

Agreement of Chair and Vice Chair and terms of reference

- Members agreed that for the coming year, there will be no changes to the Chair and Vice Chair.
- The Chair is Councillor Patricia Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Care at Westmorland and Furness Council and the Vice Chair is Phil Whiteley, CEO of Age UK South Cumbria.

Escalations to the board from the Place Partnership Forum

- The board received feedback from forum sessions held in March, April and May covering the following topics:

Armed Forces Covenant and support for veterans

- The board endorsed the use of the Armed Forces Board, convened by Westmorland and Furness Council (but with wide multi-organisation/sector membership) as the group that drives and has oversight of local actions to improve the offer and experience for veterans in our place.
- The board agreed to contribute to the Westmorland and Furness Council Health and Wellbeing Armed Forces Action Plan, particularly relating to partner organisation compliance with the Armed Forces Act 2021

Review of the Place Partnership Forum in 2024/25

- The board noted the positive feedback on the usefulness of the forum, particularly relating to creating a safe and inclusive space for partnership working; relationship building; increasing understanding and awareness and collaborative working.
- The board agreed the forward plan for forum topics in 2025/26, which will be circulated to forum invitees.

Strategic priorities for 2025/26

- The board agreed that the place partnership priorities for 2025/26 would be unchanged. This is because they aim to address complex, long-term challenges that cannot be tackled by a single organisation or sector working alone. It was recognised that whilst we have completed several key projects during 2024/25, delivery of our work programmes will be across multiple years.
- The board noted that during 2025/26, our work programmes must have more explicit focus on addressing inequalities, shifting into a more proactive and preventative approach to wellbeing, and better integration of our workforce.

Review of winter 2024/25 and planning for winter 2025/26

- The board agreed to promote uptake of vaccinations with staff and volunteers, proactively addressing inequalities in our workforce being able to access vaccinations.
- The board noted that the impact of various work programmes could be enhanced by better data sharing and use of digital solutions. The board asked work programme leads to identify examples of where this could be improved to benefit residents, with a commitment to work together across organisations/sectors to address current challenges.

Wellbeing and Behaviour Change Workforce in South Cumbria

- The board received a report on the wellbeing and behaviour change workforce that exists in South Cumbria across the Integrated Care Communities, Westmorland and Furness Council and the Primary Care Networks. These are non-medical staff who undertake work with individuals or groups of people for whom activation and behaviour change will have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing and help individuals to stay independent at home for longer than would otherwise be the case.

- The board received assurance that within our Integrated Care Communities, there is coordination of work between staff members employed by different organisations, often driven through multidisciplinary team meetings.
- The board endorsed the proposed opportunities for further collaboration during 2025/26, including joint induction and training programmes, increased use of digital solutions, a review of referral processes, and creation of common measures of impact.

Integrated Care Communities Operating Model

- The board received an update on the operating model for Integrated Care Communities in 2025/26, noting alignment with recent national publications from NHS England on the provision of neighbourhood health and the Local Government Association on reducing preventable admissions to hospital and long-term care.
- The board was assured that our Integrated Care Communities will continue to act as the foundation for neighbourhood health in South Cumbria. It endorsed proposals for further work in 2025/26 to include improved data sharing and intelligence to support proactive case finding, a 'left shift' into more proactive and preventative work with individuals and communities, improved care planning and sharing of these plans across partners, greater collaborative working across wider community services, and creation of common measures of impact

Update on the Therapy Review

- The board had previously supported a scoping exercise across therapy services to explore opportunities for improved partnership working between occupational therapy and physiotherapy colleagues to ensure greater consistency of approach, reduce customer handoffs, share expertise, and jointly train and refresh therapy colleagues' knowledge and skills.
- The board received an update on progress, noting that this had been slower than anticipated due to internal reshaping of teams within Westmorland and Furness Council and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust. However, the board noted that Westmorland and Furness Council has an occupational health apprenticeship scheme in place with University of Lancashire from September 2025 and a further scheme to commence with University of Cumbria in 2027, and that the AskSara (an online self-help guide providing advice and information on products and equipment) has been implemented by Westmorland and Furness Council.
- The board agreed that priorities for 2025/26 were the review of Cross Organisational Working Agreements (COWA) and inter-organisation rotations for staff working across different employing organisations and a review of the current workforce model and associated activities to consider opportunities to reduce double-handed care.

End-of-year review 2024/25

- The board approved the final draft of the South Cumbria Place Partnership end-of-year review for 2024/25 which will be circulated across the place.

Items received for information

- The board received reports for information:
 - Papers from the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership held on 10th March 2025
 - Place work programmes: highlight reports that are provided to the Programme Delivery Board.