

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	14 May 2026			
Title of paper	Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report – 5 March 2026			
Presented by	Craig Harris, Chief Commissioning Officer & Accountable Emergency Officer			
Author	Head of Governance and Committee Officers			
Agenda item	17			
Confidential	No			
Executive summary				
This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee held since the last report to the Board.				
Public and Stakeholder Engagement				
N/A				
Recommendations				
The Board is asked to:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the Alert, Advise and Assure the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed 				
Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:				Tick
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			✓
Implications				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	
Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				
Meeting	Date		Outcomes	
Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee	5 March 2026		To provide the Board of committee business during this period.	
Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
Not applicable.				
Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	

Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

Report authorised by:	Craig Harris, Chief Commissioning Officer & Accountable Emergency Officer
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Integrated Care Board – 14 May 2026

Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee held since the last report to the Board on 19 March 2026 to alert, advise and assure the Board.

2. Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Highlight Report

Key escalation and discussion points from the Committee meeting	
Date of Meeting: 5 March 2026	Chair: Ruth Hussey
Alert	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neonatal incidents: A further infection prevention and control outbreak occurred at Saint Mary's (MFT); although now formally closed, a quality visit will review recurring themes and inform future actions. • Renal dialysis safety concerns: Three serious incidents in Renal Dialysis units run by one of the GM system providers, including one fatality. Immediate safety measures have been implemented with investigations ongoing. • ICB workforce pressures: Voluntary redundancy programmes underway across all three ICBs and NHSE, creating significant operational and business continuity risks during structural transition. 	
Advise	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPIC transition: National guidance confirms expectations for establishing OPIC ahead of the transfer of specialised commissioning responsibilities to ICBs by April 2027. Work continues to develop OPIC structure, staffing envelope and governance alignment. • AAA reporting: Inconsistencies across the three ICBs were discussed. A single, standard AAA report and a public-facing version (supported by a Part B confidential annex) will be developed. • Health Inequalities Strategy: The Committee approved the new two-year strategy and supporting group Terms of Reference. Preventative and equity-focused commissioning approaches will need to evolve as OPIC design progresses. 	
Assure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and planning: Delegated specialised commissioning remains on track to deliver the 25/26 surplus. A balanced financial plan for 26/27 has been submitted, although risks remain subject to final provider negotiations. • Quality oversight: Established escalation routes between regional, national and ICB groups continue to operate effectively. 	

- **Mental Health:** Regional update provided assurance on secure services, CAMHS and prison transfers, with operational detail escalated through SCOGs and strategic issues reported via the NWSSC.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The committee has conducted their business in line with their terms of reference and associated business plans.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Board is requested to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed

ICB Chief Operating Officer
April 2026