

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines proposals for the establishment of Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum, which will replace the Coventry and Warwickshire Joint Place Forum.
- 1.2 The Forum will provide system leadership around the wider health and wellbeing agenda, and as such will contribute to achievement of the aims of the ICS, specifically tackling inequalities in outcomes, experience and access, and helping the NHS support broader social and economic development.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2016 the two Health and Wellbeing Boards in Coventry and Warwickshire took the decision to work together collaboratively to drive improvement in health outcomes and the reduction of health inequalities. The Boards committed to meeting together as a 'Place Forum' to create the necessary system conditions and leadership for an uplift in prevention. They articulated a shared vision and principles for place-based system leadership in a joint Concordat, which underpinned their commitment to a programme of work around wellbeing. A key early achievement of the Place Forum was delivery of the Coventry and Warwickshire Year of Wellbeing in 2019, to raise the profile of local prevention opportunities and encourage people to be proactive about their own health and wellbeing.
- 2.2 In 2019 a new Health and Care Partnership Board was established to provide the formal leadership and set strategic direction for the Health and Care Partnership. This worked alongside the Place Forum, which continued to provide leadership on population health and wellbeing. The work of the Place Forum was developmental and took the form of informal workshops, under the leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board chairs and with independent facilitation. The Health and Care Partnership Board met in public, chaired by the independent chair of the Health and Care Partnership.
- 2.3 Throughout the pandemic there were joint online meetings of the Place Forum with the Health and Care Partnership Board. These meetings were well-supported and valued as a key collaborative space for partners to progress a shared agenda around inequalities and population health. New connections were established, for example with Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, with increasing recognition of the need for an integrated response to the impact of the pandemic.
- 2.4 The collaboration between the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the work of the Place Forum has been recognised nationally as good practice by the Local Government Association and The King's Fund.




3. Future of the Place Forum

- 3.1 In November 2021 an online development session was held for Place Forum members to understand the statutory changes to the Integrated Care System and to consider the future role of the Place Forum in this context – alongside a new statutory Integrated Care Partnership. The meeting considered the added value that the Place Forum offered to the system, and how to shape its role and format within the emerging ICS governance arrangements.
- 3.2 Members expressed a desire to build on the strong partnership working in place through the Place Forum and Health and Care Partnership Board, and a continued commitment to working collaboratively. They valued the Place Forum and regarded its wide and inclusive membership as a key strength. They also identified a need for greater clarity about roles, responsibilities and accountability within the system, so that governance is coherent and can be described to the public, so they can understand where decisions are made and by whom.
- 3.3 There was consensus that:
- there is a continuing role for an advisory/consultative forum for the ICS
 - the forum has a role in capturing a breath of views and perspectives from system partners, including those informed by local residents, and leading the agenda around engagement and co-production
 - a return to face-to-face meetings would support the networking aspect of the forum.
- 3.4 In March 2022 the final meeting of the Place Forum in its current guise was held, pending the new statutory governance arrangements to be established for the Integrated Care System. It was an opportunity to reflect on the Place Forum journey to date and share proposals for future arrangements

4. Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum

- 4.1 Reflecting the outcomes of the Place Forum discussions, proposals were developed regarding the future of the Place Forum. It was suggested that it should be refreshed as follows:
- Name: C&W Integrated Health & Wellbeing Forum
 - Purpose: Advisory role for the ICS and to reflect a breadth of views informed by working with local communities from across C&W
 - Initial membership: Health and Wellbeing Boards (and Exec); ICP members; Care Collaborative and Place representatives
 - Meeting frequency: 2-3 times per year
- 4.2 As the Integrated Care Partnership was established on 1 July, it was decided to defer the first meeting of the new Forum until early October. (Work is in progress to identify a date.) A subsequent meeting will be arranged for early February 2023. In future years it is expected that



there may be three meetings of the Forum, however scheduling will be reviewed as the cycle of business is developed.

- 4.3 Reflecting the developmental, system leadership role of the Forum, it is proposed that an independent facilitator is secured, who can provide external support and challenge to ensure that meetings add value to the system and provide a genuine opportunity for engagement of and between system leaders. This is a model that served the Place Forum well prior to the pandemic.
- 4.4 Work is in progress to develop the cycle of business, to ensure alignment between the work of the Integrated Care Partnership, ICB Board, the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the new Forum. This will provide clarity about the respective governance role and responsibilities of each of these groups and ensure a meaningful flow of business. The cycle of business will be developed in discussion with the chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the ICS, and senior executives from the local authorities and ICB, as part of their regular agenda-setting meetings for the Forum.
- 4.5 It is expected that a core part of the business of the Forum in October will be to contribute to the development of the Integrated Care Strategy.

Conclusion

Coventry and Warwickshire Place Forum established the conditions for strong partnership working between our Health and Wellbeing Boards and health and care partners. This collaborative approach is key to addressing the ICS ambitions for tackling health inequalities and improving population health outcomes. The proposed Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum offers a mechanism for continued collaboration that recognises, embraces and enhances the role and contribution of all partners. This wider partnership representation in the Forum is important as a guide for the Integrated Care Partnership in developing its Integrated Care Strategy.

Recommendation

Members are requested to **NOTE AND ENDORSE** the establishment of Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Health and Wellbeing Forum as outlined in the report, with the Integrated Care Partnership as core members.

End of Report