

Westmorland and Furness Council

| | |
|--|---|
| Report Title: | Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Children in Care and Care Leavers Health Strategy 2024-2026. |
| Meeting: | Health and Well-Being Board |
| Meeting Date: | 22 nd April 2024 |
| Report Author: | Kirsty Cleary, Designated Nurse for Children in Care and Care Leavers |
| Lead Cabinet Member(s): | Patricia Bell |
| Wards Affected? | All |
| PUBLIC, PART EXEMPT OR FULLY EXEMPT | Public |
| List of Appendices (if any) | Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Children in Care and Care Leavers Health Strategy 2024-2026 |

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report introduces the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board's (ICB's) Children in Care and Care Leavers Health Strategy 2024-2026. The strategy outlines the ICB's commitment and propose activity to meet its statutory responsibilities and corporate parenting duties.
- 1.2 The vision of the ICB is to is to ensure all children in care and care leavers will be afforded the opportunity to achieve positive health outcomes. This will be facilitated by the effective commissioning and delivery of health services across the ICB to reduce any unwarranted variation in service offer, scope of service and equity of access.

2. Recommendation

For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that -

- 2.1 The Board notes the contents of this report and the attached Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Children in Care and Care Leavers Health Strategy 2024-2026.

3. Information: the Rationale and Evidence

- 3.1 The NHS has a major role in ensuring the timely and effective delivery of health services to children in care and care leavers as part of its statutory responsibilities. The NHS Constitution for England makes clear the responsibilities of NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS England (NHSE) to children in care and care leavers.
- 3.2 The publication of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in May 2022 by Josh MacAlister identified the need for ICBs to reflect their contribution to the review's vision within their strategic plans. The government's response to the UK Care Review 'Stable Homes, built on love'

consultation, published in September 2023, outlines that strengthened corporate parenting responsibilities will also be extended to relevant public bodies including ICBs within the next 18 months.

- 3.3 The ICBs Joint Forward plan (2023) identifies children in care and care leavers as a priority population group to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities. This strategy seeks to further detail the required activity to achieve this alongside delivery against the ICB statutory responsibilities and corporate parenting duties.
- 3.4 Developed in consultation with children in care and care leavers and the ICB children in care and care leavers health professionals' network, the strategy details the ICB strategic vision, delivery outcomes and measures of success, providing a robust framework for achieving compliance with statutory responsibilities/duties and reduction of health inequalities of a vulnerable population.
- 3.5 In recognition of the interdependencies with local authorities in their lead role as corporate parents for children in care and care leavers, the strategy is aligned to their respective corporate parenting strategies.
- 3.6 Underpinned by a strategic delivery plan, the designated nurses for children in care and care leavers will provide system leadership to facilitate delivery against the proposed outcomes and its effectiveness, further validated by feedback of children in care and care leavers and statutory partners.

4. Link to Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 4.1 The developing Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be considered as part of the ICB strategy delivery plan when finalised.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 The ICB strategy was developed in consultation with children in care and care leavers, alongside our health professionals network.
- 5.2 The strategy supports a continued consultation and engagement model with our children in care and care leavers, to co-produce and inform health service delivery and commissioning of services.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 There are no alternative options to consider as the strategy is a requirement of the ICB.

7. Financial Implications and risk

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. Legal & Governance Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. Equality & Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Families, Care Leavers, and Health inequalities implications)

9.1 This strategy aims to reduce the health inequalities of our Care Experienced population.