

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 November 2023, 10:45hrs in the  
Joseph Swan Suite, Pemberton House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland

**Present:** Levi Buckley, Executive Area Director (North & North Cumbria)  
David Chandler, Executive Director of Finance  
Graham Evans, Executive Chief Digital, and Information Officer  
David Gallagher, Executive Area Director (Tees Valley & Central)  
Jacqueline Myers, Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations  
Dr Neil O'Brien, Executive Medical Director (Vice Chair)  
David Purdue, Executive Chief Nurse  
Claire Riley, Executive Director of Corporate Governance,  
Communications, and Involvement

**In attendance:** Rebecca Herron, Governance Manager (Committee Secretary)  
Deb Cornell, Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary  
Dr Tom Kennedy, GP Registrar, Marine Avenue Medical Centre  
Sarah Dronsfield, Director of Quality

**EC/2023-24/232      Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions**

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting.

**EC/2023-24/233      Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Sam Allen, Chief Executive,  
Annie Laverty, Executive Director of Improvement and Experience

**EC/2023-24/234      Agenda Item 3 - Declarations of interest**

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

**EC/2023-24/235      Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 October  
2023**

**RESOLVED:**

**The Executive Committee AGREED that the minutes of the meeting  
held on 10 October 2023, were a true and accurate record.**

**EC/2023-24/236      Agenda Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes and action log**

The Chair requested all executive committee members review and update their allocated actions.

**ACTION:**

**All executive directors to review and update their allocated actions on the action log within one week.**

**EC/2023-24/237      Agenda Item 5.1 – Corporate Risk Register**

Noted for information and assurance only.

**EC/2023-24/238      Agenda Item 6 - Notification of urgent items of any other business**

No items of any urgent business had been received.

**EC/2023-24/239      Agenda Item 7.1 - Executive Area Directors Update Report November 2023 (North and North Cumbria)**

The Executive Area Director (North and North Cumbria) provided a summary of items outlined in the report.

The Committee was asked to particularly note from the report:

- Newcastle
  - Urgent Care Review and redesign work continues to progress in Newcastle
  - Medicines Administration in Special Schools - A new approach to managing medications for pupils in special schools has been agreed, work is ongoing to coproduce a framework to support governance, supervision, escalation and standard operating procedures and processes within special schools.
  - Health Innovation Neighbourhoods (HIN) – Newcastle University have an ambition to develop a healthcare education hub that combines undergraduate teaching with access to real life working environments, including general practice. The aims are in line with the Better Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**EC/2023-24/240      Agenda Item 7.1 - Executive Area Directors Update Report November 2023 (Tees Valley & Central)**

The Executive Area Director (Tees Valley & Central) provided a summary of the items outlined in the report.

The Committee was asked to particularly note from the report:

- County Durham and South Tyneside Mental Health work

- Urgent and Emergency Care work which is ongoing
- Sunderland
  - GP Out of Hours service base is being moved into the Urgent Treatment Centre located on Sunderland Royal Hospital site at the end of October 2023.
  - There are concerns regarding access to winter vaccinations and that payment for vaccines would have an impact on health inequalities
  - A trial of the first place assurance meeting took place

**RESOLVED:**

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

**EC/2023-24/241      Agenda Item 8.1 – Primary Care Recovery Access Plan**

*At 11:10am the Deputy Director of Primary Care joined the meeting to present the report.*

The Deputy Director of Primary Care presented the report which provided the Committee with the Primary Care Access Recovery System Plan (PCARP) for assurance.

It was noted the ICB is required to present the PCARP to the public Integrated Care Board to outline planning arrangements.

The Deputy Director of Primary Care informed the Committee of the key points of the PCARP which included:

- The Vision of five priorities
  - Resilience and Sustainability,
  - Access,
  - Integration,
  - Workforce, Estates and Digital
  - Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry
- Four Key ambitions
  - Empowering Patients
  - Modern General Practice Access
  - Building Capacity
  - Cutting Bureaucracy

The Committee were assured a communications, engagement, and involvement plan is in place.

The Committee noted the amount of work which has informed the plan and thanked the Deputy Director of Primary Care for the comprehensive update.

The Executive Chief Digital and Information Officer noted there is an onus on digital and data within the plan and expressed concerns around funding

ceasing and the need to still deliver transformation. The Deputy Director of Primary Care confirmed the recurrent support is noted on the risk log. Planning and user feedback will be key in delivering the plan.

The Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations enquired if self-referral pathways could be available for all services and offered contracting team input to help progress this work. The Deputy Director of Primary Care confirmed work is ongoing and contracting team input would be useful to progress this work.

Concerns were noted regarding the financial recovery plan for General Practice overspend and to be aware that General Practice is recurrently over budget.

It was noted the funding slide was especially useful.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **The Committee NOTED the content of the report**
- 2) **The Committee NOTED the PCARP to be submitted to Board**

**EC/2023-24/242**

**Agenda Item 8.2 – Modern General Practice Access Model – Transition Cover Proposal**

The Chair declared a conflict in relation to this item due to being a GP Partner at Cestria Health Centre. The Committee agreed no decision could be made on this item during the meeting. The item to be submitted to the Chief Executive via email to ascertain support to enable a quorate decision.

The Deputy Director of Primary Care presented the report which provided the Committee with the proposed Modern General Practice Access (MGPA) Model.

The MGPA model is to help tackle the 8am rush, provide rapid assessment and response, and avoid asking patients to ring back another day to book an appointment.

NHS England has made available national transition cover funding to support practices looking to implement a MGPA access model over the next two years. A total of £2.382 million has been allocated to the ICB for year one. The proposed funding allocations are outlined in section six of the report.

The Committee supported the recommendations as outlined within the report.

**ACTION:**

- 1) **The Committee Secretary to submit the proposal via email to the Chief Executive to ascertain support to enable a quorate decision**
- 2) **The Committee Secretary to inform the Executive Area Director (Tees Valley & Central) and the Deputy Director of Primary Care of the decision outcome**

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee APPROVED recommended option B funding and management process set out in section 6 of the report.**

*At 11:37am the Deputy Director of Primary Care left the meeting.*

**EC/2023-24/243      Agenda Item 8.3 – Medicines Decisions - Dapagliflozin & Rimegepant**

The Chair presented the report which provided the Committee with the decisions from the October 2023 Medicines Subcommittee meeting.

The Medicines Sub-Committee currently has no delegated authority from the ICB and therefore asks that the Committee approve the medicines decisions made at the October 2023:

- Dapagliflozin to be added to the formulary as GREEN+
- Rimegepant to be added as Specialist Initiation.

The estimated cost impact of Dapagliflozin is £15,000 per 100,000 population in year 1, rising to £47,000 in year 3 onwards. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) expect the resource impact of implementing the recommendations in England will be less approximately £8,800 per 100,000 population.

A concern was raised regarding NICE's assessment of costings and if inflation has been considered.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **The Committee APPROVED the medicines decisions for Dapagliflozin and Rimegepant made at the October 2023 meeting**
- 2) **The Committee APPROVED the draft minutes from the medicines committee for publication on medicines committee website**

**EC/2023-24/244      Agenda Item 9.1 - NENC ICB and ICS Finance Report Month 6**

The Executive Director of Finance 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 2023/24 for the period to 30 September 2023.

In month 6, the ICB is reporting £10 million overspend and providers are reporting £12 million overspend. The current pressures are Continuing Health Care and prescribing costs.

The year-to-date variance is currently still expected to be brought back in line with plan by the end of the year, hence the forecast ICS position for the year is a deficit of £49.9m in line with plan.

ICS reported an overall year to date deficit of £22 million against plan, two thirds of the pressure being provider positions relating to costs associated with strike action, Microsoft licences and pay award pressures; one third is with the ICB. It was recognised there is a major challenge around the Elective Recovery Fund whereby three organisations are currently underperforming. Work is ongoing with providers to help mitigate risks around ERF.

NHSE have send out five letters regarding new monies. The Executive Director of Finance will circulate the letters to the Committee members for information. An integrated report will be presented to Board on 22 November and final plans for funding allocations will be submitted to NHSE on 23 November.

The Medium Term Financial Plan is being discussed at the Chief Executive meeting. The presentation slides will be shared with the Committee members which will highlight the scale of challenge and opportunities. The focus of session will be to obtain agreement not to work in isolation and silos.

The Executive Director of Finance informed the Committee we do need to do things differently.

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

**ACTION:**

- 1) **The Executive Director of Finance to circulate five NHSE letters to Committee members**
- 2) **The Executive Director of Finance to circulate the Medium Term Financial Plan slides to the Committee members**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **The Committee NOTED the latest year to date and forecast financial position for 2023/24.**
- 2) **The Committee NOTED there are a number of financial risks across the system still to be managed.**
- 3) **The Committee NOTED the approach in respect of financial controls and proposed oversight arrangements for both financial controls and efficiency going forward.**

**4) The Committee NOTED the approach in respect of financial controls and proposed oversight arrangements for both financial controls and efficiency going forward.**

**EC/2023-24/245      Agenda Item 10.1 - Integrated Delivery Report**

The Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations 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
  - Category 2 ambulance response times planned for September have improved slightly to 29 minutes. This remains to be one of the biggest areas of concern regarding ICB wide performance. A recovery plan has been activated and oversight has been stepped up over the Category 2 recovery plan.
- Electives
  - Waiting list numbers decreased in September.
  - Cancer Waiting times - are more than 200 above the September target. The areas with greatest challenge are Skin, Urology, Upper & Lower GI patients waiting beyond 62 days.

It was noted that on page 3 the report states 'County Durham and Darlington NHS FT – The CQC report on maternity services at CDDFT was published on 15 September 2023 and rates the Trust's maternity services as "inadequate".' This status should be amended to read 'requires improvement'

**ACTION:**

**The Executive Chief of Strategy and Operations to amend the status of the CDDFT CQC rating on page 3 of the report**

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee RECEIVED the report for information and assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/246      Agenda Item 11 - Commissioning**

No update for this item.

**EC/2023-24/247      Agenda Item 12 – Strategy & Partnerships**

No update for this item.

**EC/2023-24/248      Agenda Item 13.1 – Governance Assurance Report (GAR)**

The Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications, and Involvement introduced the report which provided the Committee with the overview of the performance by exception in relation to the delivery of ICB's corporate governance functions during the period 1 July to 30 September 2023.

Requests for legal advice was highlighted as a main concern. It was noted there are inconsistencies regarding obtaining legal advice. The Committee were assured that the governance team are review and amending processes.

There are 45 risks overdue for assessment. The Committee members are asked to liaise with their teams to review and update all risks by Friday 17 November.

It was noted compliance for Health and Safety training is below target and the governance team will be chasing outstanding training. A comment was made regarding the fire warden training and that it does not feel fit for purpose. The governance team will feedback the comments to NECS Health and Safety colleagues.

A query was raised regarding the backlog of complaints and if it should be in this report. The Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications, and Involvement confirmed it would not be in the report for this quarter as this issue has only very recently been identified.

**ACTION:**

- 1) **All Executive Directors to liaise with teams to update overdue risks before Friday 17 November**
- 2) **The Committee Secretary to feedback comments regarding Fire Warden training to NECS Health and Safety colleagues**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **The Committee RECEIVED the GAR for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/249**

**Agenda Item 13.2 – North Cumbria Place Sub-Committee Terms of Reference**

The Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications, and involvement introduced the report which provided the Committee with the revised Terms of Reference from the Place Sub-Committees.

The Committee was asked to ratify Place Sub-Committee Terms of Reference for:

- North Cumbria Place

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee APPROVED the Terms of Reference for:**

- North Cumbria Place

**EC/2023-24/250      Agenda Item 14.1.1 – ICB 2 Steering Group Highlight Report**

Noted for information and assurance only.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/251      Agenda Item 14.1.2 – Contract Group Report**

Noted for information and assurance only.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/252      Agenda Item 14.2.1 – Place Sub-committee Minutes**

County Durham - noted for information and assurance only.  
Darlington- noted for information and assurance only.  
Hartlepool - noted for information and assurance only.  
Stockton - noted for information and assurance only.  
South Tees - noted for information and assurance only.  
Gateshead - noted for information and assurance only.  
North Cumbria - 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 Sub-Committee minutes as listed above for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/253      Agenda Item 14.2.2 – Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee Minutes**

Noted for information and assurance only.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee RECEIVED the Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee Minutes for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/254      Agenda Item 14.2.3 – Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Sub-Committee Minutes**

Noted for information and assurance only.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee RECEIVED the Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Sub-Committee Minutes for assurance.**

**EC/2023-24/255      Agenda Item 15 – Policy Management**

No update for this item.

**EC/2023-24/256      Agenda Item 16.2 - New Risks to add to the Risk Register**

There were no new risks identified.

**EC/2023-24/257      Agenda Item 17 - CLOSE**

The meeting was closed at 12:05hrs.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 12 December 2023 10:30am.

Signed 

Name            Dr Neil O'Brien

Date             18/01/2024