

## Integrated Care Board

<b>Date of meeting</b>	14 May 2026
<b>Title of paper</b>	Chair's 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			
<b>Conflicts of interest associated with this report</b>				

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
------------------------------	---

# Integrated Care Board – 14 May 2026

---

## Chair's Board Report

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the board with an update on engagement activity undertaken by the chair, together with any current and pertinent issues of relevance
- 1.2 The report highlights key areas of activity during the period and will be supplemented by a verbal update where any material matters have arisen since the paper was finalised.
- 1.3 It also includes significant updates relating to ICB and system governance, together with any decisions taken under Chair's Action for formal ratification by the board.

### 2. Engagement

- 2.1 In April, I attended an ICB Chair's session hosted by Dr Penny Dash, Chair of NHS England. Discussions focused on the medium-term plan, strategic priorities and preparations for the Government's 10-Year Health Plan. The session also included consideration of the mental health review and the Strategic Commissioning Development Programme.
- 2.2 Miranda Carter, Director of System Architecture at NHS England, facilitated a session on population health delivery models, aligned to improving population health outcomes. This included discussion on how systems will deliver against the 10-Year Health Plan, alongside the challenges and constraints anticipated.
- 2.3 At the end of April, North West NHS leaders attended a regional session which included an introduction to the incoming Regional Chair, Kathy Cowell, along with a national overview from Sir Jim Mackey, Chief Executive Officer of NHS England. The session provided updates on planning and exemplars, alongside table discussions on priorities for 2026/27.
- 2.4 This session was attending on behalf of Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB by myself, Jane Scattergood (Chief Nurse), Mark Bakewell (Chief Finance Officer) and Wendy Lewis (Director of System Coordination and Flow).
- 2.5 As part of this engagement, Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB, alongside neighbouring ICBs showcased work on delivering the "left shift" within neighbourhoods. This focused particularly on partnership working and opportunities for system collaboration across digital, place-based working and partnerships with a strong emphasis on the impact of working with Voluntary, Community, Fair and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector partners. I would like to

record my thanks to Tracy Hopkins, who was unable to attend but supported the development of the presentation.

- 2.6 Looking ahead, a planned engagement session with local Members of Parliament in Lancashire and South Cumbria is scheduled for late May. The focus of this session will be on the commissioning plan update, delivery priorities for the next 12 month and an update on communications and resident engagement.

### **3. Board Matters**

- 3.1 Following a robust appointment process, I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Dr Andy Curran as Acting Co-Medical Director, working alongside Dr Andy Knox.
- 3.2 As I previously reported, Alex Heritage has been appointed as Chief Strategy and Planning Officer and will join the ICB on 1 June 2026. I look forward to working with Alex and welcoming him to the organisation.
- 3.3 Following the ICB partner member nomination and appointment process, I am pleased to confirm the following appointments:
- Tracy Hopkins as the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) partner member, effective from 1 April 2026
  - Neil Jack, Chief Executive of Blackpool Council, who will succeed Denise Park as Local Authority partner member from June 2026; and
  - Cath Whalley, Director of Adult Social Care, Westmorland and Furness Council. Appointed as Local Authority partner member
- 3.4 On behalf of the board I would like to formally thank Denise Park for her contribution and support, and to welcome Neil, Cath and Tracy. I very much look forward to working with them in their new roles.
- 3.5 As well as new board members, we are also about to lose two of our Non-Executive Members, Sheena Cumiskey and Roy Fisher, both of whom leave us at the end of June. Both Roy and Sheena have been with the ICB since its inception in July 2022 and have made significant contributions to the organisation over a number of years. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank both Sheena and Roy for their commitment and leadership on the board and to wish them both all the very best for the future.

### **4. Governance**

- 4.1 During April, the board spent time together as part of a regular programme of board development, time for reflection and education. There was an interactive session to support the board's review of the ICB's strategic objectives for 2026/27 and considering risk appetite within the context of the current operating environment. This session also included review against the eight principal risks

within the Board Assurance framework and a dedicated session on cyber security, business continuity and anti-fraud awareness. A second session focused on exploring the implications of the new partner member roles and changing board composition, particularly in relation to the changing external environment, and on ensuring that board debates are appropriately strategic and robust.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The Board is asked to:

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

**Emma Woollett**

**May 2026**