

## Refreshed Devon Joint Forward Plan

### Report of the Chief Medical Officer, NHS Devon

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Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

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#### 1) Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

**ENDORSE** the updated draft Joint Forward Plan (2025-30) and confirm it aligns with the priorities identified in the latest Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### 2) Background / Introduction

The Joint Forward Plan (JFP) 2025–30 sets out how NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) and its partners will deliver the One Devon Integrated Care Strategy over the next five years. It aligns with national requirements, ensuring the local health and care system meets physical and mental health needs, delivers statutory commitments, and addresses the four core purposes of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

This year's JFP refresh has been a light-touch update, in line with national guidance, as the system awaits the NHS 10-Year Plan. The strategic goals remain unchanged, and the refresh focuses on aligning the JFP with emerging priorities, including the Devon Medium-Term Financial Plan (MFP) and NHS's Devon Annual Plan and NHS operational planning guidance.

The JFP 2025–30 is structured around three key themes:

- Healthy People
- Healthy, Safe Communities
- Healthy, Sustainable System

The governance section of the plan has been updated to reflect the recently agreed One Devon system arrangements, with the System Leadership Group (SLG) overseeing delivery. The JFP Steering Group, comprising of NHS Directors of Strategy and Directors of Public Health from local authorities, has overseen the refresh process.

The JFP must be submitted to NHS England by 31 March 2025, with final approval by NHS Devon and NHS Provider Boards in March. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to formally endorse the draft plan confirming alignment with local priorities, namely those described in relevant Health and Wellbeing Strategies.

### 3) Main Body / Proposal

The Joint Forward Plan (JFP) is a mandatory five-year plan for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and ICS partners. It sets out how the Integrated Care Strategy will be delivered and describes how the local NHS and local government partners will:

- Meet physical and mental health needs.
- Deliver universal NHS commitments and fulfil ICB statutory duties.
- Address the four core purposes of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).

The JFP consolidates local plans (e.g., HWBSs, NHS operational plans) to ensure alignment of transformation efforts, reduce duplication, and support stakeholder engagement and consultation. It is designed to be public-facing and aims to:

- Align health and care stakeholders to focus on delivering a single Integrated Care Strategy.
- Set clear milestones to achieve the strategic goals outlined in the Integrated Care Strategy.
- Describe how system partners will work together to meet population health needs.

The National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Care Act 2022) requires ICBs and their ICS partners to prepare a JFP, setting out how they propose to exercise their functions over the next five years. The plan must be reviewed and/or revised annually before the start of each financial year.

This year's NHS planning guidance states that ICBs and trusts are required to undertake a limited, light-touch refresh of their JFPs in 2024-25 ahead of the anticipated publication of the NHS 10-year plan.

As NHS England (NHSE) is responsible for ensuring that JFPs meet the 17 legislative requirements, NHS Devon is required to submit an updated version of the Joint Forward Plan to NHSE by 31 March 2025, ahead of its publication.

As part of the update, systems are required to:

- Highlight priorities and progress since the last refresh.
- Describe how they plan to address the 17 statutory requirements for ICBs.
- Align content with the latest strategic, operational, and financial priorities.
- Update objectives to reflect the new plan duration (2025-2030).
- Seek endorsement from local Health and Wellbeing Board to confirm that the updated plan aligns with local Health and Wellbeing Strategies (HWBSs)
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The delivery of the JFP remains a key part of NHS England's performance assessment of ICBs.

Appendix 1 contains Devon's draft Joint Forward Plan, which has been updated in line with national advice and guidance and follows the approach agreed by One Devon's System Leadership Group.

### Local Approach to Updating the Joint Forward Plan

The One Devon System Leadership Group (SLG) previously agreed that there will be no update to the One Devon Integrated Care Strategy in 2024/25, as the system awaits the publication of the NHS 10-Year Plan. A full update to the Integrated Care Strategy is planned for 2025/26, with a process and timeline to be set out in due course.

The 2025 local refresh process has been light-touch, in line with national advice, with the strategic goals (linked to the One Devon ICS Strategy) in the JFP (2025-30) remaining unchanged from the previous year. As a result, there has been no requirement for extensive local stakeholder or public consultation ahead of publication this year.

The Joint Forward Plan is structured around three key themes that reflect system priorities:

- Healthy People
- Healthy, Safe Communities
- Healthy, Sustainable System

The overarching financial content has been updated to align with Devon NHS Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which was not in place when the JFP was first developed. Additionally, workstreams described in the JFP will be updated to reflect:

- The NHS Devon Annual Plan.
- 2025-26 Operational planning requirements .
- Other relevant local developments.

The delivery structure and governance arrangements described in the JFP have also been updated to reflect the recently agreed One Devon system governance arrangements, including recognising the leadership role of One Devon Integrated Care Partnership and One Devon System Leadership Group (SLG) supporting the delivery of the JFP.

Updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board statements will be made in March, after the draft plans have been reviewed by all three Devon Health and Wellbeing Boards. There have been no updates to the ICS Outcomes Framework, as it is linked to the Integrated Care Strategy and will be revisited when the new strategy is developed.

### Governance and Oversight

The refresh of the Joint Forward Plan (JFP) has been supported by a JFP Steering Group, which includes representatives from health and local authorities and reports to the System Leadership Group (SLG). The Steering Group will review the draft plan (attached) and provide advice on any further revisions required before final agreement and publication. The draft plan will now be considered by all three Devon Health and Wellbeing Boards and the One Devon Integrated Care Partnership before the final version is agreed by the System Leadership Group. It will then be submitted for approval by the NHS Devon and NHS Provider Boards in March.

## Timeline

NHS England (NHSE) has confirmed that the JFP must be completed by April 2025, with a copy of the document submitted to NHSE by 31 March 2025.

## Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

**ENDORSE** the updated draft Joint Forward Plan (2025-30) and confirm it aligns with the priorities identified in the latest Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **4) Options / Alternatives**

Nil

### **5) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data**

Nil

### **6) Strategic Plan**

The Joint Forward Plan aligns to the strategic objective set out in the Devon Integrated Care Strategy

### **7) Financial Considerations**

Nil

### **8) Legal Considerations**

Nil

### **9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)**

Nil

### **10) Equality Considerations**

The plans outlined in the JFP aim to reduce health inequalities experienced by people living in Devon.

### **11) Risk Management Considerations**

Nil

### **12) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations**

Nil

**Nigel Acheson, Chief Medical Officer, NHS Devon**

**Contact for enquiries:**

Name: Jon Taylor

Address: [jon.taylor@nhs.net](mailto:jon.taylor@nhs.net)