

6. Our local strategic context

Our plans and priorities have been developed within the wider system and partnership system in which we operate. This section summarises these strategies and the key elements relevant to the activity of the MHLDN HCP.

Health and Wellbeing strategies

a) Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy



Hertfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out the vision and strategic priorities for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities in the County.

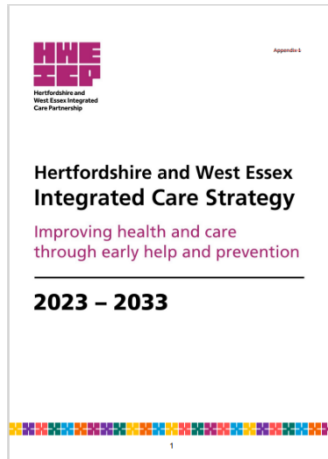
The Strategy established six priorities including one focussed on **Good emotional and mental wellbeing throughout life**. The Strategy sets out the following commitments to deliver this strategy:

- We address the stigma around mental health and champion initiatives such as the Just Talk campaign
- We develop a wider understanding of mental health, learning disabilities and autism across organisations and communities
- Children, adults and older people are supported to be socially connected in their communities to overcome isolation, build resilience and increase social connections
- Children and young people receive emotional and mental wellbeing support in a range of settings, including the further development of the Mental Health Support Teams in schools Initiative
- We provide a wellbeing offer that supports early identification of mental health problems and improve early identification both through healthcare pathways and in our work with the community
- People in crisis receive appropriate and timely support from all organisations
- The physical health of people with serious mental illness, learning disabilities and autism is prioritised and the stark differences in life expectancy for people with serious mental illness and/or learning disabilities is addressed
- Hertfordshire develops a strategic all-age approach to supporting people with neurodiversity including Autism and ADHD
- People with dementia are diagnosed earlier and supported by integrated services and in dementia friendly communities

- We provide tailored support for people who are homeless or sleeping rough, considering issues such as ability to commit to treatment, chaotic lifestyles and dual diagnosis
- That, in line with Hertfordshire's Suicide Prevention Strategy, we work together so that no one gets to the point where they feel that suicide is their only option

Hertfordshire and West Essex strategies

a) Hertfordshire and West Essex - Integrated Care Plan



The Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Strategy sets out how system partners will work together over the next 10 years to create healthy and safe communities where everyone's contributions are valued, and we all have the opportunities and support we need to thrive.

The Strategy identifies six strategic priorities including a priority to **improve our residents' mental health and outcomes for those with learning disabilities and autism**. Within this strategic priority, the Strategy identifies the following actions:

1. Reduce the gap in life expectancy between people with a learning disability and SMI compared to the general population and improve integrated pathways to access housing, education, employment, and skills
2. Ensure there are clear pathways and timely access to psychological therapies for children, young people and adults who require this support
3. Work more effectively as a system to ensure that reasonable adjustments are integrated in all pathways through implementing the NHS Accessible Standards.
4. Develop and deliver an integrated neurodiversity service for children and young people
5. Reduce suicide through a focus on system support of suicide prevention
6. Work with local employers and partners to ensure they develop suitable opportunities and roles for people with LD and SMI to access and maintain employment and to develop new skills.

b) Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board – Medium Term Plan

Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board's (HWE ICB) Medium Term Plan sets out its vision for Hertfordshire and West Essex and the key priorities and shifts in care models that will be needed to achieve it. The Medium Term Plan set out the areas where HWE ICB will focus its efforts and investment in coming years.

The Medium Term Plan sets out the five key transformation objectives that will support the delivery of its vision

- Give every child the best start in life
- Increasing healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality
- Improving access to health and care services
- Increasing the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
- Ensuring financial sustainability

Underneath these five transformation objectives are key ambitions related to improving outcomes for people with mental illness, learning disability and autism. See section x

c) Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board – Joint Forward Plan

The Joint Forward Plan outlines the specific activity that Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board (HWE ICB) will take forward to support the delivery of its health and care strategic ambitions including its Medium Term Plan and priorities for the next two years.

The Joint Forward Plan identifies five system priorities – the five most important things that HWE ICB and its partners must deliver over the next two years.

- A reduction in the backlog for children's care
- Reduce inequality with a focus on outcomes for cardiovascular disease and hypertension
- Elective Care Recovery
- Improve urgent and emergency care through more anticipatory and more same day emergency care
- Better care for Mental Health crises

While all five priorities will impact on individuals with mental illness, learning disabilities and neurodivergent people, the priority related to mental health crisis and the elements of the children's priority related to neurodivergent young people are clearly within the remit and responsibility of the MHLDA HCP.

In relation to mental crisis, the Joint Forward Plan aims for an increase in the provision of early help to prevent mental illness and support the health and wellbeing of those with a Severe Mental Illness (SMI), learning disabilities or autism.

The Plan establishes an ambition to improve our crisis support to provide better care and outcomes for our residents by reducing long waits and Section 136 demand, and reducing out of area placements, preventable admissions and suicides.

In relation to Children and Young People, the Joint Forward Plan aims to develop improved and integrated services, including services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Success would improve equity in access to services, enable the waiting times for community paediatric services and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessment to be reduced and improve outcomes for children to support giving them the best start in life.

d) Hertfordshire and West Essex Health Creation Strategy

The Hertfordshire and West Essex Health Creation Strategy is a direction of travel document, to help all parts and levels of the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System (HWE ICS) to build on the excellent partnership working prior to, but especially during, the Covid pandemic and to ensure that the importance of the work the VCFSE sector does is factored in and acknowledged across the system.

It seeks to openly address the challenges of effective joint working with the VCFSE sector, often due to fragmented and complex local delivery models within the sector, differing service provision, resourcing challenges, fragmented funding and uncertain funding streams.

It also starts to lay the foundations needed to ensure the VCFSE sector are treated as equal partners in HWE ICS.

The strategy sets out four key ambitions:

- We will build on community assets
- We will make every contact count
- We will find out who is missing out
- We will ensure there is always someone who can help

e) Hertfordshire and West Essex supporting strategies

The activity of the MHLDN HCP is also informed by the following HWE ICS strategies:

- [HWE ICS Quality Strategy](#)
- [HWE ICS People Strategy 2023-2025](#)
- [HWE ICS Digital Strategy 2022-2032](#)
- [HWE ICS Estates Infrastructure Strategy](#)
- [HWE ICS Urgent and emergency care strategy 2024-2029](#)

Local strategies

There are number of local strategies which have been developed or supported by the MHLDN HCP and which define our activity and delivery against key national and local priorities. Each of these strategies is accompanied by an action plan.



The **Hertfordshire Dementia Strategy 2023 -2028** establishes a vision of a county where people affected by dementia have access to timely, skilled, and well-coordinated support from diagnosis to end of life, which helps achieve the outcomes that matter to them.

The Strategy identifies seven key themes, identified through work with people affected by dementia, our voluntary sector partners, health and care professionals and providers. These seven themes are the structure and priorities around which local delivery is coordinated.

1. Promoting Health and Wellbeing
2. Enabling Equitable and Timely Access to Diagnosis.
3. Ensuring People with Dementia have Equitable Access to Appropriate Health and Care Services.
4. Supporting People Affected by Young Onset Dementia.
5. Supporting Carers of People with Dementia.
6. Preventing and Responding to Crisis.
7. Developing Dementia-Friendly Communities

The Big Plan for adults with learning disabilities in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire's Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy 2019 – 2024



The **Big Plan for adults with Learning Disabilities in Hertfordshire** is a joint-commissioning strategy developed by Hertfordshire County Council and NHS partners and based on what people with learning disabilities in Hertfordshire have said matters to them.

The Big Plan is focused on supporting people with learning disabilities to live well in Hertfordshire by helping people and their families to do more themselves and by supporting local communities to help people more. It identifies specific activity to take forward across three areas:

1. Good lives happen when we are healthy
2. Good lives happen when people live locally
3. Good lives happen when people are involved in their local communities



Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy's vision is to make Hertfordshire a county where no one ever gets to a point where they feel suicide is their only option. In practice, this means the ambition is for zero suicides.

The six key priorities for Hertfordshire are:

1. Support for men
2. Support for those bereaved by suicide
3. Addressing training needs
4. Support for children and young people
5. Reducing access to means of suicide
6. Support research, data collection and monitoring



The **Physical Health Strategy's** vision is to do everything possible to prevent the premature deaths of people with learning disabilities, people with mental illness and autistic people throughout the life span.

Its strategic ambition is to significantly improve the physical health of people with learning disabilities, people with mental illness and autistic people in a generation aiming to be at least as good as the wider population in Hertfordshire and West Essex by 2030.

To achieve this, the Strategy sets out actions to significantly improve the life expectancy of people with learning disabilities, people with mental illness and autistic people in a generation, by tackling the top causes of death, scaling up and standardising improvement programmes for the early recognition of physical health conditions and early intervention, aligned with the NHS Long Term Plan & Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme.



The Hertfordshire **All Age Autism Strategy** sets out the broad priorities for local health and care services for autistic people based on national legislation and guidance, as well as feedback from autistic people and their families. The all age autism strategy's priorities are as follows:

1. Autistic people have access to a timely diagnosis, and support while waiting for a diagnosis, plus post-diagnosis support.
2. Autistic people have equal access to reasonably adjusted mental health services when they need them.

3. Autistic people and their families have access to a range of support in their local communities.
4. Autistic people can fulfil their potential in education, employment, or training.
5. Autistic people have equal access to reasonably adjusted physical healthcare services when they need them and working to improve health outcomes for autistic people.
6. Autistic people who have ongoing care and support needs have access to appropriate services and support to lead a fulfilling life.

A Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire 2022 – 2025



The **Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire** is a single Strategy for Adult Carers and Young Carers and is focused on delivering the specific objectives that carers have identified as most important to them. These objectives include:

1. Being informed and having access to the right information
2. Being able to sustain and develop a life outside of caring
3. Maintaining carers health and wellbeing
4. Receiving consistent and joined up services.



The **Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy** sets out national and local evidence and an understanding of local need, to outline the priorities to address drug and alcohol harm for the next 5 years.

The Strategy sets out three key aims:

1. To tackle drug supply using robust enforcement measures, proactive policing, and effective information and intelligence sharing
2. To improve access for both people accessing drug and alcohol treatment services and carers, providing clear pathways into treatment, recovery, and support for both adults and young people
3. To prevent young people from becoming involved in substance use and support those that do

Within the second aim is a specific objective to improve support pathways and outcomes for individuals who have both substance use and mental health issues.



The **SEND Strategy** establishes a vision that in Hertfordshire we want all Children and Young People with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be included and valued, so that they can live happy and fulfilling lives.

The Strategy is made up of five ambitions that underpin how services and support will be delivered across education, health and social care over the next 3 years:

1. Tailoring - Plan and deliver services that are flexible, respect individual wishes and meet individual needs.
2. Enabling - Continue to develop a skilled, learning workforce that strives for excellence and staff are proud of their own achievements and celebrate those of others.
3. Supporting - Provide sufficient and appropriate provision in Hertfordshire and within their community to meet children and young people's wishes and needs.
4. Collaborating - Work in partnership with other organisations to deliver the right services at the right time to prevent problems escalating.
5. Succeeding - Support all children and young people with SEND to achieve success in all areas of life, understand the impact of the pandemic and work to ensure our young people achieve their potential.

In addition to the strategies highlighted above, the activity of the MHLDN HCP is informed by the following system strategies.

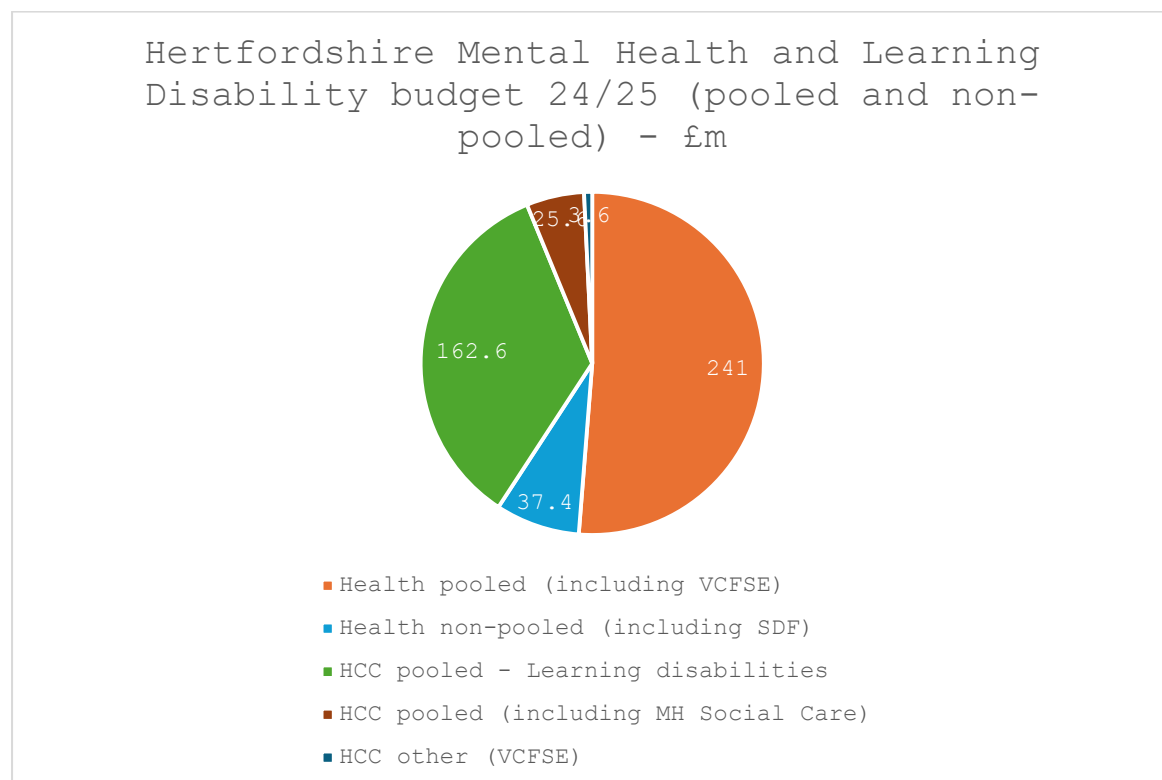
- Hertfordshire Gambling Harms Strategy
- Hertfordshire Public Health Strategy
- Hertfordshire Adult Care Services Plan 2021-2025
- Accessibility Strategy 2023 - 2026

7. Finance and productivity

The MHLDN HCP has a key role to play in delivering financial sustainability across the system. The current financial pressures being experienced across Local Government, the NHS and the VCFSE will require us to make difficult decisions in relation to what can be resourced. By working together, we can reduce the risk of duplication and consider how the collective resources of partner organisations can be aligned and directed to best effect.

The partners in the HCP hold responsibility for a pooled budget covering mental health and learning disability services across Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB. The pool is overseen by the Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team on behalf of the partners.

The total funding within the pooled budget was £454m in 2023/24, with contributions as detailed in the chart below



There are other elements of spend, overseen by the Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team that are not sat within the pool. The MHLDN HCP's activity currently extends beyond just those services commissioned through the MH/LD pooled fund and includes activity in relation to dementia, suicide prevention and increasingly both adult and children's neurodiversity.

With the support of HWE ICB and HCC we will consider what other elements of system activity and funding are best determined once, at a county-level, through the MHLDN HCP including non-pooled funds. We will also need to consider how primary care allocations are made, recognising that delivery will often be at a neighbourhoods/PCN level but led and coordinated by the HCP.

Delivering value and efficiency savings

The national and local financial position across both the NHS and local government is challenging.

In 2025/26 efficiency savings described as Delivering Value are required to ensure that NHS budgets are balanced. The HPFT share of these savings is approximately £28million. Part of the solution to delivering these savings is to improve productivity. Nationally the areas highlighted where productivity can be improved in mental health include:

- Talking Therapy services
- Increasing the number of people seen by each clinician in community services for adults, children and young people
- Reducing length of stay in inpatient services
- Lowering temporary staffing costs
- Ensuring corporate costs are kept to an absolute minimum
- Exploring commercial opportunities

Hertfordshire County Council has a savings target of £42m in 2025/26, (on top of an extremely challenging savings target of £46m in 2024/25). This is set against an overall increase in budgets of £128m to ensure that services are maintained and improved for residents. Key transformation and savings programmes for the Authority are:

- Connect & Prevent Programme in Adult Care Services, which is the single largest efficiency programme within the Authority, delivering £25m of savings by 2028/29. This is through investment in a transformation prevention programme improving outcomes for people we support, enabling them to remain more independent for longer, preventing, reducing or delaying their need for long term care.
- Children's social care savings, delivering transformation in both supporting children to be at home with their families where appropriate, but also reducing the cost of their care where required
- Organisational Resourcing

The Local Authority continues to face significant risks in dealing with the impact of inflationary pressures, meeting increased service demand, (particularly in Adults with Disabilities and Children Looked After), and the impact of SEND and schools High Needs Block.

Further information can be found in HCC's [Integrated Plan \(budget\)](#).

8. Our Integrated Delivery Plan Priorities

Our priorities for the next 3 years have been designed to address the strategic and financial context as outlined in earlier sections in this report. They incorporate national priorities and operating plan expectations and deliver against the system key system priorities outlined in HWE ICB's MTP and JFP.

Our priority work is focussed on 10 key areas:

- Delivering better care for people experiencing mental health crisis
- Improving the availability of local beds to provide better, more effective care for inpatients and finding alternatives to admission
- Delivering integrated services and support for people with learning disabilities, neurodivergent people and their families and carers
- Delivering improvements in the emotional and mental wellbeing of children and young people and support for parent/carers
- Delivering a neighbourhood health model to increase access to mental support
- Delivering the Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy - making Hertfordshire a place where no one ever gets to a point where they feel suicide is their only option
- Developing better support and services for people with complex needs, in particular people with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues
- Delivering more joined-up support for older people's mental health including more integrated action around Dementia, memory support and support for carers
- Addressing the life expectancy gap for people with severe mental illness, people with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people by tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing
- Leading improvements in the mental wellbeing of people in Hertfordshire by championing public health, workplace and educational activity throughout the county

Delivering better care for people experiencing mental health crisis

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s):

Sharn Tomlinson, CEO, Mind in Mid-Herts
Katy Healy, COO, HPFT

Key partners involved:

Hertfordshire Constabulary, West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust, East and North Herts Trust, CGL, East of England Ambulance Service, Herts MIND Network, Mind in Mid-Herts, Viewpoint, Hertfordshire County Council, Carers in Herts

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Crisis Care Partnership Board (CCPB)** convenes partners across Hertfordshire to lead on the delivery of the National Crisis Care Concordat and Hertfordshire's Declaration on improving outcomes for people experiencing mental health crisis.

Strategic alignment

National	Reduce 12 hour waits in A&E through: maximising the use of crisis alternatives, including 111 mental health option, crisis resolution and home treatment teams, and community mental health services to keep people well at home; ensuring robust system oversight and implementation of the mental health OPEL framework
HWE ICB MTP	Improve access to health and care services
HWE ICB JFP	- Better Care for Mental Health crises - Improve urgent and emergency care
Local strategies	- Mental Health Crisis Support is a key element HWE ICB's Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy - Right Care, Right Person model of police resourcing has a key element focused on section 136 handovers

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Respond to the increase in demand for Section 136 capacity through new capital investment
- Lead joint work between mental health providers and police colleagues to maximise Section 136 productivity and reduce police handover time
- Complete the system-wide review of Children and Young People Mental Health crisis support and implement its recommendations to measurably improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people

- Address inequalities in access, experience and outcomes by implementing the Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework across Crisis Care Partner
- Develop a crisis team for people with Complex Needs (ASCENT) with go-live planned for Quarter 4 2025/26.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Mental Health Response Vehicle
- Develop a new seven bed Crisis House
- Review the case for a Crisis Text service and how it can add value to existing crisis pathways

How will we know we are having an impact

- Proportion of admissions with no previous contact
- The proportion of adult MH A&E attendances waiting over 12hrs
- Increase response to Community Crisis Services urgent referrals
- 75% of inpatient discharges to have 72-hour post discharge follow up by March 2026

Medium term ambitions

- Review and refresh of the crisis model for older people
- Embed the new system-wide MH escalation procedure coordinated by the ICB System Coordination Centre.
- Improve pathways between community, crisis and specialist mental health support to keep people in the community and well at home. This will include working with NHS England through the “Community Mental Health Project” to review and enhance community Mental Health transformation.
- Improve consistency of practice and training to better integrate support for people in crisis by undertaking a full training needs analysis and implementing its recommendations
- Undertake a full system appraisal of capacity and demand for crisis and crisis alternatives to inform the development and appropriate resourcing of a single multi-agency crisis pathway

Risks and constraints

- Funding for the Mental Health Urgent Care Centre has not been confirmed for 2026/27.
- Bid for capital to support section 136 suite capacity has been submitted but we will not know the outcome until June 2025.
- Funding for Mental Health Response Vehicle for 2026/27 subject to findings and recommendations from an evaluation
- Uncertainty over budgets for 2025/26 and future years

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

- Key co-dependency with the activity of the Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Board including the evidence and intelligence from the Real Time Suicide Surveillance

activity and the Suicide Prevention pathway activity within HPFT and the acute hospital trusts

- Key co-dependency with the Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Board related to the review and redevelopment of the Children and Young People's Crisis offer.

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- More people who find themselves in crisis will receive support in an appropriate setting. Support will be provided by a variety of agencies and support will be more integrated to address each individual's specific needs.

Draft

Improving the availability of local beds to provide better, more effective care for inpatients and finding alternatives to admission

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s):	Katy Healy, COO, HPFT Robin Goold, Head of Integrated Health and Care Commissioning Team, HWE ICB/HCC
Key partners involved:	Hertfordshire County Council, Independent Sector Providers, Herts Mind Network, Mind in Mid-Herts

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

HPFT's Transformation Board oversees and drives delivery of transformation and improvement activity within the Trust. The Board ensures that appropriate plans are in place to deliver measurable impact for service users, carers and families.

Strategic alignment

National	Deliver the 10 High Impact Actions for mental health discharges and ensure that system discharge plans include mental health acute pathways, reducing average lengths of stay in the adult acute mental health pathway, improving local bed availability and reducing the need for inappropriate out of area placements
HWE ICB MTP	Improve access to health and care services
HWE ICB JFP	- Better Care for Mental Health crises - Improve urgent and emergency care
Local strategies	HWE ICB Urgent and Emergency Care Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Implement the Culture of Care and National Inpatient Quality programme
- Develop and deliver new clinical pathways for autism and psychosis (including schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder)
- Deliver a new service for people with Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder
- Introduce an intensive enablement service – a new mental health and social care pathway for people with complex needs
- Establish a new complex case panel to assist with discharge planning and opportunity to improve joint-work with Hertfordshire County Council and other providers
- Create 15 adult acute beds on HPFT estate through the repurposing of Dove Ward
- Implement a 14-bed Intensive Enablement Service for people with functional mental illness and complex needs
- Scope the need for an Assessment and Treatment Unit for functional frailty
- Implement a new integrated digital solution for flow management
- Support and embed regional Mental Health discharge peer review findings

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- A reduction in the average length of stay from 54.8 days to 51.8 days

• A reduction to zero inappropriate out of area placements, subject to agreement on local block contracts • A reduction in readmission rates • Delivery of key Culture of Care outcomes
Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28
•
Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)
• Funding still to be confirmed for the ASCENT model • Confirmation of capital monies may be delayed leading to knock-on impact in service developments
Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board
• Key co-dependency with the activity of the Crisis Care Partnership Board and the Learning Disability and Autism Strategic Partnership Board
What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers
• All services users will be supported in the most appropriate, least restrictive way possible. • If admissions are required, people never stay longer than required for their effective treatment.

Draft

Delivering integrated services and support for people with learning disabilities, neurodivergent people and their families and carers

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s):	Beverley Flowers, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Strategy, HWE ICB Tracey Gurney, Operations Director, Adult Disability & Mental Health Services, HCC
Key partners involved:	HWE ICS, HCC (ACS), HCC Children Services, 0-25 service IHCCT, Children, Young People and Maternity Commissioning, Primary Care GP, HCP, Carers in Herts, Representative from Co-production Boards, HPFT, Public Health Commissioning and Operations, NHSE

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Learning Disabilities and Autism Strategic Partnership Board** provides the strategic direction and oversight for the Learning Disabilities and Autism agenda in Hertfordshire. It drives the delivery of learning disabilities and autism programmes forward and ensures these programmes deliver the identified outcomes, minimise inpatient admissions and support children and adults to live in their local community.

Strategic alignment

National	Work with local system colleagues to ensure that there is high quality and accessible community infrastructure in place for people with a learning disability and autistic people
HWE ICB MTP	- Increase healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality - Improve access to health and care services - Increase the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
HWE ICB JFP	Reduce inequality with a focus on outcomes for cardiovascular disease and hypertension
Local Strategies	- Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy - The Big Plan for Adults with Learning Disabilities - All-Age Autism Strategy - SEND Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Reduce health inequalities through the effective delivery of STOMP/STAMP
- Deliver the recommendations of the LeDeR Annual review with a focus on the actions to address the higher death rates in global majority groups

- Sustain and increase the number of people with learning disabilities receiving an Annual Health Check
- Deliver the All-Age Autism Strategy and improve community-based services and support for autistic people
- Implement the recommendations from the National Discharge guidance and benchmarking review
- Implement the Mental Health Act reform recommendations related to Pre-DSR and workforce, Positive Behaviour Support and Risk Assessment & Management
- Undertake remaining Mental Health Act activity in relation to prevention, including intensive day opportunities and effective alternatives to admissions including crash pads/emergency respite provision
- Bring forward proposals for clinical and therapeutic input for autistic adults
- Develop a new Learning Disability strategy and a delivery plan following significant consultation and co-production

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- By March 2026, deliver a 20% reduction in the number of adults with learning disabilities and adults with autism in inpatient care (compared to March 2024)
- By March 2026 reduce the number of young people with learning disabilities and young people with autism in inpatient care to four
- Increase the number of people with learning disabilities receiving an annual health check and health action plan
- Admission and length of stay of adults with a learning disability / autistic adults is in line with Transforming Care principles
- Evidence of improved access to clinical pathways and support
- All Age Autism Strategy Implementation progressing and on track

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- Continued implementation of All Age Autism Strategy Delivery Plan to allocated timescales.
- Implementation of Learning Disability Strategy and its delivery plan within agreed timescales.

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

- Continued financial constraints including removal of the ringfence from the Learning Disability and Autism Service Development Funding
- Changes to HWE ICB operating model and staffing

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

- There is a co-dependency with the activity of the Children and Young People's Neurodiversity Transformation Steering Group in relation to the delivery of the All-Age Autism Strategy
- Both the All-Age Autism Strategy and the Learning Disability Strategy will require multi-agency commitment and activity from across the MHLDN HCP's sub-committees.

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- People will continue to receive high quality, personalised services that are efficient, cost effective and support meaningful activity with opportunities for choice, encouragement of greater independence
- Good evidence of engagement and co-production in partnership with individuals, family and carers
- Less disparity in experience of equitable access to services for autistic people
- A reduction in health inequalities experienced by LDA population including improved outcomes for people from global majority communities from and adults and CYP perspective
- People supported to live well in the community
- An increase in life expectancy/ quality of health for LDA population

Delivering improvements in the emotional and mental wellbeing of children and young people and support for parent/carers

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer	David Evans, Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer, HPFT Miranda Gittos, Director of Specialist Services and Commissioning, HCC Children's Services
Key partners involved	HWE ICB HPFT, HCT, HCC, Primary Care, Education and schools, VCFSE, NHS England

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Children's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Board** provides leadership, oversight, and strategy to improve the outcomes and effectiveness across the continuum of Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Hertfordshire. Its functions include:

- System Assurance in ambitions, demand, and capacity.
- Consider and allocates transformation funding investment appropriately in accordance with need.
- Agrees CYPMHS priorities and sets strategic direction

The board achieves this through an integrated, multi-agency approach, driving shared responsibility and decision making for the CYPMHS System.

Key strategies and plans

National	• Improve productivity by reducing unwarranted variation in the numbers of CYP accessing services and the number of contacts per whole time equivalent hours worked • Reduce local inequalities in access to CYP mental health services, between disadvantaged groups and the wider CYP population. • Expand Mental Health Support Teams
HWE ICB MTP	• Every child has the best start in life • Improve access to health and care services • Increase the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
HWE ICB JFP	• A reduction in the backlog for Children's Care
Local strategies	• SEND Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Improve access to CYP Mental Health services, ensure consistent practice and reducing variation between CYP mental health services providers across the continuum of need.

- Increase productivity by ensuring that clinical hours are focused on clinical delivery for example by reducing clinical time spent on administration.
- Improve recruitment and retention, reducing agency use.
- Realise improvements through the CYPMHS HertsHub to increase efficiency and reduce clinical time on referrals by enabling staff involved with the child to see interventions across organisations.
- Clarify national expectations around the expansion of the Mental Health Support Teams in schools offer
- Work with schools and early years settings to improve transitions and transitions between children and adult services
- Develop more accessible support to address the gap in access between disadvantaged groups and wider children and young people populations.
- Implement the new Autism/ADHD pathway for children and young people
- Review and develop pre and post diagnosis support for children with Autism and/or ADHD as part of the All-Age Autism Strategy
- Develop PCN-based provision of emotional and mental wellbeing support for Children and Young People

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- Reduce the wait for community paediatrics services to 65 weeks by April 2026. This will include ASD, ADHD and language assessments
- Reduction in waiting times for an Autism and ADHD diagnosis
- Increased number of families and professionals accessing the neurodiversity support hub in Hertfordshire
- Increase the number of CYP accessing mental health services to achieve the national ambition for 345,000 additional CYP aged 0–25 compared to 2019.
- Improve productivity by reducing unwarranted variation in the numbers of CYP accessing services and the number of contacts per whole time equivalent hours worked

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- Continued delivery against the five priority pillars: access; equality, equity, diversity, and inclusion; productivity and efficiency; crisis services; and transition.

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

- As a system we are committed to further expansion of MHSTs as funding allows. Without increasing funding, physically increasing coverage will be challenging to deliver on this objective without diluting the current offer. An unintended consequence could be a reduction in access numbers due to a reduction in delivery to achieve wider spread (e.g. less group work). The CYPEMWB holds a risk register, which sets out mitigation and current position for awareness and ownership.

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

The CYPEMWB aligns with multiple boards across the system. This includes:

- SEND Priority Executive and Partnership and Assurance Boards
- HWE MHLDA Programme Board
- Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing board
- CYP ND transformation programme, with progress on this being reported on a regular basis to CYPEMWB.

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- Improved CYP journey and experience
- More CYP thriving / improved outcomes
- Improved, quicker access for CYP
- Normalisation of emotional and mental wellbeing
- Significant reduction in 'bounce' and 'rejected' referrals
- Better demand and capacity across the whole CYPMHS system
- More professional confidence in system
- More effective, efficient system for professional

Delivering a neighbourhood health model to increase access to mental health support closer to people's homes

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s): Ed Knowles, Development Director MHLDN HCP

Key partners involved: HCC, HPFT, S&WHCP, ENHCP, Herts Mind Network, Mind in Mid Herts, Viewpoint, Carers in Hertfordshire

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The Primary and Community Mental Health Partnership Board leads the move towards new models of community mental health, centred around primary care and focused on increasing access to and availability of mental health support across the county. The Partnership Board leads multi-agency activity to ensure that interventions and models of care are integrated, personalised and coordinated at a neighbourhood level.

Key strategies and plans

National	Deliver effective courses of treatment within NHS Talking Therapies and reduce ill-health related inactivity, through access to Individual Placement Support (IPS)
HWE ICB MTP	- Increase healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality - Improve access to health and care services - Increase the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
HWE ICB JFP	Reduce inequality with a focus on outcomes for cardiovascular disease and hypertension
Local strategies	HWE ICS Health Creation Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Delivery of MHLDA Physical Health strategy
- Expansion of the Individual Placement Support scheme
- Delivery of a system-wide approach to Intensive and Assertive Outreach.
- Mobilisation of mental health, learning disabilities and neurodiversity elements of Care Closer to Home.
- Develop PCN-based provision of emotional and mental wellbeing support for Children and Young People
- Expansion of the Depression pathway across all providers
- Review workforce, activity and performance of Talking Therapies to meet the 2025/26 NHS target

- Support the regional and local review of new model of care via the Community Mental health Project and consider effectiveness of integrated working including impact of ARRS workers and Enhanced Primary Care Mental Health

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- Access to NHS Talking Therapies for Anxiety and Depression - reliable recovery – 67% target
- Access to NHS Talking Therapies for Anxiety and Depression - reliable improvement – 48% target
- Women Accessing Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services - at least as many people will access support as did in 2024/25
- Individual Placement Support access (12 month rolling) - at least as many people will access support as did in 2024/25
- Number of people with severe mental illness receiving Annual Health Checks

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- Implement the recommendations from the LGA peer review of Community Mental Health
- Review Information, advice and guidance accessibility and develop HCP approach
- Understand patient and staff experience of Personalised Care Framework to support implementation and move away from CPA.

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

Continued funding of services, or allocation of funds to service areas to meet required performance objectives, or part of the integration agenda

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

The development of the neighbourhood model will require the coordination of a large number of relevant programmes and services including:

- Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Programme
- Dementia Programme
- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)
- IHCCT MH VCFSE services Review
- HCC Complex Needs VCFSE services review

The development of PCN-based provision of emotional and mental wellbeing support for Children and Young People will be a priority led by the Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Board

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

The right care and support will be more accessible, responsive and joined up relating to the individual and carers presenting needs and continued recovery journey

Draft

Delivering the Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy - making Hertfordshire a place where no one ever gets to a point where they feel suicide is their only option

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s)	Aideen Dunne, Public Health Consultant, HCC Emma Wadey, Director of Nursing, HPFT
Key partners involved:	The Ollie Foundation, Hectors House, HPFT, HCC, Hertfordshire Constabulary, HWE ICB, Mind in Mid-Herts, Herts Mind Network, Carers in Herts
Delivery Group:	
Hertfordshire's Suicide Prevention Board aims to provide strategic leadership and oversight of the suicide prevention programme being delivered across Hertfordshire. Responsibility for oversight and delivery of the Suicide Prevention Strategy for Hertfordshire sits with this Board.	
Strategic alignment	
National	• Reduce the suicide rate over the next 5 years – with initial reductions observed within half this time or sooner • Improve support for people who have self-harmed • Improve support for people bereaved by suicide
HWE ICB MTP	• Increase healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality
HWE ICB JFP	• Better Care for Mental Health crises
Local strategies	• Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Hertfordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy
Delivery priorities for 2025/26	
• Refresh and publish JSNA profiles for child and adult emotional and mental health wellbeing (completed in May 2025) • Finalise and publish the refresh of the Suicide Prevention Strategy for 2026 -2030 (due to be published Oct 2025) • Complete the Suicide Audit for 2025 and ensure the findings and learning are embedded by local partners. • Ensure RTSS data is more visible to system partners and is being used strategically to inform population level action on suicide prevention. • Continue to undertake cluster reviews as required, ensuring the learning from the process is embedded in the local system by relevant partners. • Refresh of the Suicide Prevention Board focus and membership (June 2025) • Re-contract the Suicide Bereavement Support Service	
How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)	
• Evidence of the findings of local cluster reviews and annual suicide audit being implemented by partners. • Identified an action plan to improve the strategic use of RTSS by MHLDA partners • Published Suicide Prevention Strategy with an action plan for implementation, with leads identified	

Refreshed Suicide Prevention Board that is meeting quarterly, and the impact of the group is more visible to MHLDA partners, and wider system partners.
Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28
- Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Strategy, with ownership sitting with the Suicide Prevention Board - Building the profile and use of RTSS in a more strategic way to inform population level priorities and action
Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)
- Challenging funding positions across both health and local authority partners - Staff turnover within Public Health and key delivery partners and the impact this may have on delivery momentum
Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board
- Delivering better care for people experiencing mental health crisis - Delivering integrated services and support for people with learning disabilities, neurodivergent people and their families and carers. - Delivering improvements in the emotional and mental wellbeing of children and young people - Co-occurring mental health and substance use issues programme. - Public Health all ages mental health and suicide prevention programme - HPFT suicide prevention pathway - Key Suicide Prevention, bereavement and carers support services/ commissioning
What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers
- Continued support for people bereaved by suicide – families, friends, carers and professionals including first responders. - The Suicide Prevention strategy identifies key at risk population groups and important risk factors for poor mental health, this will ensure that services are configured around the most at risk populations. - RTSS and locally produced JSNA will identify where public mental health and prevention can have the greatest impact, supporting more people to remain in good mental health. - Greater collaboration and alignment of commissioning of services focused on suicide prevention and bereavement support, reducing fragmentation and improving service user experience.

Developing better support and services for people with complex needs, in particular people with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues

MHLDA HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s)	Sarah Perman, Director of Public Health, HCC
	Ed Knowles, Development Director, MHLDA HCP)

Key partners involved:	HPFT, CGL, CGL, Herts Mind Network, Mind in Mid-Herts, Viewpoint, Carers in Herts, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary, East of England Probation, Healthwatch, West Hertfordshire Hospitals Trust, East and North Herts Trust, District and Borough Councils
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MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Mental Health and Substance Use Steering Group** brings together multi-agency partners to ensure that people experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance use will be able to access joined up integrated care in primary care, urgent care, mental health services, and drug and alcohol services.

- To improve access pathways into and between mental health and substance use services.
- To ensure we are using best practice and evidence-led models of care, and that we understand how these models of care interact with one another.
- To make the best use of resources & ensure that existing services are delivering effectively including post-intervention/support recovery.

Key strategies and plans

National	• Better care for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol/drug use conditions
HWE ICB MTP	• Increase health life expectancy and reduce inequality • Improve access to health and care services • Increase the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
HWE ICB JFP	• Better Care for Mental Health crises
Local strategies	• Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Complete MHSU service mapping to understand the full provision of MHSU services across Hertfordshire.

- Develop & implement a communications plan to raise awareness of MHSU services (aligned to the D&A stigma campaign).
- Engage with service users and carers to understand their challenges in accessing MHSU services for their co-occurring MHSU needs.
- Commence 18-month pilot of 4xD&A Workers in HPFT Adult Community teams, working alongside CGL & evaluate the impact.
- Review and update the joint working protocol between HPFT and CGL to ensure its relevance and accuracy.
- Carry out a 'deep dive' into the deaths of individuals with co-occurring MHSU to understand areas of good practice and areas for improvement.
- Improve system oversight and learning from deaths of people with co-occurring MHSU.
- Explore trauma training requirements & opportunities for existing services that provide prevention, early intervention and ongoing post-intervention recovery support for individuals with co-occurring MHSU needs.

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- Specific indicators are being developed as part of the co-occurring MHSU programme during 25/26 to capture information and reflect the joint work across agencies.

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- To ensure sustainability of improvements and ongoing activities to improve co-occurring MHSU pathways beyond the fixed-term 25/26 programme management.

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

- Sustainability of Drug & Alcohol Grant funding through Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) post 25/26.
- Sustainability & expansion of 4xD&A workers in HPFT beyond 18-month pilot pending evaluation.
- Sustaining the focus on co-occurring MHSU post dedicated programme management in 25/26

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

- Primary and Community Mental Health Partnership Board
- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)
- Drug & Alcohol Strategic Board
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment & Recovery Implementation Grant (DATRIG) Oversight Group
- Drug & Alcohol Management Group
- Alcohol & Drug Related Deaths

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- The right care and support will be more accessible, responsive and joined up. Individuals will not feel like they are falling between a gap in services.

Draft

Delivering more joined-up support for older people's mental health including more integrated action around Dementia, memory support and support for carers

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s)	Helen Maneuf, Director of Older People Services, HCC
Key partners involved	HCC, Carers in Herts; AgeUK Herts; University of Hertfordshire; HPFT; Herts Care Providers Association; District and Borough Councils, Herts Sports and Physical Activity Partnership

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Dementia Strategy Steering Group** oversees delivery of the Hertfordshire Dementia Strategy and provides strategic oversight and alignment of the delivery programme to HWE ICP, ICB and HCC Strategies and priorities.

The Steering Group directs activity within working groups and workstreams, including proposing deep-dives, events, research and initiatives to improve service delivery to people with dementia and their carers living in Hertfordshire.

Key strategies and plans

National	• Enabling Equitable and Timely Access to Diagnosis • Ensuring People with Dementia have Equitable Access to Appropriate Health and Care Services • Supporting People Affected by Young Onset Dementia. • Supporting Carers of People with Dementia
HWE ICB MTP	• Increase healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality • Improve access to health and care services • Increase the number of residents taking steps to improve their wellbeing
HWE ICB JFP	• Better Care for Mental Health crises
Local strategies	• Hertfordshire Dementia Strategy 2023 – 2028 • Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Strategy • Hertfordshire Carers Strategy • HWE ICB Primary Care Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Support improvements in residential and nursing care, transitions between home, hospital and hospice care, and reducing re-admission to hospital.
- Ensure that Hertfordshire is ready for the introduction of new drug therapies when they are approved for NHS use.

- Review and co-evaluate the Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) pathway and cognitive stimulation therapies offers (CST) and recommend and implement improvements where required.
- Rolling out the new Dementia Friendly Hertfordshire Accreditation Scheme across the County with links to the new support and training offers from Memory Support Hertfordshire.
- Improve access to and take-up of Carers health checks and emotional support services and increasing respite breaks for Carers.
- Promote and enable activity that reduces people's risk of dementia in later life, such as healthy activity, stopping smoking and reducing alcohol intake, and managing other health conditions in line with the Lancet research.

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- Improved dementia diagnosis rates across Hertfordshire
- Memory Support Hertfordshire performance metrics including numbers of contacts from members of the public / professionals, type of information requested, courses / activities accessed
- Number and spread of organisations registering for and being accredited as dementia aware or dementia friendly
- Number of dementia related activities that are age-appropriate for people with YOD or other rare forms of dementia
- Improved health outcomes for people caring for someone with dementia – numbers of people accessing health checks, reduction in carers crisis interventions, qualitative data from carers on their own wellbeing as a carer
- Improved pathways for people in hospital, in transition spaces, or moving from one care setting to another (including discharge from hospital back to home or residential care) – quantitative and qualitative data from professionals, clinicians and people using services to be agreed

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- Improve data collection for people from groups and with protected characteristics who are under-represented in dementia diagnosis and service take-up
- Improve access to high quality respite or day care for people with dementia to improve wellbeing outcomes for carers
- Development (or plans for) a specialised dementia residential care / respite unit for young onset and rare forms of dementia
- Improve diagnosis pathways for people with Young onset dementia and improve data collection for this cohort
- Improve accreditation rates for dementia aware and dementia friendly organisations in Hertfordshire

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

- Funding for capital projects in residential to make them more dementia friendly, or to enable specialist provision
- Care providers not being sufficiently skilled or available to deliver safe care to people with dementia
- Increasing population growth and age profile currently predicts higher levels of people with dementia, who will require more expensive care and health resource over time.

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

- Public Health Ageing Well Programme
- HPFT EMDASS Recovery Programme
- ICB / SW HCP / EN HCP – Frailty, Care Closer to Home and End of Life Programmes
- University of Hertfordshire DEMCOM and MEDAL studies
- Memory Support Hertfordshire Implementation Plan

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- Improved and more accessible services - more personalised to people's unique needs and that enables them to have more control over their day to day lives and social connectedness
- Improved pathways and associated support/information at significant transition points such as moving between hospital, home and residential / hospice care
- Improved emotional and physical wellbeing of carers and family networks
- Improved awareness and acceptance of dementia in the community, and safe places for people to go where they are treated with dignity and respect
- Improved awareness of and access to services for marginalised groups

Addressing the life expectancy gap for people with severe mental illness, people with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people by tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing

MHLDN HCP Senior Responsible Officer(s)	Asif Zia, Chief Medical Officer, HPFT Lucy Rush, Director of Quality and Practice and Principal Social Worker
Key partners involved	HPFT, HCC, HWE ICB, Hertfordshire Mind Network, Mind in Mid-Herts, Viewpoint, Carers in Herts, SWH HCP, ENH HCP,

MHLDN HCP Delivery Board

The **Clinical and Practice Advisory Committee** comprises senior clinical and professional leadership from across the local NHS, social care and voluntary sector. Its membership ensures that all professional voices are included – social workers, Allied Health Practitioners, Public Health and medical/clinical input. The Committee makes formal recommendation to the MHLDN HCP Board on clinical, practice and professional priorities and any associated ethical issues. It also ensures co-ordination and alignment with the clinical leadership of the Integrated Care System and with the clinical leadership of the geographical/place Health and Care Partnerships.

Strategic alignment

National	• CORE20PLUS5
HWE ICB MTP	• Increase healthy life expectancy and reducing inequality
HWE ICB JFP	• Better Care for Mental Health crises
Local strategies	• Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy • MHLDN HCP Physical Health Strategy • Carers Strategy

Delivery priorities for 2025/26

- Deliver the recommendations and activity proposed in the MHLDN HCP's Physical Health Strategy
- Deliver the recommendations of the LeDeR Annual review with a focus on the actions to address the higher death rates in global majority groups
- Bring together multi-agency data and insight to populate the Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework
- Increase the number of people with learning disabilities receiving an Annual Health Check
- Develop more accessible support to address the gap in access between disadvantaged groups and wider children and young people populations.

- Implement the recommendations from the Dementia Strategy's Equality Impact Assessment including improved data collection for people from groups who are under-represented in dementia diagnosis and service take-up
- Implement the MHLDN HCP's Public Sector Supported Employment pledge
- Deliver the practice changes to implement the provisions of the new Mental Health Act

How will we know we are having an impact (relevant performance indicators and targets)

- Sustained strong performance in the number of people with learning disabilities receiving an annual health check and health action plan
- An increase in the number of people with severe mental illness receiving an annual health check and health action plan to meet the national target
- Adoption of the MHLDN HCP Public Sector Employment Pledge leading to demonstrable improvement in the number of people offered appropriate employment

Medium term ambitions - activity planned for 2026/27 and 2027/28

- Improve access, experience and outcomes for people with protected characteristics by employing Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework insights across wider MHLDN HCP partners
- Develop a MHLDN HCP Housing Strategy for Hertfordshire
- Better connect and align local supported employment activity
- Develop a programme to support carers' mental health and wellbeing
- Improve our understanding and recording of sensory needs to improve our ability to tailor services and support

Risks and constraints (including areas where funding not yet confirmed)

- Recent changes to the GP contract mean that while numbers of people with severe mental illness and learning disabilities are recorded there is no longer a requirement to hold separate registers. We will see what impact this might have and look to mitigate any risks.

Key co-dependencies with other programmes and decisions required from outside the Board

- The delivery of the MHLDN HCP's Physical Health Strategy will require substantial joint-working with SWH HCP and ENH HCP to ensure that the development physical health services in each area fully considers the specific needs of people with mental illness, people with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people.
- The delivery of this priority overlaps significantly with the delivery of transformational change against all the other priorities. The role of the CPAC and the MHLDN HCP Board will be to ensure that we maintain a focus on these key elements of delivery.

What will feel different from the perspective of people accessing services/support and their carers

- People with protected characteristics who currently have differential access, experience and outcomes from services and support will see improvements in all these areas and will feel comfortable and able to access personalised care and support.

Draft

Leading improvements in the mental wellbeing of people in Hertfordshire by championing public health, workplace and educational activity throughout the county

As the role of the MHLDN HCP develops we now have the opportunity to consider our role in relation to wider population wellbeing. Specific deliverables and the appropriate governance to ensure delivery will be developed over the course of 2025/26.

Draft

9. How we will deliver our priorities

Engagement, experience and coproduction

The MHLDN HCP is committed to holding the insight and experience of patients, service users and carers at the heart of what we do.

We have a systematic approach to understanding and responding to lived experience and working in partnership with service users and carers to coproduce improvement. This is evidence-led, ensuring that we are utilising what we already know – this could be existing experience feedback, research, JSNA etc.

There is a range of co-production, co-design and engagement activity that takes place across our partnership, including the well-established Mental Health, Dementia and Learning Disability Co-Production Boards administered by the County Council, HPFT's Service User and Carer Councils and the work undertaken through advocacy and user-voice organisations, including Carers in Herts, Viewpoint and Healthwatch Hertfordshire.

The MHLDN HCP is considering how best to ensure that the insight and learning from all of this activity informs the work of the wider partnership. This will reduce the risk of duplicative activity, but also allow for a clearer and more detailed insight into the experiences and ideas of local people, service users and carers. Over the course of this Integrated Delivery Plan, the MHLDN HCP will develop the necessary structures and processes to help make this happen.

Workforce

As part of the HWE ICB's 2025/26 submission for the NHS Operating Plan, the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities workforce across the County was captured, including staff working with people with Dementia.

	Staff in post end 31 March 2025 (WTE)	Establishment end 31 March 2025	Establishment planned 31 March 2026
Mental Health Trust	3,654.09	3,946.57	3,946.57
Non Mental Health Trust	79.39	99.66	103.16
Primary Care	TBC	TBC	TBC
Non-NHS	430.88	436.48	470.68
Total	4,164.36	4,482.71	4,520.41

Over the course of 2025/26 we will need to understand the triangulation between workforce, funding, and activity levels, particularly considering financial pressures across different partners organisations,

NHS England's operating plan triangulation tool did not include mental health this year so will need to consider what local tools are available to conduct this analysis.

In Adult Mental Health there has been a growth in workforce in the last year related to:

- The introduction of the Mental Health Response Vehicle service and the mobilisation of the Mental Health Urgent Care Centre
- The development of peer support workers in VCFSE services
- Funding placements and trainees working in Talking Therapies

Digital

The MHLDN HCP will consider how it can support the coordination of digital and data developments across partner organisation to support its delivery priorities. Key areas of work include:

- Coproducing and using digital care plans together with our service users, carers and partners
- Enhancing our digital care assistants to provide intuitive, personalised support to navigate, advise and guide service users and carers
- Enabling real-time shared care with digital systems across partners
- Creating digital pathways to guide and support professionals and to share with service users to help them manage their recovery
- Using evidence based digital interventions to improve outcomes for our service users and carers
- Working across the MHLDN HCP to strengthen our population health approach

Governance

Host Provider and Lead Provider arrangements

On 09 April 2025, HWE ICB wrote to HPFT setting out its view on the next steps for implementing its operating model and the implications for the MHLDN HCP.

The letter identified the host provider model as the best route through which to deliver clearer governance and strengthened accountability for HCPs. Assuming that there is national support for the overall direction of travel, HWE ICB noted that the next step in implementing its agreed operating model would be for HPFT to become the host provider for the MHLDN HCP from 01 July 2025 and to take a greater leadership role in relation to MHLDA-related health services across Hertfordshire.

Both the MHLDN HCP Board and HPFT's Board and Hertfordshire County Council fully support these developments and the necessary arrangements for HPFT to become the host

provider from 01 July 2025 and to develop Lead Provider arrangements for 2026/27. For over 15 years, people in Hertfordshire have benefitted from integrated working arrangements in relation to mental health and learning disability. Given all the national and local changes, including the changes to local government structures and footprints, it is important that this integration is maintained and deepened.

Work will take place over 2025/26 to take forward the necessary work between HCC, HPFT and the ICB to establish the legal, financial and governance arrangements that will support these developments. This will include the necessary work to ensure arrangements to formalise the role of the Partnership within the County Council's decision-making structures.

Sub-committees and delegated functions

The MHLDN HCP has established a sub-committee structure to allow it to take on and arrange increasing responsibility delegated from HWE ICB.

The **Finance & Commissioning Committee** provides oversight of the strategic financial management of NHS and HCC monies associated with Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism. This will primarily apply to the pooled fund for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities between HCC and HWE ICB but will also apply to non-pooled budgets, for example wider system spend on Dementia, neurodiversity and suicide prevention.

The Committee will also provide oversight of joint-commissioning activity which will include making recommendations to the HCP Board around the commissioning and decommissioning of services, significant variations to existing activity and the identification of opportunities to better respond to local need.

The **Quality, Transformation & Performance Committee** will provide strategic oversight to drive improvement in the quality and performance of the services and interventions that support people with mental ill-health, learning disabilities and neurodivergent people. The Committee will implement a framework and reporting mechanisms that will provide effective and joined-up oversight of quality and performance across health, social care services and local VCFSE services.

The **Clinical and Practice Advisory Committee** comprises senior clinical and professional leadership from across the local NHS, social care and voluntary sector. Its membership ensures that all professional voices are included – social workers, Allied Health Practitioners, Public Health and medical/clinical input.

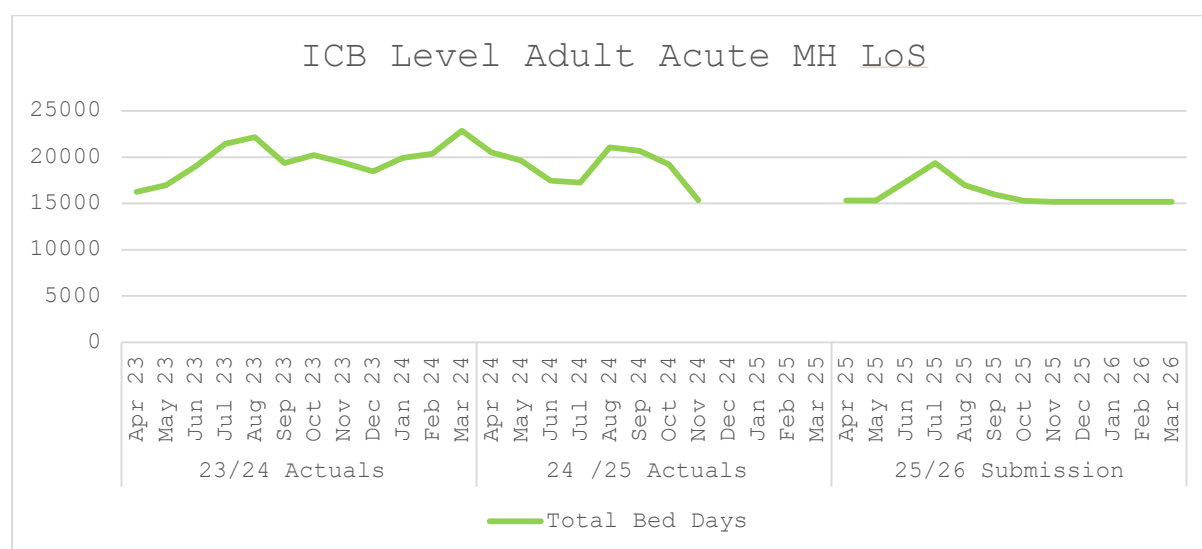
The Committee makes formal recommendation to the MHLDN HCP Board on clinical, practice and professional priorities and any associated ethical issues.

It also ensures co-ordination and alignment with the clinical leadership of the Integrated Care System and with the clinical leadership of the geographical/place Health and Care Partnerships.

Appendix A – Operational Planning – current performance and proposed trajectories

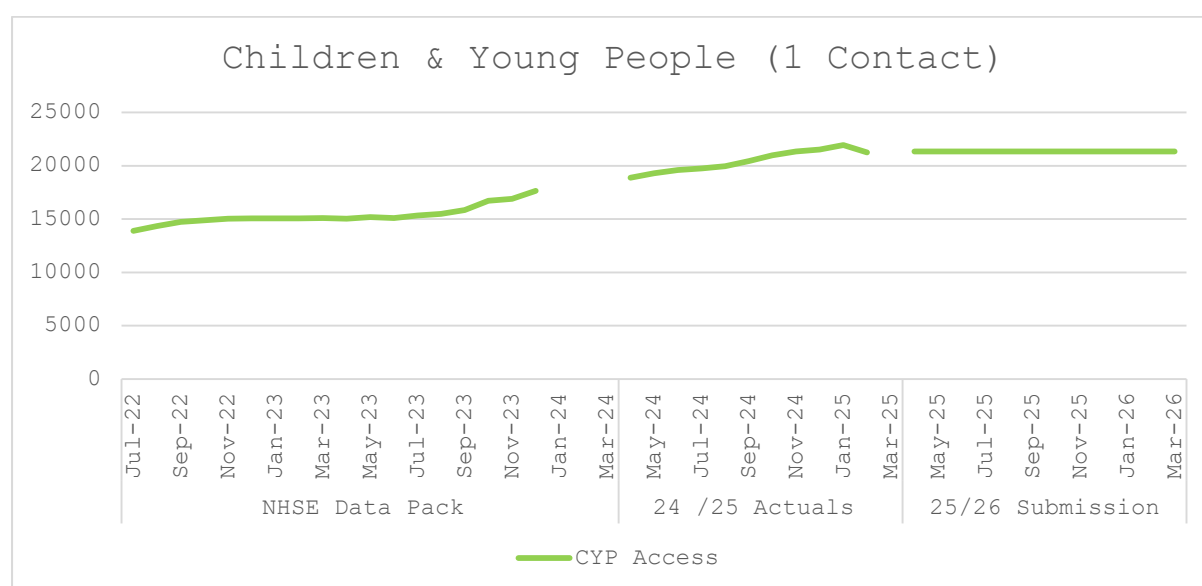
The following charts present the historical and current performance against the key NHS operational planning metrics. They also set out the proposed trajectories for future activity as submitted to NHS England as part of HWE ICB's overall planning submission.

E.H.37 - Average Length of Stay in Adult Acute MH Beds



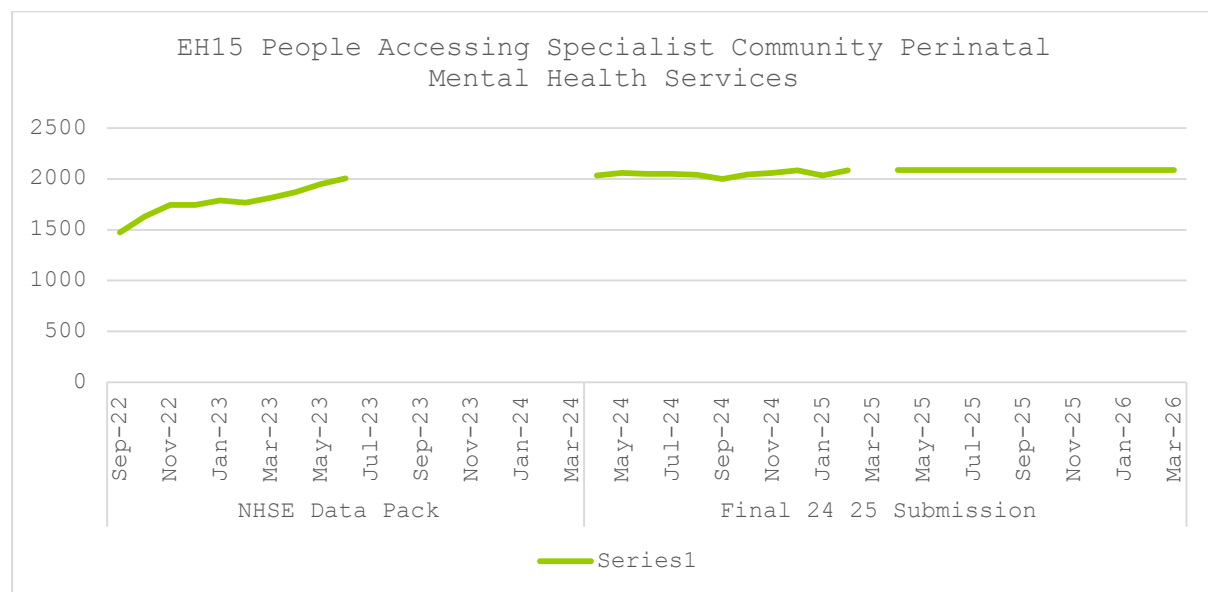
This is a new Metric for 2025/26. The data presented in the table is at HWE ICB level incorporating HPFT, EPUT and Independent Sector Provider performance. There has been no nationally set target yet.

E.H.9 – Access to Children and Young People Mental Health Services



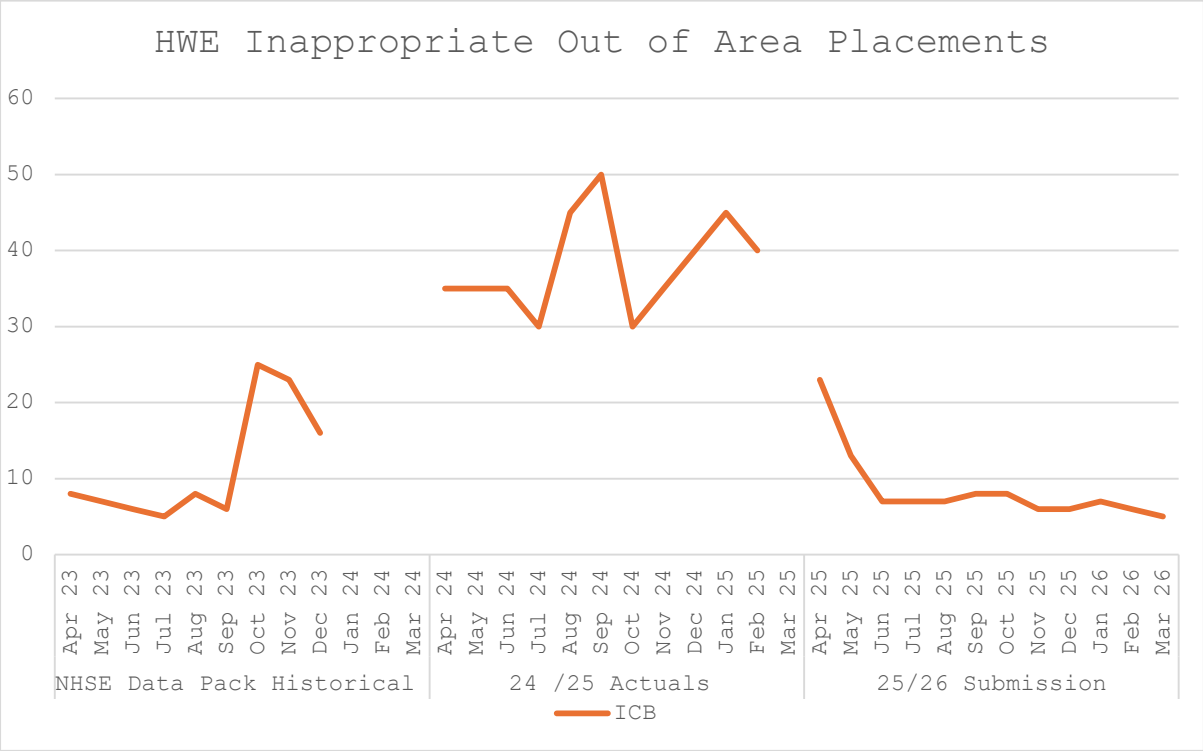
Areas that were already meeting the NHS Long Term Plan ambition were advised to maintain performance, so a flat trajectory has been submitted. This does not factor in any increase that would arise from the expansion of the Mental Health Support Teams in schools.

E.H.15 - Number of people accessing specialist community PMH and MMHS services in the reporting period



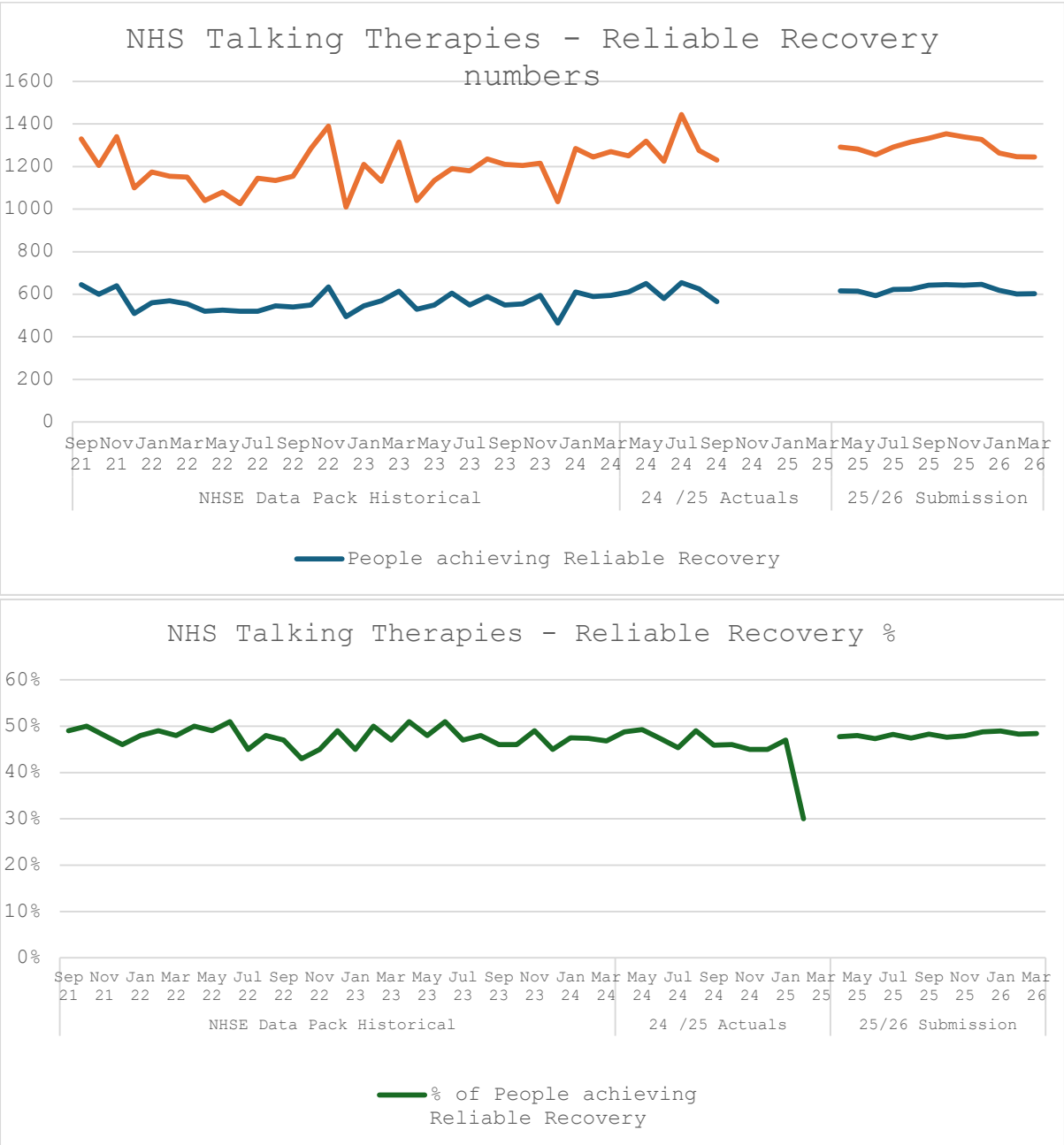
Areas that were already meeting the NHS Long Term Plan ambition were advised to maintain performance, so a flat trajectory has been submitted.

E.A.5 - Active inappropriate adult acute mental health out of areas placements (OAPs)



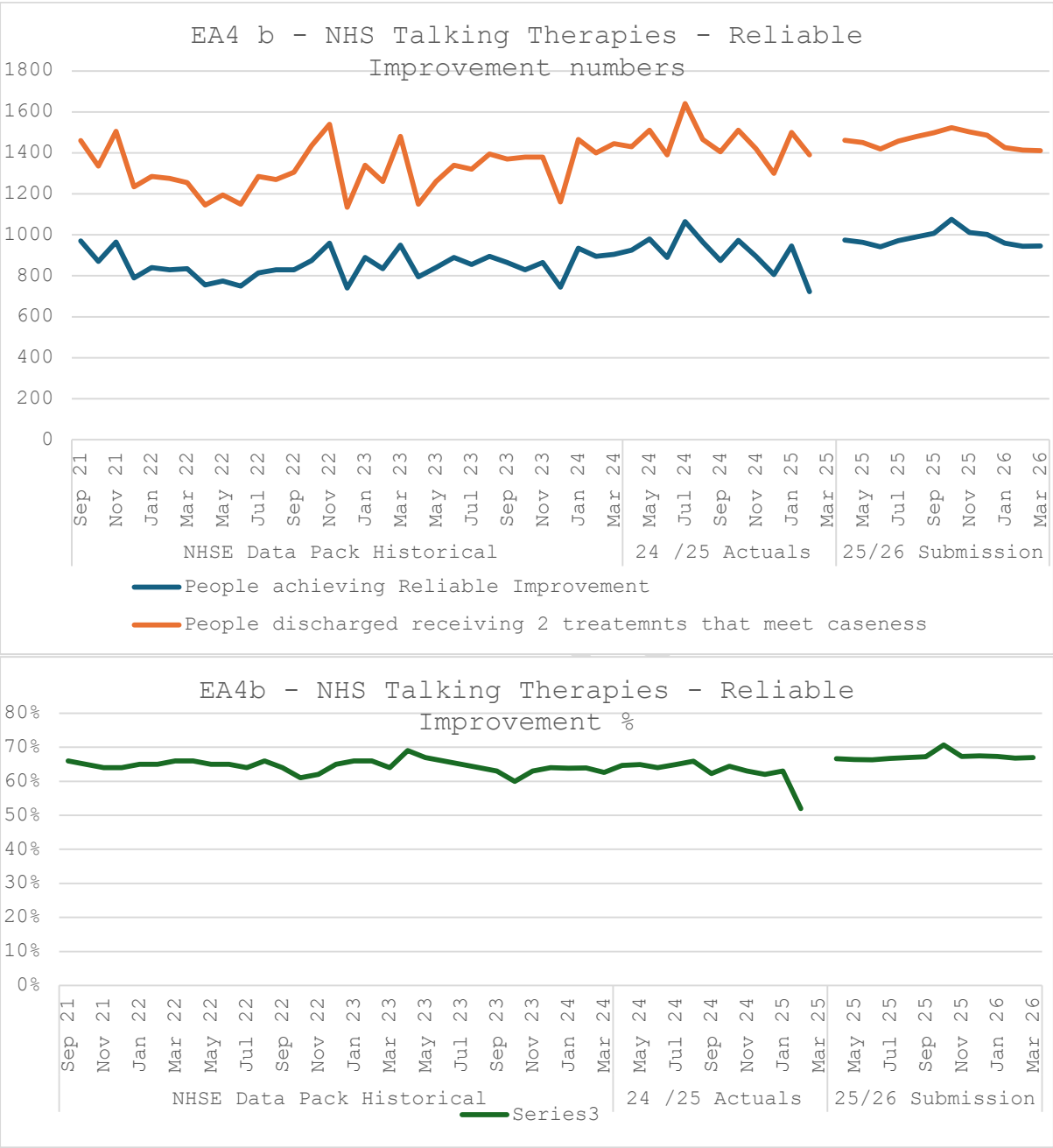
Data in the chart above is HEW ICB level. Target is to eliminate inappropriate out of area placements by March 2027.

Access to NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression - reliable recovery



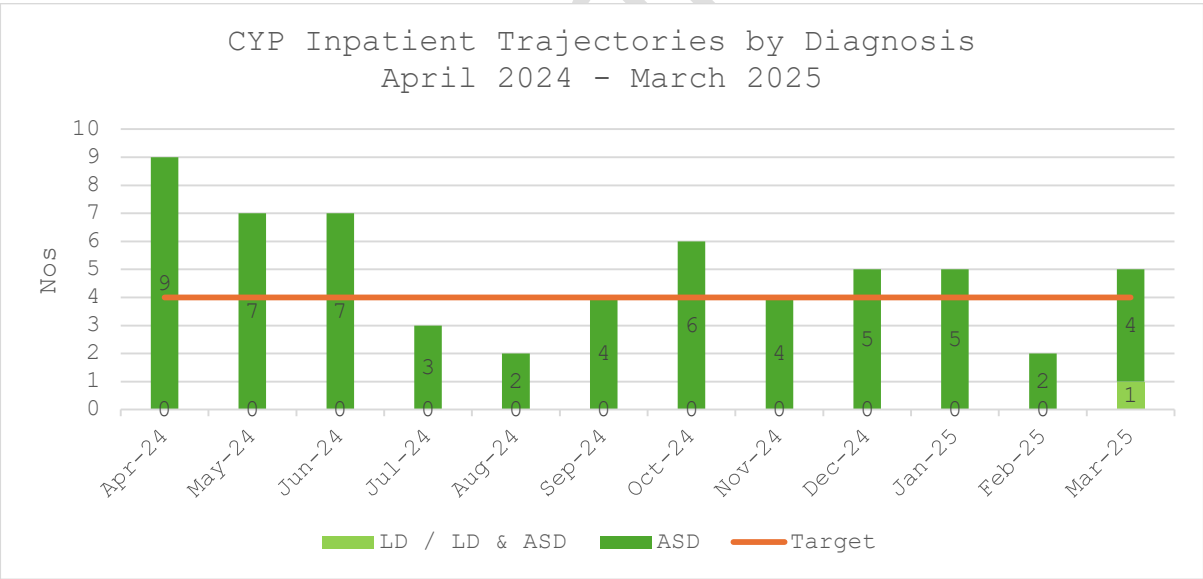
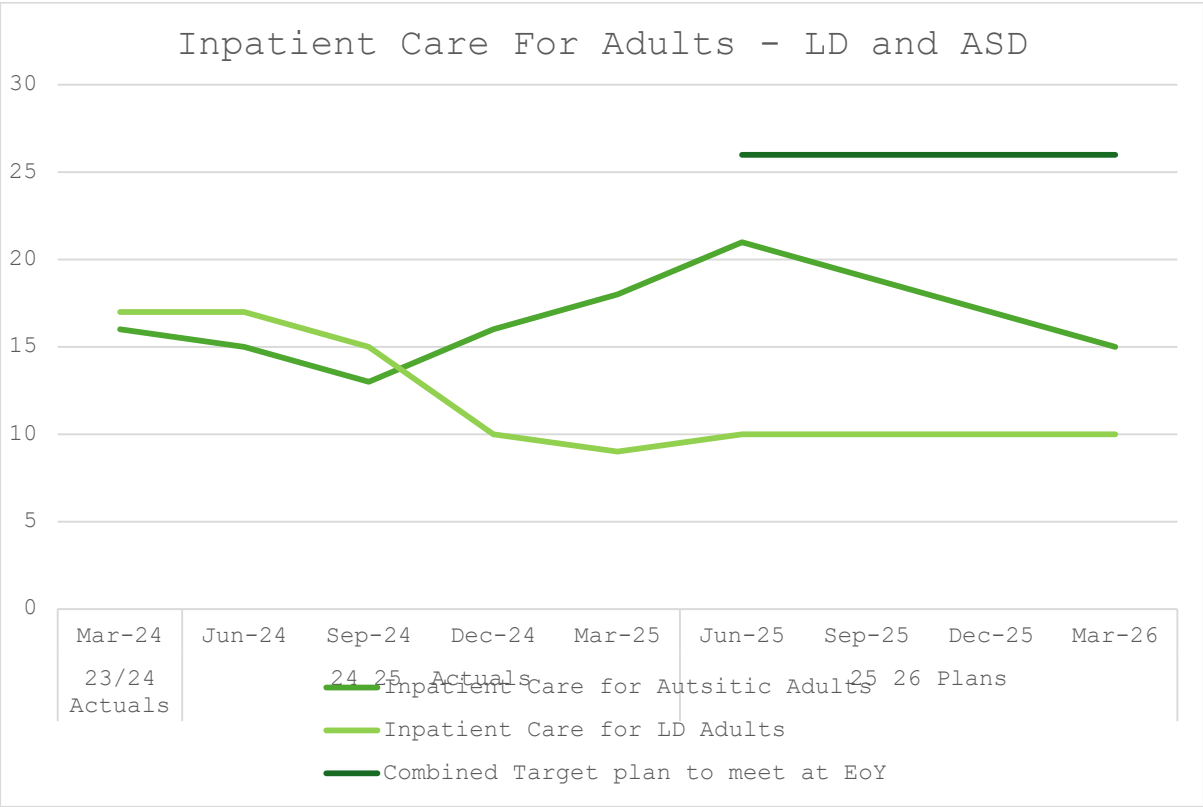
Performance over 2024/25 averaged at 47% so did not meet target. The Reliable recovery is expected to be 48%, however an indicative target of 50% has been proposed. Some data issues currently under investigation.

E.A.4b - Access to NHS talking therapies for anxiety and depression - reliable improvement



Performance over 2024/25 averaged at 64% so did not meet target of 67%. Reliable improvement Target 67%. A flat trajectory has been submitted at the target level. Some data issues currently under investigation.

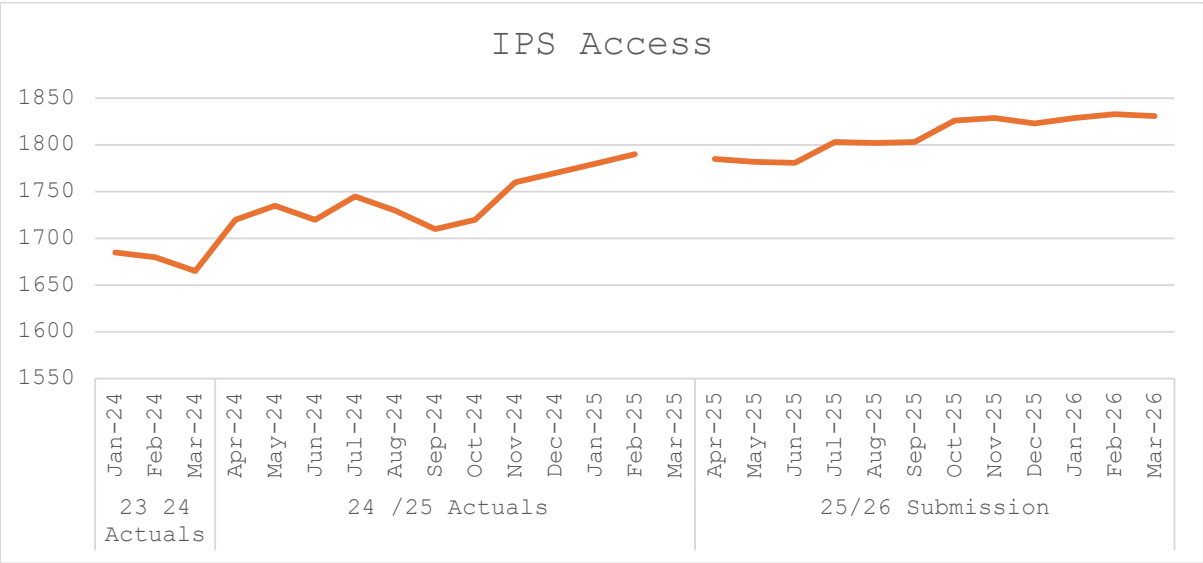
E.H.32 / EH33 /EH 1c – Reliance on Inpatient Care for LD & A



This represents a change in how these figures are reported with Adult Learning Disabilities and Adults with Autism split out.

The target is to make 20% reduction on March 2024 numbers by March 2026. The CYP trajectory remains number per 1m population which equates to four children/young people.

E.A.35 – Access to Individual Placement Support (IPS)



No targets for have been set nationally for the expansion of the IPS programme for 2025/26 with systems expected to advise what growth they feel is achievable. Systems will then be required to evidence how that growth will be achieved. The trajectory that has been proposed is the average of activity in 24/25 plus additional growth from Autumn Statement funded posts. Some potential data quality issues are under investigation.

Appendix B - Public Health Outcomes Framework – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities indicators

Indicator	Period	Herts			England			
		Recent Trend	Count	Value	Value	Worst	Range	Best
Gap in the employment rate between those who are in receipt of long term support for a learning disability (aged 18 to 64) and the overall employment rate (Persons, 18-64 yrs)	2022/23	–	-	72.3	70.9	100.0		
Gap in the employment rate for those who are in contact with secondary mental health services (aged 18 to 69) and on the Care Plan Approach, and the overall employment rate (Persons, 18-69 yrs)	2020/21	–	-	64.7	66.1	76.0		
The percentage of the population who are in receipt of long term support for a learning disability that are in paid employment (aged 18 to 64) (Persons, 18-64 yrs)	2022/23	→	189	6.3%	4.8%	0.0%		
Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation (Persons, 18-64 yrs)	2023/24	↑	2,496	83.0%	81.6%	48.8%		4%
Adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation (Persons, 18-69 yrs)	2020/21	–	-	80.0%	58.0%	5.0%		7%
Excess under 75 mortality rate in adults with severe mental illness (SMI) (Persons, 18-74 yrs)	2021 - 23	–	-	375.8%	383.7%	644.7%		
Premature mortality in adults with severe mental illness (SMI) (Persons, 18-74 yrs)	2021 - 23	–	1,940	81.8	110.8	232.5		55.2
The percentage of the population who are in contact with secondary mental health services and on the Care Plan Approach, that are in paid employment (aged 18 to 69) (Persons, 18-69 yrs)	2020/21	–	352	15.0%	9.0%	1.0%		
The percentage of the population with a physical or mental long term health condition in employment (aged 16 to 64) (Persons, 16-64 yrs)	2022/23	–	-	69.0%	65.3%	43.4%		
Gap in the employment rate between those with a physical or mental long term health condition (aged 16 to 64) and the overall employment rate (Persons, 16-64 yrs)	2022/23	–	-	9.6	10.4	20.1		
Suicide rate (Persons, 10+ yrs)	2021 - 23	–	-	8.1	10.7	19.6		

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Appendix C – Performance against NHS Operational Planning and Long Term Plan indicators

Line	Description	Std	Bas is	Period	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	YTD
01	CYP 1 Contact <18s	-	R12M	Mar-25	19,080	19,445	19,995	19,990	20,110	20,425	20,975	21,330	21,515	21,940	21,925	21,970	21,970
02	CYP 1 Contact <18s Plan	-	R12M	Mar-25	18,277	18,581	18,685	18,876	19,057	19,345	19,661	19,977	20,181	20,502	20,823	21,153	21,153
03	Variance to Plan	0.0%	R12M	Mar-25	4.4%	5.8%	7.0%	5.9%	5.5%	5.6%	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%	7.0%	5.3%	3.9%	3.9%
04	Perinatal MH	-	R12M	Mar-25	2,040	2,060	2,045	2,040	2,035	2,000	2,045	2,060	2,085	2,095	2,085	2,125	2,125
05	Perinatal MH Plan	-	R12M	Mar-25	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089	2,089
06	Variance to Plan	0.0%	R12M	Mar-25	-2.3%	-1.4%	-2.1%	-2.3%	-2.6%	-4.3%	-2.1%	-1.4%	-0.2%	0.3%	-0.2%	1.7%	1.7%
07	Talking Therapies Completed Courses of Treatment	-	M1H	Mar-25	1,430	1,510	1,390	1,640	1,465	1,405	1,510	1,420	1,300	1,500	1,390	1,525	17,485
08	Talking Therapies Completed Courses of Treatment Plan	-	M1H	Mar-25	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	1,318	15,816
09	Variance to Plan	0.0%	M1H	Mar-25	8.5%	14.6%	5.5%	24.4%	11.2%	6.6%	14.6%	7.7%	-1.4%	13.8%	5.5%	15.7%	10.6%
10	Talking Therapies Reliable Improvement	67%	M1H	Mar-25	65.0%	65.0%	64.0%	65.0%	66.0%	62.0%	64.0%	63.0%	62.0%	63.0%	62.0%	60.0%	60.0%
11	Talking Therapies Reliable Improvement Plan	67%	M1H	Mar-25	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%	67.1%
12	Variance to Plan	0.0%	M1H	Mar-25	-2.1%	-2.1%	-3.1%	-2.1%	-1.1%	-5.1%	-3.1%	-4.1%	-5.1%	-4.1%	-1.5%	-7.1%	-7.1%
13	Talking Therapies Reliable Recovery	48%	M1H	Mar-25	49.0%	49.0%	47.0%	45.0%	49.0%	46.0%	46.0%	45.0%	45.0%	47.0%	30.0%	46.0%	46.0%
14	Talking Therapies Reliable Recovery Plan	48%	M1H	Mar-25	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	48.5%	49%	49%	49%	49%	48.5%
15	Variance to Plan	0.0%	M1H	Mar-25	0.5%	0.5%	-1.5%	-3.5%	0.5%	-2.5%	-2.5%	-3.5%	-3.5%	-1.5%	-18.5%	-2.5%	-2.5%
16	Inappropriate OAPs active at the end of the period	-	M1H	Mar-25	35	35	35	30	45	50	30	35	40	45	50	50	50
17	Inappropriate OAPs active at the end of the period Plan	-	M1H	Mar-25	13	12	11	9	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	4	4
18	Variance to Plan	0.0%	R3M	Mar-25	169%	192%	219%	233%	463%	614%	400%	493%	567%	603%	567%	1150%	1150%
19	CMH 2+ Contacts (Transformed)	-	R12M	Mar-25	15,735	15,745	15,750	15,810	15,980	16,185	16,270	16,345	16,475	16,530	16,565	16,735	16,735
20	CMH 2+ Contacts (Transformed) Plan	-	R12M	Mar-25	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595	11,595
21	Variance to Plan	0.0%	R12M	Mar-25	35.7%	35.8%	35.8%	36.4%	37.8%	39.6%	40.3%	41.0%	42.1%	42.6%	42.9%	44.3%	44.3%
22	Dementia Prevalence	66.7%	M1H	Apr-25	64.4%	64.7%	64.9%	64.6%	64.7%	64.8%	65.1%	65.5%	65.3%	65.1%	65.0%	65.2%	65.1%
23	Dementia Prevalence Plan	66.7%	M1H	Apr-25	64.2%	64.5%	64.7%	64.9%	65.1%	65.4%	65.6%	65.8%	66.0%	66.3%	66.5%	67%	66.7%
24	Variance to Plan	0.0%	M1H	Apr-25	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.3%	-0.7%	-1.1%	-1.5%	-1.5%	-1.6%
25	SM Health Checks	60.0%	R12M	Mar-25	47.0%				46.0%			48.0%			55.0%		55.0%
26	SM Health Checks Plan	60.0%	R12M	Mar-25	48.7%				52.4%			56.2%			0.0%		0.0%
27	Variance to Plan	0.0%	R12M	Mar-25	-1.7%				-6.4%			-8.2%			55.0%		55.0%

[illegible]