

## Integrated Care Board

<b>Date of meeting</b>	22 January 2026
<b>Title of paper</b>	Chair's Board Report
<b>Presented by</b>	Emma Woollett, Chair, Integrated Care Board
<b>Author</b>	Debra Atkinson, Company Secretary/Director of Governance Maria Louca, Senior Assistant/Corporate Affairs Manager
<b>Agenda item</b>	6
<b>Confidential</b>	No

<b>Executive summary</b>				
This report aims to provide an update for the Board on the engagement and work undertaken by the Chair and any current and pertinent issues.				
The report includes key areas to consider over the period since the previous Board meeting and, where appropriate, a verbal update will be provided where things have occurred after the report was published.				
<b>Public and Stakeholder Engagement</b>				
The report covers examples of stakeholder and public engagement by the Chair.				
<b>Recommendations</b>				
The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board is requested to note the updates provided.				
<b>Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:</b>				<b>Tick</b>
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience			✓
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area			✓
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees			✓
SO4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity			✓
SO5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets			✓
SO6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies			✓
<b>Implications</b>				
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Associated risks			✓	
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	
<b>Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>		<b>Outcomes</b>	
N/A	N/A			

Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
N/A				
Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

<b>Report authorised by:</b>	Emma Woollett, Chair, Integrated Care Board
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# Integrated Care Board – 22 January 2026

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## Chair's Board Report

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report aims to provide an update for the Board on the engagement and work undertaken by the Chair and any current and pertinent issues.
- 1.2 The report includes key areas to consider over that period and will be enhanced where appropriate by a verbal update where things have occurred after the report was published.
- 1.3 It will incorporate any major updates on ICB, and system governance and any decisions made under Chair's action for ratification by the board.

### 2. Engagement

- 2.1 In November, I attended the NHS Confederation Integrated Care System Conference along with Aaron Cummins. It was a good opportunity to network and listen to keynote speakers, Karin Smyth MP, Minister of state for health (secondary care) and other guest speakers including Glen Burley, Financial reset and accountability director for NHS England. The theme of the conference was 'from vision to reality: shaping tomorrow today' with an objective of providing an opportunity for ICBs and partner organisations to discuss practical ways to make the 10 Year Health Plan a reality, focusing on the 'how to' and next steps. This learning was valuable for shared learning to build into the development of the ICB and how this influences the work of the Board.
- 2.2 Later this month Aaron Cummins and I, along with other executives and our Director of Communications have the third of our regular meetings with MPs from Lancashire and South Cumbria. We have already used these sessions to discuss important strategic topics such as Continuing Healthcare, weight management services and neighbourhood health with our MPs. This session will provide an opportunity for a dialogue with elected members on including women's health and strategic and system planning.
- 2.3 In December I was invited to a national Chair's meeting with Dr Penny Dash, Chair for NHS England, where discussion and a workshop was held around the future role of Integrated Care Boards as strategic commissioners. There was a focus on the national priorities around neighbourhood health, workforce planning, winter pressures and the new operating model.
- 2.4 In late December I had the opportunity to spend time in Blackburn. I had the privilege of visiting Barbara Castle Health Centre and Shadsworth Family hub and Child Development Centre to learn about co-locating NHS and community services. Maria Nugent, service lead for early years and out -of-school services,

and Louise Shorrocok, early years operational manager – both from Blackburn with Darwen Council – provided a tour alongside Kirsty Hamer, head of children’s services commissioning at the ICB and Philippa Cross, associate director for place development and integration (Blackburn with Darwen). The visit showcased how communities use the café and shared spaces for services delivered by NHS, Council, and VCFSE partners, including perinatal mental health and speech and language therapy, offering wrap-around support for parents and families. Thank you to partners and colleagues for showcasing their impressive work.

### **3. Governance**

3.1 NHS England North West held our ICB mid-year review meeting in November. The feedback we received in the meeting was very positive and demonstrates the progress we are making to improve as an organisation and strengthen partnerships across the system.

### **4. Board**

4.1 I would like to thank Debbie Eytayo for all her support in her role as Chief People Officer. Debbie will be leaving the organisation at the end of this month. Debbie Herring has been appointed as the interim Chief People Officer from 1 February. Debbie is a highly experienced Chief People Officer with over 25 year’s strategic and operational human resources and organisational development experience across the NHS, local and central government. Her appointment comes at a very important time for the Integrated Care Board where her experience and expertise will be vital in helping us steer a successful path through the next phase of the ICB’s development.

4.2 I would like to welcome Bimpe Kuti-Matekenya, who joins us for 6 months as part of a scheme run by Gatenby Sanderson to support individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to gain skills and experience to prepare them for non-executive roles. Bimpe currently works for the University of Bolton and leads post graduate programmes in public health.

### **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The Board is requested to:

- Note the contents of the report.
- Receive a further report at its meeting in March 2026

**Emma Woollett**  
**8 January 2026**