased use of analysis and insights to help inform productivity and local decision making 	Focus on productivity to reduce waiting lists waiting lists.	Increase capacity to where needed to reduce inequalities
PRIORITY 5: Embed access to a consistent, high quality set of community services by maximizing productivity	 Reduction in waiting times for community services Increase in urgent community response for first care contacts Reduction in length of stay in community beds More clinical time with patients 	 Implement consistent offer in community nursing, community beds and specialist palliative care Conduct demand and capacity modelling across system Drive increased productivity across these services. 	 Implement consistent offer in neuro rehab Services in line with right demand and capacity Launch additional virtual ward pathways Identify and reduce patients experiencing inequality of access, experience and

			outcome in urgent and emergency care services
PRIORITY 6: Optimise ease of movement for patients across the system throughout their care – right care, right place	 Reduced delay for patients in hospital who are medically well enough to be discharged More patients are discharged back to their place of residence than in previous years Patients put at a reduced risk of harm by being discharged from hospital sooner 	Remove delay for medically optimised patients in hospital - implement discharge to assess or equivalent model and embed system escalations and operational support Enhance support to care homes to improve intermediate care Direct referrals to same day emergency care (SDEC) services	Launch additional virtual ward pathways Identify and reduce patients experiencing inequality of access, experience and outcome in urgent and emergency care services
PRIORITY 7: Transform maternity care	 Reduce the inequity of pregnancy care and outcome Improved safety of services, with more support from maternity services to higher risk cases Low numbers of still births and intrapartum brain injuries 	 Develop maternity strategy Achieve NHS England safe staffing standards Inreach offer for ethnic communities adversely affected by poor outcomes in maternity services 	Implement wider maternity transformation
PRIORITY 8: Increase cancer detection rates and deliver faster access to treatment	Improved early diagnosis by tackling variation in screening Faster and more efficient access to diagnosis and treatment	 Increase HPV vaccination uptake in school age children Reduce population differences in seeking help for symptoms of concern, focussing on Brent Deliver and maintain national performance requirements for faster diagnosis and treatment Target lung health checks (TLHCs) in high risk wards 	Roll out lessons on early diagnosis from Brent to wider NW London Roll out and embed approaches to early diagnosis and treatment, ensuring spread and adoption of useful technology
PRIORITY 9: Transform the way planned care works	 Elimination of waits over 52 weeks for elective care Reduction in avoidable outpatient referrals and activity More meaningful and effective communications with patients, leading to fewer missed appointments and a better patient experience Increase staff satisfaction, reduction in staff burnout 	 Drive productivity in outpatients and elective care Drive efficient use of diagnostic centres Innovation of new workforce models to deliver clinics Activities to improve patient communications (NHS App, better use of language) 	Focus on care in most appropriate setting through transformation of clinical pathways, moving closer to home Embed continued wellbeing through recovery and proactive care models

- 3.4.2 We know that the Joint Forward Plan is currently underpowered in a couple of areas:
 - We are committed to developing an urgent and emergency care strategy completion due in the summer). Once complete, this will enable us to strengthen priority six on flow;
 - The Acute Provider Collaborative is currently working up its strategy –
 completion again due in the summer. A particular theme in the strategy will be
 elective recovery and swifter access to specialist opinion (which underpins
 outpatient transformation). Once complete, this plan will allow us to
 strengthen priority nine (planned care).

Enabling programmes

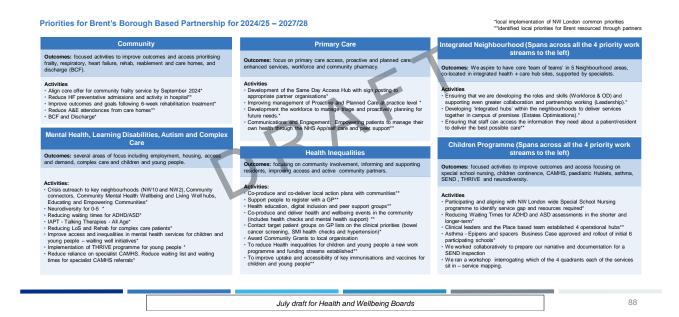
3.4.3 The priorities confirm the estates, digital and data, workforce and communication and engagement requirements to deliver the priorities, in addition to the enabling activities to deliver the wider strategy.

Enabler	Intended outcomes	Focus in early years	Focus in later years
Estates	 Estate facilitates services which respond to the needs of the local population Effective and appropriate utilisation Best design for integrated working 	Immediate prioritised investments Fit for purpose estates for early INT sites	 Completion of major projects identified for integrated working Infrastructure planning and delivery
Workforce	 A safe and manageable workload Increased satisfaction from staff surveys Clear workforce model included new and fulfilling roles with productivity gain 	 Expand and diversify routes into recruitment Workforce productivity and new ways of working for community nursing and mental health roles 	Workforce elements of the system wide programmes to enable new ways of working in support of new models of care
Digital and data	Stable and secure ICT infrastructure Shared records across health and care settings and with access to citizens to help them manage their own health and care Data used intelligently to improve population health and reduce inequalities Take advantage of digital healthcare innovation.	 Migration of the Whole Systems Integrated Care dashboard to a modern cloud platform and integration into workflows Link 111, 999, VCS data to WSIC Create population health dashboards for whole sector Ongoing programme of digital enhancements 	Plan and implement the transformation required to make use of shared records
Communication s and engagement	The JFP includes an assessment of the communications and involvement work to deliver the priorities in addition to strategic activities not directly related to the priorities, such as the programme to combine resident insights with other data to improve decision-making and the campaign to simplify use of language across ICB and then wider ICS.		

Borough place partnership priorities

3.4.4 The Joint Forward Plan also includes a summary of each borough based partnership's plans. The plan sets out where these align with the nine NW London priorities and can therefore be delivered at scale and where there are additional activities which may be phased differently or implemented now for specific, local reasons in agreement with their Health and Wellbeing Boards. The priorities within the Joint Forward Plan for Brent are included below (easier read version in the accompanying JFP):

Brent



3.5 Ways of Working

- 3.5.1 As we have progressed the organisational restructure, staff in the ICB have expressed considerable scepticism that that the organisation will indeed adhere to a defined list of priorities when there are considerable pressures to react to further demands. To build confidence, we have used feedback from the Town Hall event to develop a set of principles:
 - 1. **Priorities are collectively agreed upon and endorsed** ensuring alignment across all program teams, boroughs, networks, and collaboratives, fostering understanding and endorsement of the priorities and their sequencing;
 - Programme priorities are aligned with Borough requirements ensuring consistent delivery of priorities to the same standard and at the same time. This may necessitate some programs and boroughs to adjust their focus and adopt a more collaborative approach;
 - 3. Clear establishment and monitoring of deliverables and metrics for each priority with a single empowered lead overseeing each aspect;
 - 4. We are empowered to discontinue deprioritised work and to challenge additional tasks thorough scrutiny and review should be applied to any work that does not support a priority;
 - 5. Resource allocation is accurately aligned with priorities with some activities being halted and increased focus directed towards certain areas;

6. Leadership is committed to upholding these commitments - being prepared to push back against national and regional requests, while carefully considering the implications of any additional tasks.

3.6 Overseeing implementation of the JFP

- 3.6.1 We will use the Joint Forward Plan to track our delivery against the milestones and actions in the priority areas and report these through the ICB performance processes. The performance report already contains a section on each of the ICS' programmes. Progress against the milestones and actions in the JFP should be reported through this route. Local delivery is reported through local structures.
- 3.6.2 The ICB's Strategic Commissioning Committee is also establishing a cycle of strategic reviews. The committee has representation from a DASS (being agreed) and a DPH (currently H&F). The reviews should follow a clear structure starting with the relevant goals laid out in the JFP and progress towards them.

3.7 Feedback from Health and Wellbeing Boards

3.7.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards HWBs were sent the draft plan on 9th April and asked to provide their commentary, and specifically respond with their opinion as to whether the plan takes proper account of each relevant joint local health and wellbeing strategy. The pre-election sensitivity period for the London elections made it impossible for the ICB to attend HWBs between late March and the 2 May 2024; the the pre-election sensitivity period for the general election made it impossible for the ICB to attend HWBs from 25 May to the 4 July. NHS England revised the deadline for the Joint Forward Plan to 5 July 2024, which was of no help in securing the view of HWBs. Written and/ or executive feedback from our boroughs was sought in lieu of consideration from HWBs.

3.8 Potential improvements

- 3.8.1 Statute requires the ICB to prepare a joint forward plan every year. The team working on the joint Forward Plan has collated the following suggestions to improve the process for next year:
 - Make the link to the health and care needs of residents clearer (i.e., update North West London's shared needs assessment, drawing on JSNAs, each September);
 - Start the JFP process earlier in year (September) so that:
 - The outputs can inform commissioning intentions in December;
 - Those outputs and commissioning intentions can inform NHS operational planning (rather than be developed in parallel to the operating plan);
 - Programmes and boroughs can prepare a more detailed one year plan drawing on the JFP; and
 - Engagement with health and wellbeing boards can take place from January to March, enabling a final JFP by the end of March.
 - Strengthen clinical and professional contribution into the JFP process (e.g., holding a clinical advisory group summit to inform the prioritisation of the plan);

- Strengthen input from partners (e.g., local authorities, voluntary sector, etc.).
 While partners were invited to the town hall meeting, and many partners sit on the ICS programmes who contributed to the JFP, this may not be the most effective way of inviting input;
- Strengthen the consideration of financial, workforce and other constraints in the JFP process, for example by supporting programme, borough and corporate teams with tools that will enable them to prioritise more effectively within the available resource.

3.9 Next steps

3.9.1 The NHS is required to produce a five-year Joint Forward Plan before the beginning of each financial year. This provides us with the opportunity to update the plan as local and national priorities evolve. Our aim is to produce a draft by December of each year, giving Health and Wellbeing Boards to comment in January and February to allow publication by the end of March.

3.10 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.10.1 The Joint Forward Plan builds upon the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies developed by each North West London's boroughs.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The JFP Plan builds on the North West London Health and Care Strategy that was developed last year. This strategy was subject to public consultation and the final iteration included feedback from residents and communities.
- 4.2 Continuing input from the ICB's 'What matters to you' engagement programme has been fed into the development of the JFP.
- 4.3 The draft of the JFP was on the website, giving residents and communities the opportunity to comment before the JFP is finalised.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 No direct financial considerations for Brent London Borough Council.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to respond to the Joint Forward Plan giving their opinion on whether the plan takes proper account of their joint local health and wellbeing strategy. Unfortunately, this year's pre-election sensitivity periods have made it impossible to receive opinions from Health and Wellbeing Boards before NHS England's deadline.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 While the initiatives outlined in the Joint Forward Plan will doubtless give rise to EDI implications, North West London addresses these considerations (though, for example, EQIAs) as we prepare for implementation.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 N/A
- 9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)
- 9.1 N/A
- 10.0 Communication Considerations
- 10.1 To outline relevant considerations in relation to any required communication strategy or campaigns.

Report sign off:

Toby Lambert

Executive Director of Strategy and Population Health