Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	5 November 2026
Title of paper	Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report – 23 September 2026 and 21 October 2026
Presented by	Tracey Bleakley, Commissioning Committee Chair
Author	Head of Governance and Committee Officers
Agenda item	21
Confidential	No

Executive summary

This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the Commissioning Committee meeting held since the last report to the Board on 17 September 2026 to alert, advise and assure the Board.

The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.

Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

N/A

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure and approve any recommendations as listed.
- Note any summary of items or issues referred to other committees of the Board over the reporting period.
- Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.

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**
Commissioning Committee	23 September 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:	ICB Committee Chair

Integrated Care Board – 5 November 2026

Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

1. This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at the ICB commissioning committee held since the last report to the Board on 17 September 2026 to alert, advise and assure the Board.

1.1 The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.

1.2 Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.

2. Commissioning Committee Report and Approved Minutes

Date: 23 September 2026		**Chair: Tracey Bleakley**
Key Items Discussed		
Item	**Issue**	**Action**
Alert		
-	-	-
Advise		
Local Enhanced Services (LES)	There was potential over delivery against LES activity plans, particularly for diabetes, simple injections, LTC and PSA services. Variation in delivery between places was also noted. LES programme continues to be subject to ongoing performance, quality and financial monitoring, with further analysis planned following Quarter 2 results.	To provide assurance and oversight to the ICB Board. A practice-by-practice deep dive is underway to understand the causes and identify mitigating actions.
Assure		
Review of committee effectiveness	Committee received a positive 6-month review of its effectiveness, with member feedback indicating strong assurance, effective challenge, healthy meeting culture and clear alignment of business undertaken with the committee's terms of reference.	To note.
Clinical Policies	2 clinical policies were presented to the committee and approved after consideration of supporting evidence base and confirmation of completion of relevant Equality Impact Assessment and Quality Impact Assessment (QIA):	To note.

	• Surgical management of children with otitis media with effusion • Pinnaplasty in young children and adolescents. Committee also approved a wording clarification to the previously approved spinal injections and radiofrequency denervation for low back pain policy, to ensure alignment with NICE NG59; this did not change patient eligibility criteria, access to treatment or the policy position.	

Date: 21 October 2026		**Chair: Tracey Bleakley**
Key Items Discussed		
Item	**Issue**	**Action**
Alert		
Risk management	Three of the four BAF risks within the committee's remit remained at 16, with underlying risks not yet materially reduced. Challenge focused on whether the wider factors contributing to the gap between current and target risk levels were sufficiently reflected within individual BAF risks.	Committee acknowledged that these factors were reflected in parts of the BAF but could be more clearly articulated against individual risks.
Advise		
Contracting and procurement	A comprehensive update was welcomed, with challenge focused on capacity to move towards a 24-month forward planning cycle and allowing sufficient time to review service models before contracts were renewed. Members also sought greater transparency on expenditure with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector.	The forward plan will support earlier multidisciplinary review of services and procurement options. Further analysis of the number and value of contracts with VCFSE organisations will be reported to a future committee meeting.
Secondary care orthodontics	The proposed governance route for the Secondary Care Orthodontics Collaborative Programme was noted, with discussion identifying the procurement implications of the proposed contract modification.	The procurement route determination and associated transparency requirements will be included within the final decision-making business case.
Assure		
Commissioning intentions	Clearer reporting of progress against the 2026/27 commissioning intentions was welcomed. Challenge focused on digital capacity constraints and whether reporting sufficiently demonstrated outcomes and impact across different population groups.	Further clarity will be provided on whether red and amber digital intentions will be delivered in-year or move into 2027/28. An action was agreed to consider outcomes and population impact at a future meeting and triangulate this through reporting.

Working with people and communities	Improved reporting demonstrating the link between engagement activity, commissioning responses and service improvement was welcomed. Members challenged the representativeness of the Influence Panel and how wider and more diverse communities were reached. Assurance was received that the Influence Panel was one of several engagement mechanisms and was not considered representative in isolation, with targeted approaches used to reach communities most affected by specific commissioning decisions.	To note.
Service change	The committee received assurance on oversight of the service change programme. Challenge focused on implementation of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary bed changes, including community capacity, winter resilience and corridor care. Assurance was received that implementation would be planned, with appropriate community provision in place before bed closures.	Further assurance will be provided to Board, with an update on Chorley Emergency Department returning to committee. No material issues were identified for escalation.
Hip and knee replacement policy	Members challenged the potential impact of the new policy on patients and the availability of conservative management support. Assurance was received that conservative management should already form part of the pathway and no significant additional impact was anticipated.	The policy was ratified, with the impact will be considered through implementation planning.

- **Appendix A –** Approved minutes of the Commissioning Committee held on 19 August 2026: **Approved Commissioning Committee minutes 19 August 2026 v1.pdf**
- **Appendix B –** Approved minutes of the Commissioning Committee held on 23 September 2026: Approved_Commissioning_Committee_minutes_23_September_2026_v1.pdf

3. Summary of items or issues referred to other committees or the Board over the reporting period.

Committee	Item or Issue	Referred to
-	None identified	-

4. Conclusion

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

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Board is requested to:

- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed.
- Note the summary of items or issues referred to other committees of the Board over the reporting period
- Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.

Committee Chair
October 2026