

Board Meetings in Common

Thursday 19 March 2026, Derby City Council, Council House, Derby DE1 2FS

Chair's Report - Highlights

- **Kathy McLean, ICB Chair**, thanked colleagues across the three ICBs for their continued professionalism and resilience as we progress the management of change process required to achieve the nationally mandated cost reductions for ICBs.
- The Chair was invited to sit on the panel at the **NHS Confederation's Care Closer to Home** conference at the end of February. There was a significant focus on neighbourhood health care, with a key question on why ICBs as strategic commissioners want to be involved.
- The refreshed **National Quality Board** has now met three times, with an early focus on shaping a shared definition of high-quality care: care that is safe, effective, and provides a positive experience for patients, delivered inclusively and sustainably.
- The Chair had a discussion with **Michele Jolly, Chief Executive Officer of Age UK Lincolnshire**, to discuss how we can work more closely in the future. Age UK has recently been awarded a Social Impact Framework Supplier Badge, which demonstrates the meeting of requirements to supply services to the NHS, which reduces the complexity and burden of bidding.

Chief Executive's Report - Highlights

- **NHS England** released the results of their 2025 national **Staff Survey** on 12 March 2026. 66% of staff responded to the survey, an increase from the previous year. The national results can be read here: [NHS England Staff Survey Results 2025 - summary report](#). The breakdown of the results for the ICBs will now be considered and an action plan to address areas for improvement will be presented at the April meeting of the Joint Remuneration and Human Resources Committee.
- The public hearings for **The Nottingham Inquiry** began on 23 February 2026. The Inquiry will report by April 2027 and hearings are expected to continue until Summer 2026. The Inquiry will build a clear understanding of the events, acts and omissions that led up to Valdo Calocane carrying out brutal attacks in Nottingham on 13 June 2023. Our thoughts continue to be with the families and all those affected.
- An investment of **£11 million** has been made by the **National Institute for Health and Care Research** into a new Lincolnshire Unit for Mental Health Research, led by the University of Lincoln with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and local partners, including NHS Lincolnshire ICB.

Citizen Story

We welcomed **Jude Boyle**, Carer Commissioning Manager, Derbyshire County Council, and **Helen Weston**, Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) CEO, who were joined by one of the carers they support, **Jane**, to tell us about DCA. We heard that the charity, established for over three decades, provides practical, emotional and specialist help to people in a caring role, as well as representing them and their voice in the sector. Practically this means delivering a number of services, including but not limited to: home visits, support groups, telephone advice and formal carers assessments, and for young carers, the team support in schools, GP practices, and drop ins in the community, with the aim of reaching carers closer to where they live. The week before, DLN ICB Chair, **Kathy McLean** visited the organisation and discovered that there are approximately **276k carers across DLN** and the charity receives about **200 new referrals each month**. Board members had lots of questions, and it was agreed that carers, who are a vital part of our health and care system, should have engagement explicitly built into our work in order to understand what increased support we can offer them in the future.

Finance, Quality & Assurance

- The overall year to date financial position for the three systems was a £95 million adverse variance to plan. Six organisations comprised the bulk of the variance and all continued to meet with the ICBs as part of a **Financial Recovery Group** to attempt to mitigate the deficits with this years' financial plans, and enact recurrent change for future years. Although the reasons for the deteriorating positions varied, common themes were the non-delivery of both cost improvement plans and workforce plans.
- Members were presented with the **Quality Report** covering a summary of issues affecting services across all three ICB areas. Members were asked to note that since drafting, Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust had been moved from segment four to three and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust from segment two to three. Currently there were three providers in the highest level of NHS England's National Oversight Framework for escalated risk: Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust; and University Hospitals Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust. The status and progress of their respective improvement programmes was provided within the report.
- **The Service Delivery Performance Report** provided a summary of performance against the service delivery targets required for 2025/26, and the actions and recovery timeframes for those targets currently off track. Future arrangements for performance oversight continued to evolve and the report provided further detail on how the ICBs were transitioning to a strategic commissioning and system stewardship role, prioritising outcomes, value for money, and transformation delivery through an integrated performance and assurance framework.

Key discussions and decisions

- A discussion was held about the ICBs' **Five-Year Population Health Strategy** and **Five-Year Strategic Commissioning Plan**, recently successfully submitted to NHSE. There was strong support for both the ambition and focused priorities. Next steps are finalising the public facing materials and preparing full briefings for stakeholders, to ensure we hear the feedback needed to evolve and influence both documents.
- A presentation on the Strategic Oversight Dental Services was received. This set out a shared DLN ambition to improve access to NHS dental services, so that all residents experience access levels comparable with the best-performing areas in the East Midlands. It highlighted a stronger focus on prevention and targeted action to reduce inequalities. **The National Dental Contract reforms from April 2026** are identified as a key opportunity to move away from an activity-driven model towards one that better supports urgent care, prevention and patients with complex needs.
- The board supported proposed and **updated governance arrangements**, as well as noted performance reports regarding quality, finance and commissioning oversight.

Next meeting information

Thursday 21 May 2026, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board, Bridge House, The Point, Lions Way, Sleaford, NG34 8GG

