

ICB updates for Wiltshire Area Board – August 2024

New primary care centre in Hindon

The ICB has approved the funding to enable a new primary care premises to be built in Hindon.

There are still several hurdles to cross before final confirmation that the scheme will be able to proceed including, such as the securing of planning permission.

The fact remains that this is positive news for both the GP partners and the residents of Hindon and the surrounding areas.

This scheme represents the first of several priority estates projects which the ICB is looking to secure certainty on as part of its wider Primary Care Estates Plan.

Further details on this will be shared by Gordon Muvuti, Executive Lead for Primary Care, the coming months.

Ongoing work to tackle inequalities in Wiltshire

Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England approach to inform action to reduce healthcare inequalities at both national and system level.

The approach defines a target population – the ‘Core20PLUS’ – and identifies five focus clinical areas requiring accelerated improvement.

All ICBs are encouraged to have a focus on the most deprived 20 per cent of the national population (Core2) as identified by the national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

ICBs can also choose additional population groups (PLUS) which experience poorer than average access, experience and/or outcomes.

PLUS populations have been identified for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire respectively, with the specific Wiltshire populations listed below:

- Routine and manual workers
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveler communities, including children
- Rural communities

In Wiltshire, there are several projects already under way which are helping to improve the health and wellbeing of people which make up the groups listed above.

These initiatives, such as tailored support for tobacco dependency, help with managing and reducing levels of obesity and dedicated clinics for proactive hypertension checks, are being led through a collaborative arrangement between colleagues at the ICB and counterparts at Wiltshire Council.

Pharmacy provision in Wiltshire

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for Wiltshire is due to be refreshed for September 2025.

The PNA maps current provision, assesses local need and identifies any gaps in provision.

It also is used as a key tool for identifying what is needed at a local level to support the commissioning intentions for pharmaceutical services and other services that could be delivered by community pharmacies and other providers.

Developing a PNA is a significant process, and the ICB has chosen to establish a steering group, made up of key partners, including Wiltshire Council, Healthwatch Wiltshire and Wessex Local Medical Committee, to help ensure its production fully represents the needs of the local communities, especially those that have called for more pharmaceutical services, such as Warminster.

A draft version of the PNA will be brought to the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board ahead of its deadline of March 2025, with the finished article also due to go through the committee for sign off.

Bringing health and care services to Wiltshire's farming community

Through the accelerator vaccine programme and Health Inequalities Funding, the ICB has brought together more than 10 partners to pilot essential health and wellbeing services that are tailored specifically for those in the farming and rural community.

By engaging with farmers and listening to their experiences, the ICB has been able to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face when accessing health and care, such as not being able to attend GP appointments due to surgery car parks being unsuitable for tractors.

This unique insight spearheaded a unique initiative which has seen teams from multiple health and care organisations spend time at Salisbury livestock market to offer attendants a variety of on-the-spot services, such as health checks, including blood pressure and cholesterol monitoring, and mental health advice.

While teams at the market are not yet able to offer clinical interventions, it is hoped this kind of outreach work will continue to grow and develop in a way that ensures those from more isolated communities have the support they need to live healthy, happy lives.

Collaborative work to improve children's oral health in Wiltshire

The ICB and Wiltshire Public Health team have been working collaboratively on three priorities linked to oral health. These priorities can be seen below:

- Improve access of dental care services to the Wiltshire population, considering vulnerable populations who are at risk of poorer oral health outcomes and face barriers in access to dental care and treatment
- Increase the dental workforce within Wiltshire
- Improve oral health outcomes focused on Core20PLUS5 populations, including engagement, and further understanding population needs

In addition, there has been an allocation of £300,000 to fund oral health activities in Wiltshire for 2024/25.

This has been allocated from the dental care underspend, and the Public Health team and ICB are undertaking scoping work to plan how this funding can be used to deliver dental outreach services in Wiltshire for the most vulnerable populations.

Elsewhere, a number of oral health promotion programmes, which aims to prevent tooth decay and the subsequent need for dental treatment, have been under way across Wiltshire.

One such programme is First Dental Steps, which involves all health visitors receiving oral health champion training, and then using their new skills to provide families with expert advice and guidance.

The health visitors also give their families age appropriate oral hygiene packs, which contain toothpaste, a toothbrush and a sippy cup for children.

As part of the programme, children who meet a specific criteria, such as those whose siblings have undergone dental extraction, will have a direct referral to an NHS dentist.