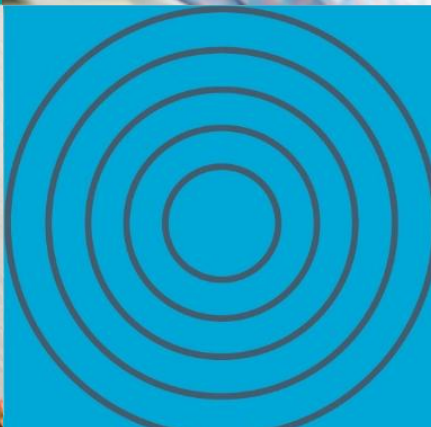
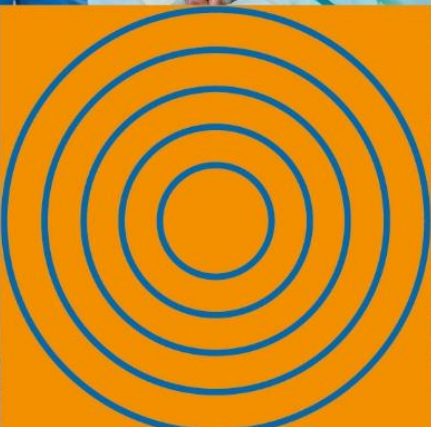
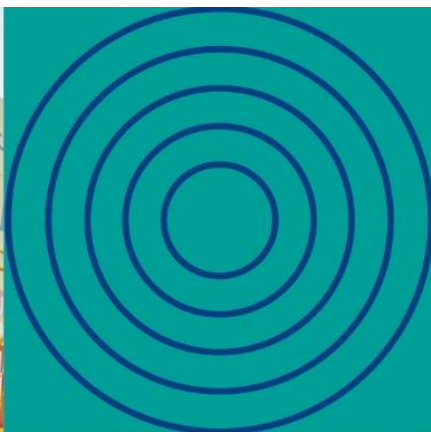


Annual Report Summary 2025/26



Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent
Integrated Care Board



Welcome

Welcome to our annual report summary for 2025/26. This past year has been significantly challenging for the NHS in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and across the country. Against a backdrop of organisational change, colleagues in our health and care system have worked exceptionally hard to continue improving outcomes for the population we serve.

In March 2025, the UK government announced far-reaching changes to the NHS in England. As part of the reset, the government asked all integrated care boards (ICBs) in England to reduce running costs by an average of 50%.

To meet these requirements, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB agreed to 'cluster' with Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB creating opportunities to share best practice and develop joint strategies to improve healthcare for our residents. Since becoming CEO of the cluster in October 2025, I have been impressed by the commitment and resilience shown by colleagues across the system.

“ I would like to acknowledge the work that has continued over the last year to strengthen relationships between Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent partners – including NHS organisations, local authorities and groups from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. ”

These robust relationships allow us to tackle challenges collaboratively and provide the broader perspectives that help keep the needs of our residents at the centre of our improvement work.

Finally, I would like to thank staff across the ICB for their unwavering commitment during a time of considerable change, and the clinicians and professionals who deliver amazing care, day in, day out, to the residents of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Simon Whitehouse
Accountable Officer



About us

Our Vision

We will work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients, residents and communities, within a culture of respect, trust and support.

Our Purpose

Leading collaboratively and strategically we will achieve safe care, wellbeing and experiences, for all our residents and communities.

Our Mission Statement

Enabling effective delivery across organisational boundaries to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities in population health and healthcare. Creating innovative, safe and high-quality care for citizens and our communities, that we are all proud of.



2 acute hospital trusts
141 GP practices
105 opticians
2 upper tier local authorities
4 hospices
127 dentists
2 voluntary sector networks
1 community NHS trust
1 mental health trust
1 ambulance trust
233 pharmacies
252 care homes

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB) is responsible for the health and care of **1.18 million people** across a geographical area of **1,048 square miles**.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is a diverse healthcare system, comprising both rural and urban areas, as well as extremes of affluence and deprivation

76% of Staffordshire residents live in areas that are classed as urban.
100% of Stoke-on-Trent residents live in areas that are classed as urban.

We acknowledge the support of all Integrated Care System (ICS) partners in coming together to improve the health and wellbeing of our local population. Our uniquely positioned partnership between local people and communities, the NHS, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector enables us to improve all aspects of health and care – including the wider determinants of health and preventing ill-health.

2025/26 at a glance

Our budget for 2025/26 was:

£3,386.75 million

The ICB spent:

£3,386.01 million

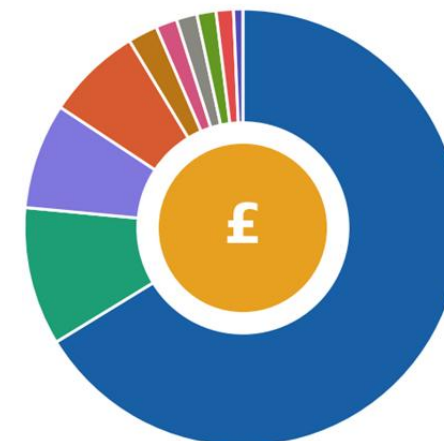
Leaving the ICB with a surplus of

£0.74 million



How we spent our budget:

Services from NHS Trusts/NHS Foundation Trusts	66.3%
Purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies	10.2%
Primary Care	7.8%
Prescribing	7.0%
Dental Services	2.2%
Pharmaceutical Services	1.6%
Other	1.5%
Staff	1.4%
Purchase of Social Care	1.3%
Ophthalmic Services	0.7%



Total cost – 100%

Mental health spend:

All ICBs are expected to increase the proportion of their spend of their overall allocation each year on mental health services.

ICBs demonstrate this through the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS) each year.

The target expenditure on MHIS for 2025/26 was: **£271.0 million**.

The ICB has spent **£271.1 million**.



Our Highlights (1 of 4)



Our **Maternity and Neonatal Independent Senior Advocate (MNISA)**

has provided support and advocacy to **18** families as they navigated a range of investigation pathways following an unexpected health complication, harm event, stillbirth or the death of a baby and/or mother.

We secured approval for a dedicated **tongue-tie service** at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, improving support for mums and babies, enhancing breastfeeding support, and reducing waiting times for assessment and treatment.



In partnership with local organisations, we developed an **infant CPR and safe sleep guide**, equipping parents and carers with vital lifesaving skills and practical advice to help keep babies safe.

The rate of ICB patients with an asthma diagnosis attending A&E continues to decline. The under-18s rate fell by **11.2%** from 22.4 per 100,000 in January 2025 to 19.9 per 100,000 in December 2025.



Our Highlights (2 of 4)



84 people are working with our Down's Syndrome Forum to improve outcomes

17,085 individuals began Talking Therapies treatment as of December 2025. Of those who completed a course of treatment, **71.5%** showed reliable improvement.



As of November 2025, our child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) saw **17,620** children and young people (CYP). We were also on course to achieve our targets for supporting CYP in the community for 2025/26.

NHS England recognised Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB as an exemplar for work in the Transforming Care Programme, Annual Health Checks and reducing inequalities.

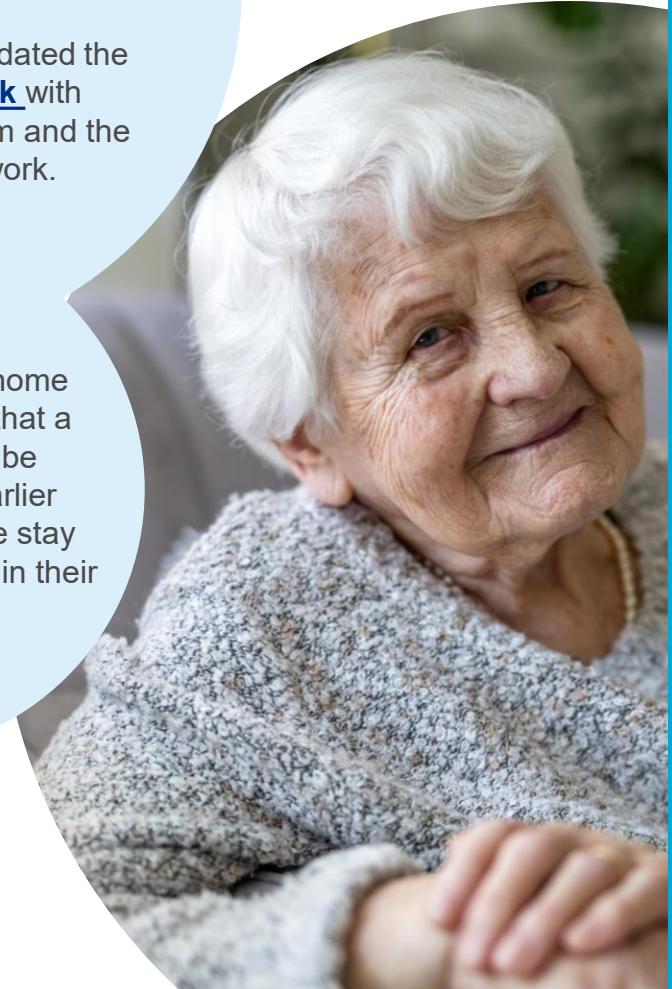
As of November 2025, our specialist perinatal mental health service had supported **1,350** women – on course to achieve our access target for 2025/26.

On average, waiting times for autism assessments in North Staffordshire were maintained despite a **17.5%** increase in caseload. In South Staffordshire, average waiting times reduced despite a **7%** increase in caseload.

Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we have been working to strengthen the support for care home residents by helping staff recognise early signs that a person's health may be deteriorating.

Over the past year, we updated the [care home resource pack](#) with partners across the system and the Deteriorating Patient Network.

The pack helps care home staff spot early signs that a resident's health may be changing, enabling earlier support to help people stay well and independent in their care home.



Our Highlights (3 of 4)

The publication of this [All Age Respiratory Strategy 2025-30](#) was a significant milestone in the collective commitment to improving respiratory care for people of all ages from our communities.

Cancer awareness and early diagnosis campaigns programme impact:

23 cancer campaigns
delivered across
two years.



140 immediate
health checks
completed.



7.3 million people
cumulative
campaign
exposures.



21% ethnic minority engagement
approximately
twice the proportion you
would expect based on
the local population.



5,866 residents engaged
through
community outreach.



12% reduction in
cervical screening
inequality gap
(age 25-49).



The National Diabetes Prevention Programme identifies people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes and refers them onto a nine-month, evidence-based lifestyle change programme. Between April 2024 and December 2025, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent referred **11,880** people, and **6,790** went onto start the programme. This is a conversion rate of **57%** for the ICB, which exceeds expectations.

Significant progress has been made in prevention through expanded blood pressure checks, community diagnostic testing, targeted lung health checks and enhanced community eye care services.

24/7 palliative care advice line

We have commissioned a 24/7 advice line for healthcare professionals, patients, and carers. The service provides specialist clinical support to aid decision-making about palliative and end-of-life care. The service is funded by the ICB and delivered collaboratively by three local adult hospices.

Throughout 2025, the ICB has worked closely with hospitals, community services, local councils and patient representatives to shape a new [Elective Care Strategy for 2025-2030](#). This strategy sets out how we will improve planned care over the next five years and ensures all partners are working towards the same goals.



Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent we will have three Community Diagnostic Centres:

- Cannock Chase Community Hospital – open
- Sir Robert Peel Community Hospital in Tamworth - open
- Stoke-on-Trent CDC is located at the old Sainsbury's site, in Hanley – due to open in 2026

Our Highlights (4 of 4)

Supporting more people to receive care closer to home has remained a key priority. The Integrated Care Coordination (ICC) Service, a 24/7 point of access for health and care professionals, continued to expand during 2025/26 and now manages more than **4,000** referrals each month.



During 2025, more same-day appointments were delivered in primary care, with strong performance against access targets and increasing use of the NHS App.

More than **5,380** (83.6%) people with a learning disability have received an annual health check this year (182 more than last year).

This year, **132 GP practices** (93.6%) were rated **Good** or **Outstanding** by the Care Quality Commission. We continue to support and monitor improvement plans in practices rated below Good.



During 2025, the ICB spent **£241.7 million** on medicines prescribed in primary care.



Virtual Wards expanded capacity and supported around 150-200 patients every two weeks, providing hospital-level care safely in people's usual residence.

More than **55,000** consultations for seven common minor ailments were delivered through Pharmacy First between April and December 2025, over 16,000 more than the previous year, helping more patients access convenient care closer to home.

Patient flow has improved through extended urgent treatment centre opening hours, increased acute bed capacity, and enhanced frailty and Same Day Emergency Care services.



Contact us



If you would like to receive this Annual Report summary in another format – such as audio, Easy Read, British Sign Language, interpreter services, large print, or Braille – please speak to any member of the Administration team at Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Integrated Care Board:

Call 0300 123 1461 or email enquiries@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk

Alternatively, use the Next Generation Text Service for deaf and hard-of-hearing patients, carers and staff: www.ngts.org.uk

We want our patients, carers, staff and partner organisations to be able to understand our information in the format that is most accessible to their individual needs. This includes identifying and reasonably removing barriers for people accessing our information, services, premises, and any employment or engagement opportunities.



Please note, this is a summary report. The full Annual Report and Accounts can be found on our website:

<https://staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/annual-reports-and-accounts/>

