

National changes in health and care

- Members noted there was no further clarity on national changes announced some months ago regarding future functions of Integrated Care Boards and the future of Healthwatch organisations. The board endorsed the important role fulfilled by Healthwatch and offered support to better recognise this work. Colleagues recognised the pressures individuals and teams were facing, thanked them for their continued commitment, and noted the importance of maintaining partnership working during uncertain times.

Visits from the Care Quality Commission to partner organisations

- The board noted that planned visits had taken place to our three councils (Cumberland, North Yorkshire and Westmorland and Furness) and unannounced visits had taken place within University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust to review maternity services and the emergency department.
- The board agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting when final reports have been received from the CQC. This will be used to share findings from the CQC, hear positive feedback and understand areas for action, particularly those that would benefit from collaborative working between partners.

Review of priority workstreams for 2025: Supporting the frail/elderly population to remain independent

- The board received a detailed update on progress during the past year in three areas of work, all of which are focused on residents who are at risk of losing independence and are facing frailty or mobility challenges. The workstreams demonstrated the value of collaborative working to deliver an improved experience for residents and a reduction in unnecessary use of acute health and care services. The board noted that without commitments to long-term funding, it is challenging for partners to maintain and future-proof service delivery.

1. Intermediate Care

Various offers are now available for residents including:

- An 18-bed Intermediate Care / Discharge to Assess offer in Parkview Gardens residential home in Barrow as a step down from Furness General Hospital.
- A step-up pathway from the community into Parkview Gardens Residential Home for therapy support.
- An 8-bed Discharge to Assess offer in Maudes Meadow residential home in Kendal.

Key outcomes:

- A reduction in 'not meeting medical criteria to reside' numbers (people who are in hospital but who do not need acute medical care) and in length of stay in Furness General Hospital.
- 75% of residents returning to their usual place of residence and 60% of residents having no long-term care needs after discharge from Intermediate Care.

Further work is underway to:

- Expand the offer in Maudes Meadow to replicate the model at Parkview Gardens
- Support more integrated working between therapy teams across partner organisations.
- Plan Intermediate Care services for the Millom area.
- Better understand future demand and capacity to create a longer-term plan for Intermediate Care in South Cumbria (in partnership with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board).

2. Integrated Wellness Service

The service is designed to support Barrow residents who have recently been discharged from hospital and have had multiple admissions or an extended length of stay in the previous 12 months. It provides a multi-disciplinary assessment, rapid access to support offers and/or onward signposting to wider services for residents and their immediate carers.

Key outcomes, compared to the previous 12-months activity:

- 31% reduction in attendances at the Emergency Department.
- 75% reduction in inpatient bed days.

Next steps for the service are:

- Expansion in capacity to support more residents who have recently been discharged from hospital.
- More upstream working to support residents who are at risk of deterioration that would likely result in an acute admission or intensive social care support.

3. Promoting Independence and Admission Avoidance

This workstream has focused on two key questions:

- What needs to be true to not admit a frail person presenting at the emergency department with a normal NEWS2 score (a clinical indicator of ill health) and no defined need for consultant led care?
- What needs to be true for a resident to maintain independence who is in receipt of adult social care support and avoid admission to a residential or nursing home?

Following two workshops which were well attended by partners, action planning is now underway.

National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP)

- Partners in Morecambe Bay have been accepted to join the NNHIP, which is designed to accelerate and test initiatives that support the 'left shifts' identified in "Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England", namely an increased focus on prevention and a greater range of services delivered in the community.
 - The board endorsed our selected cohort of people with multiple co-morbidities and complex needs, driven by those who have 2+ / 3+ long term conditions and are current high-intensity users of health and/or care services or have increasing risk of escalating need. Our chosen initiatives will now be developed with partners.
 - Board members supported the approach to consider operational, cultural and strategic challenges in parallel, endorsed the need for a bi-monthly steering group, and noted that participation in the programme will require significant commitment from all partners.
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Escalations to the board from the Care Professionals Enabling Group

- The board received feedback from October meeting which was focused on the use of digital records to support palliative and end of life care. Members endorsed key actions from the discussions:
 - Reviewing the various care plan templates in use across Morecambe Bay, with the ambition of streamlining content and ensuring it is relevant to residents and health and care professionals.
 - Reviewing the ways in which care plans are made visible through the Shared Care Record, with the ambition of improving ease of access and increasing the range of health and care professionals who can contribute to the content of care plans.
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Escalations to the board from the Place Partnership Forum

- The board received feedback from October forum, which was a full-day event to enable work programme leads to share progress to date and future plans. Members endorsed key actions from the forum:
 - Raising awareness and improving connectivity across work programmes, particular those associated with large scale change such as Barrow Rising and the development of neighbourhood health.
 - Using simplified language to describe future plans, which must be understandable by our residents.
 - Continuing the series of 'deep dives' into our work programmes through future board meetings.
 - The Board reaffirmed its commitment to supporting this work and the work programme leads.
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Items received for information

- The board received reports for information:
 - Papers from the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership held on 22nd September 2025.
 - Place work programmes: highlight reports that are provided to the Programme Delivery Board.