

# Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2023–2024



**Executive Summary**

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# 1. Executive Summary

This annual report provides an overview of the incredible work that partners who make up the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) have undertaken during the course of 2023/24 to give everyone in Leicestershire the opportunity to thrive and live happy, healthy lives.

Established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Leicestershire HWB is a statutory partnership chaired by the County Council Cabinet Lead Member for Health with representation from an array of local authority, health, criminal justice and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations.

The HWB has several statutory responsibilities that form its overall commitment to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities across Leicestershire. These are:

- Prepare and publish a **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)**
- Publish and refresh the **Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**
- Approve and monitor the **Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan**
- Prepare and publish a **Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)**

## 1.1 JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY (JHWS)

The strategic priorities of the Leicestershire JHWS follow a life course approach – from Best Start in Life to Dying Well, with additional cross cutting priorities – improved mental health, reducing health inequalities and covid recovery.

Each strategic priority has a corresponding set of commitments and a delivery plan to help achieve the priorities with sub-groups of the HWB taking the lead in delivering and overseeing the work.

### 1.1.1 Best Start for Life

The Leicestershire Children and Families Partnership sub-group is responsible for delivery of the Best Start for Life strategic priority which is split into three priority areas: First 1001 Critical Days, School Readiness, and Preparing for Life.

#### Key achievements for 2023/24 include:

- Launch of the Leicestershire Maternity and Early Years Strategy and action plan
- Implementing different approaches (e.g. training, webinars, events) to raise awareness of the importance of the first 1001 Critical Days on child development
- Development of an Early Years Strategy which details the importance of prevention and early intervention in enhancing the life chances of all children and young people in Leicestershire. A key strand of work is the launch of 20 family hubs across Leicestershire and the creation of 16 additional 'Hubs in Libraries'
- Delivery of a breastfeeding awareness campaign via breastfeeding peer support networks
- Establishment of a Pregnancy Nutritionist to support women during pregnancy and for a period of time after birth to address factors linked to obesity
- Embedding of the Teen Health service within all mainstream secondary schools with strong links with the Mental Health Support Teams in schools

## 1.1.2 Staying Healthy, Safe and Well

The Staying Healthy Partnership sub-group is responsible for delivery of the Staying, Healthy, Safe and Well strategic priority which is split into two priority areas: Building Strong Foundations and Enabling Healthy Choices and Environments.

### **Key achievements for 2023/24 include:**

- Embedding a Health in All Policies approach across Leicestershire County Council meaning that health impact considerations are now part of corporate decision making processes. This work has gained national recognition describing it as the most 'comprehensive Health in All Policies package and process seen at a local authority level'
- Launch of a pilot project by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to improve living conditions in houses. The project has a specific focus on damp and mould
- Delivery against the Healthy Weight Strategy which focuses on three themes: Promoting a healthy weight environment, support for people to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and prioritising healthy weight through systems leadership
- Development of Community Health and Wellbeing Plans (CHWBPs) to address the needs and challenges faced at a neighbourhood level. Plans have been developed and approved for five districts with the remaining two underway.
- Delivery of the People Zones project in Bell Foundry and Thringstone & Whitwick. This project follows an Asset Based Community Development approach with the aim of achieving stronger and more resilient communities.

## 1.1.3 Living & Supported Well and Dying Well

The Integration Executive sub-group is responsible for delivery of the Living and Supported Well strategic priority which is split into two priority areas: Upscaling Prevention & Self-care, and Effective Management of Frailty and Complex Care. This sub-group is also responsible for delivery of the Dying Well strategic priority which is split into three priority areas: Understanding the Need, Effective Transitions and Normalising End of Life Planning.


### **Key achievements for 2023/24 include:**

- More than 20,000 individuals benefitting from prevention and self-care services which include First Contact Plus, Housing Enablement Team and Care Coordination
- More than 15,000 individuals benefitting from frailty and complex care services which include the Carers Support Service, Homecare Assessment and Reablement Team, Home First team, Royal Voluntary Service discharge support and Domiciliary Care
- Successful delivery of the Intermediate Care Programme. This programme provides a bridge between hospital and people's homes, helping people to rehabilitate, re-able and recover with time limited interventions. The aim is to prevent hospital admission or the need for long-term care.
- Contributing to the development of the LLR Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy (PEoLC), which is due to be published towards the end of 2024

### 1.1.4 Improved Mental Health

The Mental Health subgroup is responsible for delivery of the Improved Mental Health strategic priority. Key achievements for 2023/24 include:

- Delivery of an engagement event to provide opportunities for engagement between people with lived experience and professionals. Themes that were discussed include: transition from child to adult services, waiting lists to access services, needs led provision and involving people with lived experience.
- Mental Health Resilience Grants – funding enabling organisations in Leicestershire to deliver neighbourhood-based projects focusing on prevention and resilience. 14 organisations were awarded funding totalling £725,000.
- Mental Health Friendly Places – a programme encouraging local businesses and organisations to take up free training and resources on the topic of mental health and wellbeing to help staff and volunteers have confident conversations with customers/visitors about their mental wellbeing, and signposting them to the resources/services they need



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### 1.1.5 Reducing Health Inequalities

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There are a whole host of projects and initiatives directly or indirectly linked to reducing health inequalities that are delivered across Leicestershire. This report highlights three projects that have made great strides during 2023/24:

- **Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC)** – The County Council was successful in securing £5.25m to establish its own HDRC. The HDRC investment will support the County Council to work with partner organisations and residents to generate more of its own data through research, using this and existing evidence to improve the services that it provides and inform the council's strategic priorities. 2024 is a development year, paving the way for the full HDRC programme to commence in January 2025.
- **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in Traveller Communities** – The 2023 Health Inequalities JSNA highlighted Gypsy or Irish Travellers as a group at particularly high risk of facing health inequalities in Leicestershire and have some of the poorest health outcomes across a range of indicators. Literature has shown that Gypsy and Traveller communities have lower rates of childhood immunisation uptake compared to the rest of the population, so an engagement event was held to identify barriers to vaccination. A number of themes emerged that are now being explored.
- **Cancer screening gap analysis** – National data has shown that uptake of screening in individuals with a learning disability (LD) is significantly lower than individuals without a learning disability. A gap analysis identified a lack of local cancer screening data on individuals with a learning disability and a lack of fit for purpose equipment. Collaborative work across Primary Care Networks (PCNs) provided a venue for a specialist LD cervical cancer screening clinic. The outcomes from the engagement activity will be assessed and developed into a business case to promote wider roll-out.

## 1.2 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is an assessment of the current and future health and social care needs of the local community. The 2022–2025 JSNA comprises subject specific chapters which review the current evidence on inequalities, health outcomes and service effectiveness, assess local health and social needs, identify at-risk population groups, analyse local insights into the provision of care, and outline areas for improvement as agreed with stakeholders.

The aim is to help the effective allocation of resources, commissioning of services, and development of targeted interventions to improve health and wellbeing of the local population. By involving a range of stakeholders, the JSNA plays a crucial role in shaping effective and responsive health and social care services.

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### Chapters completed within the 2022–2025 cycle include:

- End of Life Care and Support
- Mental Health – Children and Young People
- Health Inequalities
- Learning Disability Analysis – partial JSNA
- Oral Health
- Demography
- Alcohol Misuse
- Substance Misuse
- Mental Health – Adults

## 1.3 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF)

The purpose of the Better Care Fund (BCF) is to deliver better outcomes for patients and service users by promoting integrated care. This includes reducing hospital admissions, ensuring timely and safe discharge from hospitals, and improving overall patient and service user experiences. The Integration Executive sub-group oversees delivery of the Better Care Fund programme of work as the BCF supports delivery of the Living and Supported Well strategic priority of the JHWS which also sits with the Integration Executive sub-group. The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for overseeing implementation of the BCF.



## 1.4 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA)

The HWB has a statutory responsibility to produce a pharmaceutical needs assessment to identify local pharmaceutical services, inform planning and commissioning and inform decision making in response to applications to provide a new pharmacy.

## 1.5 LOOKING FORWARD

### Looking ahead to the next 12 months:

- The HWB will continue to focus on strengthening relationships to improve collaboration between place and system, and place and neighbourhood.
- Work to deliver the HWB statutory duties will continue, with each of the HWB subgroups continuing to deliver against the JHWS strategic priorities.
- The refresh of the JHWS will commence early spring 2025 as will the development of a new JSNA proposal for 2025 onwards. This will ensure the priorities remain focused on current and future need.
- Needs assessments are underway on gambling harms and air quality as these are current topics of focus, with the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment scheduled for completion in 2025.
- A key focus will be on developing the HWB's community engagement capability

As we move into the next 12 months, the success of the HWB relies on the ongoing support and commitment of partners in giving everyone in Leicestershire the opportunity to thrive and live happy, healthy lives.

