

## **BOB ICB and Oxfordshire Place-base Partnership (PBP): Health and Wellbeing Board Update March 2026**

**Thames Valley ICB operating model and staff consultation  
Planning 2026/27  
Thames Valley Innovation Fund  
Dr Nick Broughton  
Oxfordshire Place Based Partnership**

### **1.0 Thames Valley ICB operating model and staff consultation**

BOB and Frimley ICB chief officers are working to develop an operating model for the new Thames Valley ICB from 1 April 2026. This will include new areas of focus, ways of working and potential alternative hosting arrangements for some services or teams. This will be shared with staff as part of the formal consultation - due to launch on 24 February - in line with the ICBs' statutory duties and the restructuring process.

The ICB is keen to hear the thoughts of valued stakeholders on how Thames Valley ICB might best support their work and keep them engaged to deliver better, more joined-up services to the communities they serve.

The ICB will invite stakeholder feedback on the operating model in the coming weeks. This will include a survey and the opportunity to join a workshop.

In the meantime, colleagues from BOB and Frimley ICBs are working together to ensure the safe closedown of the individual organisations and the set-up of Thames Valley ICB, ready for launch on 1 April.

### **2.0 Planning 2026/2027**

The ICB Cluster (BOB and Frimley) has submitted its final plan for 2026/27 to NHS England, which includes a 3-year finance plan (4 years for capital), a 3-year workforce plan (primary care and non-NHS mental health workforce) and a 3-year activity plan.

Also submitted was a 5-year narrative plan, based on the recently published [Thames Valley Commissioning Intentions](#). The document sets out strategic objectives to deliver improved value, build neighbourhood health and prioritise prevention, and the approaches to measure and manage this work.

Following the plan submission, we will work with providers across Thames Valley to finalise contracts in the period up to April 2026, alongside preparing for the formal establishment of Thames Valley ICB.

We expect to hear from NHS England regarding acceptance of by the end of March at the latest.

### **3.0 Thames Valley Innovation Fund (TVIF)**

The fund was launched in December with a total value of £53 million to support delivery of ICB commissioning intentions. The response has been strong, with 195 expressions of interest from across the Thames Valley. Notably, more than 8 out of 10 were joint submissions involving more than one organisation. Collectively, the bids request more than £139 million for 2026/27, which significantly exceeds the available funding.

The ICB expects to communicate next steps to all submissions shortly.

### **4.0 Dr Nick Broughton**

BOB and Frimley ICB Chief Executive, Dr Nick Broughton has been successful in securing an additional leadership role with NHS England. Alongside his ICB Chief Executive post,

Nick will be National Priority Programme Director for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Neurodevelopmental Conditions.

As the national lead, Nick will be responsible for shaping and driving the mental health, learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions agenda across the country. His work will include leading national programmes, supporting policy development, and strengthening partnerships with regions and systems to improve outcomes and access to these services nationally.

While Nick is carrying out his national responsibilities, he will be supported by his Chief Officer team in leading the ICB cluster and the new Thames Valley ICB from April.

## **5.0 Oxfordshire Place Based Partnership (PBP)**

Oxfordshire PBP has recently reviewed Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership in preparation for the formation of the Thames Valley ICB and associated operating model.

Oxfordshire PBP recently engaged with the TVIF to coordinate and develop several expressions of interest (EOI) focussed around reducing health inequalities, accelerating neighbourhood working and better supporting neurodivergent CYP in Oxfordshire. This included an EOI covering several projects and services that are currently funded through the previously delegated BOB ICB Prevention and Health Inequalities budget have been put forward for consideration under the TVIF.

Efforts were concentrated on those that would most benefit from partnership approaches and ways of working. There was also consensus to focus attention on establishing strong fundamentals, particularly with 2026/27 being described as a transitional year for Neighbourhood Health and Care and the Better Care Fund (BCF). BCF guidance has since been released, colleagues in the Joint Commissioning team are now developing a detailed timeline that will enable plan approval and submission in May.

## **5.1 Prevention and Health Inequalities**

BOB ICB and Public Health in OCC are jointly developing an Oxfordshire Health Impact Evaluation Unit. A key ambition of this unit is to develop a methodology to evaluate projects and services in real time. Work is underway to agree a specification for an initial evaluation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Worker (CHWW) model deployed across several hyperlocal areas in OX3 and OX4. This will not only provide helpful insight and learnings from the model, with the potential to scale, but will also be a good test of the evaluation approach and methodologies.

To further support the delivery of Neighbourhood Health and Care, a project has been launched to improve Oxfordshire's approach to Population Health Management (PHM). The [Health Economics Unit](#) has now completed a capacity and capability mapping exercise throughout Oxfordshire. A draft report summarises findings and recommendations, this will be considered by the Oxfordshire Health Evaluation and Population Health Management Steering Group in late February. It is likely that the Steering Group will also support and oversee delivery of subsequent recommendations.

Furthermore, modular training sessions have been delivered to health and social care staff across the BOB footprint, these sessions covered an introduction to PHM, Segmentation, Risk Stratification, Impactability and Evaluation and Health Economics. Further training resources including recordings of the sessions and associated slides will be shared with partner organisations. Alongside this, a subgroup of clinical, operational and analytical colleagues is now meeting on a weekly basis to develop population insight packs with a view to supporting Neighbourhood Health and Care.

## **5.2 Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC)**

Planning for UEC developments in 2026/27 is now underway, there is a necessary and helpful level of alignment with Neighbourhood Health and Care, as well as UEC and BCF funding streams. Oxfordshire will continue to embrace and make benefit of integrated and inclusive planning processes.

Over the festive and New Year period, activity levels remained high but there was a strong level of system resilience. System partners were keen to reinforce the importance of call before conveyance, the impact on a small number of people can be significant on both an individual and system basis. Equal efforts from partners across ambulance, hospital, community and primary, social and voluntary sectors were recognised, this supported a challenging but well managed period. It is anticipated that there will be continued high pressure periods in the coming weeks, including but not limited to half term and Easter holidays.

## **5.3 Neighbourhood Health and Care**

NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care are yet to publish the highly anticipated planning guidance and supporting archetypes and new form contracts to set out expectations, roles and responsibilities. It is still anticipated that Health and Wellbeing Boards will be to signing off plans and it may be that timelines coincide with BCF planning guidance (May).

Oxfordshire's four planning units continue to identify and bring together key organisations and individuals to further raise awareness of Neighbourhood Health and Care, develop relationships and collectively explore relevant opportunities and challenges. A first draft of Neighbourhood footprints has now been established; this was originally developed through a primary care lens but is now being reviewed by multiple stakeholder groups to further refine and ensure that footprints will be fit for purpose and promote greater collaboration.

## **5.4 Children and Young People**

The Oxfordshire SEND Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB) continues to meet monthly to plan, deliver and oversee improvements for this priority population. A recently refreshed transformation programme is being finalised, building on much of the improvement work that has been undertaken over recent years. Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) is taking a lead on planning the SEND Together 2026 event, this is often a highlight of the year for the local area partnership. It provides an opportunity for hundreds of parent carers and Oxfordshire local area partnership members to learn, reflect and engage on a wide range of topics.

Chris Wright  
BOB ICB, Associate Director of Place – Oxfordshire  
February 2026