



Hertfordshire and
West Essex Integrated
Care Partnership

Headlines from Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Partnership meeting (Sept 2023)

The Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Partnership held its latest meeting in public on 26 September 2023 in Dacorum Borough Council offices in Hemel Hempstead. The ICP is a joint committee, formed by NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board, Essex County Council and Hertfordshire County Council, to improve health and care in Hertfordshire and west Essex. The partnership includes NHS providers, district councils, voluntary sector organisations, care providers and Healthwatch. More information about the partnership can be found [here](#). Headlines from the meeting:

- The main item discussed was how organisations are coming together to provide support for **people with complex needs/multiple disadvantages**. This is mainly people who are homeless who often experience other risk factors for ill health, such as substance misuse, mental ill health and domestic abuse. People who experience homelessness are more likely to have poor physical and mental health than the rest of the population. Poor mental and physical health is both a cause and consequence of homelessness and, often, common chronic and multiple health needs go untreated. Homeless people are also far more vulnerable to issues relating to alcohol and drug use. Multiple health needs can also act as a barrier to accessing mainstream health services.
- There have been significant developments, informed by learning from the Covid pandemic, which has resulted in new national policies to address the health, housing and support needs of people experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantage. The Changing Futures Programme in Essex and the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Programme in Hertfordshire, ensure that we look at the needs of homeless adults holistically and focus on prevention. The programmes provide an opportunity for joined up working across health, housing and social care and have potential to reduce costs to services over time.
- ICP members are now considering how their services can take a more inclusive approach to this group of people, and also how long term challenges to funding services can be tackled by the partnership.
- The meeting also focused on the opportunities to improve health and wellbeing by **joining up information sharing** between organisations. Staff from the Essex Centre of Data Analytics outlined how the University of Essex, Essex County Council and other partners are using data responsibly and securely to develop a better overview of the health needs of different communities. ICP members discussed the potential for greater co-ordination between ICP organisations to improve data sharing, and this will be taken forward by key organisations in the partnership.



Hertfordshire and
West Essex Integrated
Care Partnership

- Improving **supported employment opportunities** was also a key agenda item. The ICP heard proposals for improving supported employment opportunities within ICP organisations for people who have serious mental illness (SMI), learning disabilities (LD) or neurodiversity (ND), through creating a set of principles and protocols that organisations can sign up to, to support inclusive hiring practices. The ambition of this project is to develop a Public Sector Pledge for ICP members as employers which will allow partners to create inclusive work environments and help people to find paid employment that supports their personal aspirations, skills and situations, supports organisational development, management practices and team dynamics, and reduces stigma and barriers to people thriving in the workplace.

The meeting papers and presentations can be found [here](#).