

3 November 2021

Update for GP practices in Somerset re Somerset ICS and SGPPB

Dear Colleagues

It is some time since I wrote to update you on the progress made in developing the Somerset Integrated Care System (ICS), and the work that has been done to ensure that General Practice is not only appropriately represented on the ICS and that its value to our Health and Social Care System (HSCS) is recognised by all parts of the System, but that this representation is also able to influence decision making at all levels of the ICS.

Somerset General Practice Provider Board (SGPPB):

You will be aware that the Primary Care Board (PCB) was renamed the Somerset General Practice Provider Board (SGPPB) in July, following a PCB development session in June that resulted in the decision of the Board to focus on representing General Practice providers (the GP practices) on the ICS, whilst supporting the representation of wider Primary Care on the ICS. The SGPPB is currently reviewing its Terms of Reference, and is planning a further development session in January 2022 during which a number of key matters will be discussed including Board membership, SGPPB representation at all levels of the ICS, and the future structure of the Board and its relationship with SPH, the LMC and the PCN CD Board, in addition to its relationship with other key stakeholders within the Somerset HSCS.

As Chair of the Board, I am committed to ensuring that the SGPPB continues to robustly represent your interests within the Somerset ICS, and that all partners within the Somerset HSCS understand the structure of the SGPPB and the key representative role of this Board acting as the single “provider voice” of General Practice within the county.

PCN CD Board:

The CD Board continues to not only co-ordinate progress of the PCN DES, but to act as the clinical voice for General Practice providers within Somerset. Kat Dalby-Welsh was recently selected by the CDs to replace me as Chair of the CD Board, and I congratulate her on her appointment to this role that will continue to be important within the Somerset ICS.

**C/O Somerset Local Medical Committee
Crown Medical Centre
Venture Way, Taunton, TA2 8QY**

Chair: Dr Berge Balian
Vice Chair: Dr Karen Sylvester
Secretary: Dr Barry Moyse

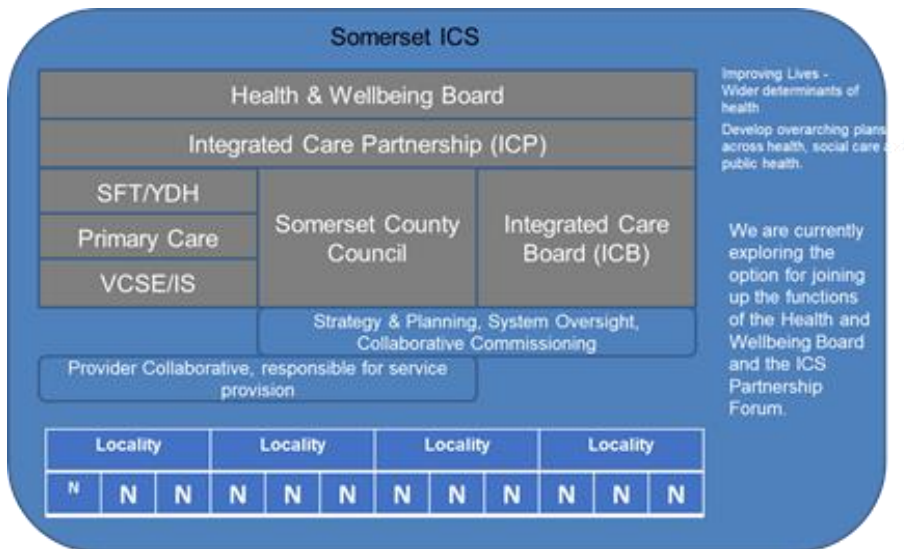
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Foundation Trusts:

The proposed merger of the two main Foundation Trusts in Somerset continues to progress, with the development of a single Trust Executive that will be responsible for delivery at both Trusts. The current anticipated timescale for completion of the merger is October 2022.

Somerset ICS:

There has been considerable progress made in developing the proposed Governance Structure of the ICS, although this has taken some time to achieve as the Somerset HSCS does not neatly fit into the national Governance vision for ICSs (designed for Systems that include multiple Statutory Bodies such as Foundation Trusts and Councils). This is a pictorial representation of the current proposed Somerset ICS structure:



In the past 6 weeks, Paul von der Heyde has been formally appointed as Chair of the ICB (he has, until recently, been Chair of Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust). The ICB will be the NHS Body replacing the CCG, but its functions will differ from the current CCG's functions, with all NHS providers represented on the ICB Board, resulting in the "co-commissioning" of services, as already occurs in the County Council. In addition, the interviews for the role of ICB Chief Executive have been completed, and the national process for ratifying the preferred candidate will be completed by 17th November. Once this appointment has been formally announced, we will be liaising with the ICB Chair and CEO regarding General Practice representation on the ICB.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to have further discussion regarding any of the above. I look forward to continuing to represent your interests in ongoing discussions regarding the role the SGPPB plays within the ICS, and the support required to optimize its voice and influence within the HSCS.

Kind regards

Dr Berge Balian; Chair, Somerset General Practice Provider Board

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