

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	9 July 2026			
Title of paper	Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report – 29 April 2026			
Presented by	Steve Spill, Committee Chair			
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:				
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	To improve population health and reduce inequalities through effective strategic commissioning.			✓
SO2	Commission high quality, safe and accessible services that deliver better and more equitable outcomes and patient experience.			✓
SO3	To develop and sustain the workforce, leadership and organisational capability required to operate as an effective strategic commissioner.			✓
SO4	Improved financial sustainability through directing available resources to deliver the greatest possible value.			✓
SO5	To deliver agreed national and local outcomes through a balanced focus on performance, improvement and long-term system resilience.			✓
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	29 April 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:	S Spill, Committee Chair
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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 14 May 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: 29 April 2026	Chair: Steve Spill
Alert	
- Significant risk remains regarding the Adult Critical Care Transfer Service (ACCTS) due to the absence of capital funding, preventing procurement of a compliant service and requiring continued reliance on interim arrangements which potentially pose workforce and patient safety risks - Ongoing operational and quality pressures across specialised services were noted, including cardiac waiting times, cancer performance, neurosciences capacity, renal dialysis incidents and breast screening delays - The closure of Saint Andrew's Healthcare continues to create system pressure on secure mental health provision and bed capacity nationally	
Advise	
- Capital funding for ACCTS requires urgent national resolution, with escalation supported through a joint NHS England and ICB submission. - Further development is needed to strengthen pathway-level financial insight and support strategic commissioning decisions - Work is required to clarify governance arrangements under OPIC, including roles, accountability and committee structures - The Committee supports enhanced alignment between specialised commissioning and ICB quality governance and strengthened shared learning approaches	
Assure	
- A balanced financial plan for 2026/27 has been developed, with most contracts agreed and robust oversight through established governance arrangements. - Quality concerns are actively managed, with oversight through regional and ICB governance structures and improvements to reporting. - Transformation programmes, including the ROP service model, are delivering measurable improvements in access, consistency and patient safety. - Governance arrangements are being reviewed and strengthened in line with OPIC development, including improved structure and reporting approaches	

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

Committee Chair
June 2026