

## Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Health and Care

### Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to NOTE and AGREE:

- How Oxfordshire is organising itself to progress Neighbourhood Health and Care.
- Ongoing work to develop a Neighbourhood Health and Care plan in line with changes around national timescales and associated anticipated future responsibilities of Health and Wellbeing Boards.

### Introduction

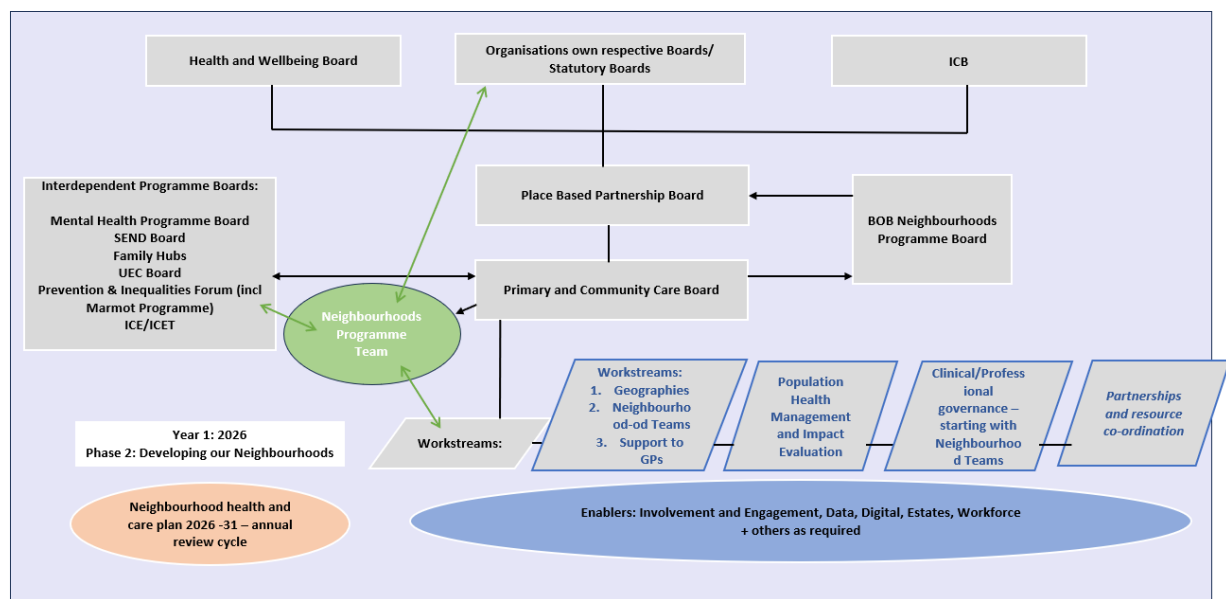
1. The national and local priority in health and care over the next 5-10 years is to bring support closer to where people live, work, and connect. It will create a proactive, community-led system that focuses on what matters most to local people, staying well, staying independent, and staying connected. This will be enabled by **three key shifts**: from hospital to community, from sickness to prevention, and from analogue to digital. Neighbourhood Health and Care embodies these shifts.
2. **This approach will be:**
  - **Community-focused** - Support is designed around neighbourhoods, not hospitals, so people can access help locally and only go to hospital when necessary.
  - **Holistic** - It recognises that health and care is shaped by more than clinical treatment. Social, economic, and environmental factors, from secure housing to friends and community activities, are given equal importance.
3. Enabled by **strengthen relationships** between communities, the statutory sector and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. By **working together** and recognising the expertise that already exist within neighbourhoods, we can provide the right combination of health and care services, practical support, and social connection. This approach is aligned to local delivery programmes such as the *Oxfordshire Way*, *Marmot Place* and *Families First* and *Family Hubs*.
4. At this stage the NHS neighbourhood guidance is only partly released with further detail expected imminently but the overall direction is understood and anticipated that Neighbourhood Health and Care Strategic Plan will need to be approved by the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board in March 26 subject to the final guidance with 2026/27 becoming a transition year with comprehensive 5 year neighbourhood health and care plans to be agreed by April 27.
5. HOSC is asked to note the report and highlight any key issues to be considered in the planning process.

### Planning and oversight requirements

6. NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have developed a variety of **guidance and framework documents** relevant to Neighbourhood Health and Care which set out national expectations and the opportunity. These include:
  - [10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future](#), July 2025.
  - [Medium Term Planning Framework](#), October 2025.
  - [Strategic Commissioning Framework](#), November 2025.
  - Draft Model Neighbourhood Framework, awaiting publication.
  - National Framework for Neighbourhood Health Plans, awaiting publication.
  - Model System Archetypes, awaiting publication (commissioning and provision, including types of contracts).
  - Model Neighbourhood Health Centres Archetypes, awaiting publication (for existing estate and potential new).

- Revised Better Care Fund [BCF] guidance 2026/27, awaiting publication. NHS England has been clear that the BCF should be aligned to Neighbourhood Health and Care delivery, and it may be that this will set out how investment should support both programmes.
- The **Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Health and Care Plan** will be overseen and approved by the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) ahead of April 2026, this will also be followed by an operational plan by quarter 2. 2026/27 is recognised as being a transition year for Neighbourhood Health and Care, with the requirement to produce a more comprehensive plan for the next five years, commencing from April 2027 alongside anticipated legislative changes enabling HWBs to become formally accountable for Neighbourhood Health and Care plans. This would be aligned to the timeline for Local Government Reorganisation.
  - Oxfordshire has established governance and oversight arrangements to support with the design, development and delivery of Neighbourhood Health and Care. Although the HWB will approve and monitor delivery of plans, the Oxfordshire Place Based Partnership (PBP) will be responsible for leading the delivery of Neighbourhood Health and Care via the **Primary and Community Care Board** which has been established to deliver this.
  - Figure 1** sets out how the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Health and Care programme has been designed. It seeks to align statutory and organisational governance with a range of existing programme Boards to support the design and delivery of Neighbourhood Health and Care. These alignments of boards and workstreams are intended to be broad and inclusive and will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure key stakeholders are involved as the programme develops.

## Emerging Governance - 2026



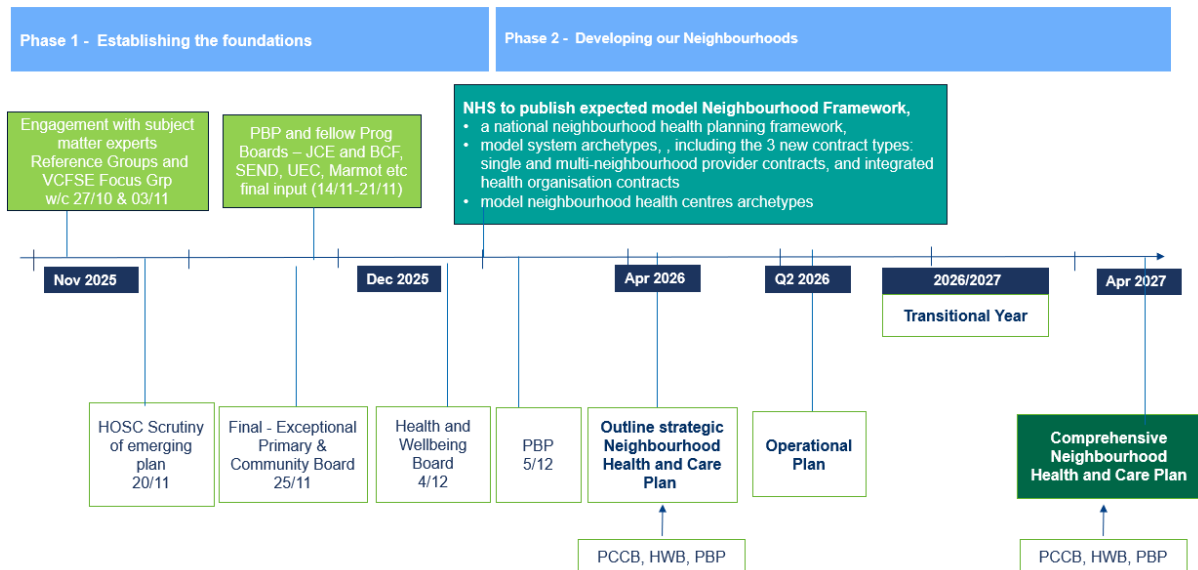
**Figure 1.** Emerging Governance for Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Health and Care.

- Given the importance and scale of Neighbourhood Health and Care, there is a need to involve and **engage a wide variety of stakeholders** outside of these governance arrangements. Several events have already taken place but there is a commitment to ensure that this continues.

## Next Steps

11. To further progress planning and delivery requirements for Neighbourhood Health and Care, Oxfordshire has been divided into four planning units (North, West, City and South) to complete some time limited work. This will allow more in depth and meaningful stakeholder engagement with professionals and residents alike to start to define our neighbourhood geographies, map assets and identify key stakeholders.
12. Each planning unit has been allocated a coordinator from existing resources until April 26 to develop and strengthen relationships with local partners.

## Neighbourhood health and care plan – development timeline



**Figure 2.** Neighbourhood Health and Care plan timeline

13. Further stakeholder engagement will take place throughout coming months, and indeed throughout the life of the evolving plan. As a starting point, a reference group has now been established, alongside a dedicated forum for VCFSE engagement in Oxfordshire. This will be utilised alongside existing community networks and trusted relationships that have further developed in recent years, such as those obtained through the Well Together Programme, Community Health Development Officers and Local Area Coordinators.
14. The plan will be drafted in conjunction with other NHS and Local Authority plans and associated processes, for example the Better Care Fund Plan. Oxfordshire's long standing joint commissioning arrangements and track record of system working, mean that there are established approaches, principles and forums to not only develop a plan for Neighbourhood Health and Care, but also to deliver it.
15. The following recommendations (summarised) from Joint Health and Oversight Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) will be considered:
  - Further develop and clarify governance arrangements for the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Health and Care plan.
  - Ensure the Neighbourhood Health and Care Plan aligns with other strategic initiatives (such as BCF, health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the Oxfordshire Way), and to avoid duplication and fragmentation.

- To prioritise investment in digital infrastructure, interoperability, and usability to enable data sharing and Population Health Management (PHM) at neighbourhood level. It is recommended that system partners report on progress in implementing PHM tools and health evaluation approaches.
- To ensure that the local patient voice and local voluntary sector input is at the heart of the development and delivery of the neighbourhood health plan for Oxfordshire. It is recommended that the role of the local member and Parish / Town Councils is also integral to this.
- To ensure General Practice is kept informed.

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