

ICB Board – 29 January 2025 – Questions received from members of the public

Name, Date and Time	Submitted questions	Forwarded to	Summary Response
<b>Email</b> <b>20/01/2025</b> <b>09:20</b> <b>Syed Abrar</b> <b>Client</b> <b>Director of</b> <b>Limbic Ai</b>	<p><b><u>QUESTION 1</u></b></p> <p><i>"As the adoption of AI continues to shape the delivery of mental healthcare, what is the ICB's approach to leveraging these tools to enhance outcomes, improve efficiency, and ensure equitable access to services? Additionally, if you are a third-party that is able to support the ICB's strategy and priorities, who would be the best person to contact regarding this matter in the first instance?"</i></p>	<p>Execs – Claire Skidmore and Lorna Clarson. SLT Leads – David Maruta</p>	<p>The adoption of AI in healthcare and operational functions is a key consideration within STW ICS' digital strategy. As an ICS, we are initiating discussions to explore the potential applications of AI and develop a clear approach to its use. This includes defining specific use cases that align with our priorities and understanding the impact on service delivery, workforce efficiency, and patient outcomes.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of learning from other NHS organisations and industry partners to ensure AI is implemented safely and effectively. Key considerations include information governance, cyber security, and public confidence in AI-driven solutions. By taking these steps, we aim to co-produce a system-wide approach that is both practical and sustainable.</p> <p>While we acknowledge that AI solutions come with significant cost implications, we have not yet secured dedicated funding. However, we continue to engage with national digital transformation teams and other partners to explore funding opportunities and strategic collaborations.</p> <p>In the meantime, the contact for any questions relating to the ICS's AI approach is David Maruta, STW ICS Head of Digital.</p>
<b>Email</b> <b>20/01/2025</b> <b>11:37</b> <b>Bernard</b> <b>Bentick</b>	<p><b><u>QUESTION 2</u></b></p> <p><i>"Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:</i></p> <p><i>1. the total Government financial settlements to Shropshire, Telford and</i></p>	<p>Exec – Claire Skidmore SLT Lead – Angela Szabo</p>	<p>The response to this question is based on system revenue resource limits as agreed with NHS England:</p>

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Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council	<i>Wrekin Integrated Care System (STW ICS) separately for financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26?”</i>		2023/24 - The system planned a deficit of £57.1m and received deficit funding of £57.1m. The actual 2024/24 outturn deficit post plan deficit funding was £72.5m. 2024/25 - The system planned deficit is £89.9m, the system received deficit funding of £89.9m. The actual 2024/25 outturn deficit post plan deficit funding will be approved by Board on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2025. 2025/26 - Not published, 2025/26 operational planning will not conclude until April 2025.
Email 20/01/2025 11:37 Bernard Bentick Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council	<b>QUESTION 3</b>  <i>“Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:  2. the amounts allocated to Shrewsbury &amp; Telford Hospitals NHS Trust, Shropshire Community Health Trust, other Primary Services including General Practice, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, Tertiary Care services and any other specifically funded services separately for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 such that the summated amounts equate to the total settlements?”</i>	Exec – Claire Skidmore SLT Lead – Angela Szabo	The response to this question is based on the agreed financial plan values for each area within the overall financial plan position:  SaTH - 2023/24 £385m, 2024/25 £432.5m, SCHT - 2023/24 £81.3m, 2024/25 £89.8m, Primary Care (including prescribing and co-commissioning) 2023/24 £203m, 2024/25 £216m, MPUFT - 2023/24 £70.2m, 2024/25 £73m, Tertiary care services (specialised services delegated budget) 2023/24 N/A this was not delegated from NHS England in 2023/24, 2024/25 £96.8m,  2025/26 figures will be available once operational planning concludes.
Email 20/01/2025 11:37 Bernard Bentick Meole Ward Councillor at	<b>QUESTION 4</b>  <i>“Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:  3. what amounts are to be transferred from Secondary Care to Primary Care to support Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin’s Public Health strategy for prevention, Community services and General Practice in 2025/26?”</i>	Exec – Claire Skidmore SLT Lead – Angela Szabo	This information is not yet published. 2025/26 operational and financial planning will not conclude until April 2025.

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<b>Shropshire Council</b>			
<b>Email</b> <b>20/01/2025</b> <b>11:37</b> <b>Bernard Bentick</b> <b>Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council</b>	<p><b>QUESTION 5</b>  <i>“Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:</i></p> <p><i>4. what amounts for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been allocated for:</i></p> <p><i>Mental Health services</i>  <i>Community and Family Hubs</i>  <i>Additional Community beds (I believe currently at approximately 145 beds for Shropshire)</i>  <i>Dental Health services</i>  <i>Women’s Health services”</i></p>	<p>Exec – Claire Skidmore  SLT Lead – Angela Szabo</p>	<p>The response to this question is based on the agreed financial plan values for each area within the overall financial plan position:</p> <p>Mental Health services 2023/24 £112.6m, 2024/25 £120.4m, Community and Family Hubs - Separate funding has not been allocated for these hubs, they bring together resources from existing budgets.  Additional Community beds – Investments made over 2023/24 and 2024/25 include £4.4m for virtual wards (equivalent to 110 community beds) and £7.7m for rapid response/sub-acute units which have 52 beds.  Dental Health services - 2023/24 not delegated to the ICB, 2024/25 Primary dental services £27.7m, secondary dental services £9.5m,  Women’s Health services (Gynae/Maternity spend) – 2023/24 £31.8m, 2024/25 £35.7m,</p> <p>2025/26 figures will be available once operational planning concludes.</p>
<b>Email</b> <b>20/01/2025</b> <b>11:37</b> <b>Bernard Bentick</b> <b>Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council</b>	<p><b>QUESTION 6</b>  <i>“Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:</i></p> <p><i>5. Has the former Shropshire Telford and Wrekin Clinic Commissioning Group’s Policy Document on health interventions (copy attached) been adopted and updated by the STW ICS and if so, how is compliance assured?</i></p> <p><i>If not, what Commissioning Policy Document is now in use and what assurance system is in place to ensure compliance? What are the results of</i></p>	<p>Exec – Ian Bett  SLT Lead – Maureen Wain</p>	<p>This is our Value Based Commissioning Policy which is reviewed and updated either annually or bi-annually, or ad hoc updates if anything significant changes on national guidance.</p> <p>The latest version is 2024-2026, was formally approved in published around April 2024 (available on ICB website). The ICB BI team routinely draw down activity data against the procedures set out in the policy, and matches that against having prior approval codes in place or not – all of</p>

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	<i>the assurance system?”</i>		<p>which the contracting team can use to instigate audits with providers.</p> <p>The Referral Management Centre team also has a qualified nurse in post who screens and reviews all VBC linked referrals to ensure they meet the necessary requirements. Any VBC activity undertaken without a code or without adequate clinical rationale will not be funded, and also then triggers an audit into the individual case with the clinicians involved.</p> <p>All GP’s and commissioned providers and Trusts are contractually expected to adhere to the Policy.</p> <p>The results of enforcing the policy is to ensure safety, value for money, and that overstretched NHS resources are only being used on procedures and interventions that we commission.</p>
<p>Email 20/01/2025 11:37 Bernard Bentick Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 7</b> “Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:  6. In the light of recent reports that patients waiting in Urgent Care/A&amp;E Departments for more than 12 hours have twice the risk of death compared with those who are dealt with within 2 hours, what priority are the STW ICS and SaTH giving Urgent Care Services to deal with long waits? How will STW ICS and SATH stop large numbers of patients having delayed discharges from Secondary Care, currently 101 patients per day?”</p>	<p>Exec – Ian Bett SLT Lead – Gareth Wright</p>	<p>Reducing patients time in our Emergency Departments (EDs) is a top priority for the ICB and all its partners.</p> <p>The imperative to bear down upon 12 hr waits has been explicit in the NHS England 2025/26 priorities and operational planning guidance published on 30 Jan 25. Our Transformation plans for the coming year and beyond are aimed at addressing these issues. These plans focus on keeping people well, and providing the best possible support to patients so that they only use the hospital when clinically urgent. We are also focussed on continually improving our discharge pathways to facilitate patients being discharged to the most appropriate care in a timely manner, with the main aim of patients being discharged to their original place of residency.</p>
<p>Email</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 8</b> “Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:</p>	<p>Exec – Ian Bett</p>	<p>The ICS is currently in the preparation and planning stage. To enable decision making we have an established</p>

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<p><b>20/01/2025 11:37 Bernard Bentick Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council</b></p>	<p><i>7. How will STW ICS provide a Diagnostic Centre in Shrewsbury, to assist in reducing the excessive waiting times for diagnostic services?"</i></p>	<p>SLT Lead – Maureen Wain</p>	<p>system level group who is taking this forward by looking at data in all forms, to ensure demand, health population, growth and appropriate location is considered to support our bid writing. NHS England are yet to provide systems with a timescale for completion of bids. However, the ICS is continuing with the planning stage to ensure that once a date for submission of bids is received by NHSE the ICS are ready to submit for consideration and approval in a timely fashion.</p>
<p><b>Email 20/01/2025 11:37 Bernard Bentick Meole Ward Councillor at Shropshire Council</b></p>	<p><b><u>QUESTION 9</u></b> <i>"Would the STW ICB please supply the following information:  8. Can STW ICS confirm that it receives frequent written communications from NHS England with strategic and operational instructions? Do these communications reduce the ability of the STW ICS to respond to local pressures on services, particularly Urgent Care? Will these communications be made public?"</i></p>	<p>Exec – Simon Whitehouse  Beth and Kate Manning</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. As part of the NHS structure, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (STW ICS) receives regular communications from NHS England, which provide strategic guidance, policy updates, and operational priorities. These communications are essential for ensuring consistency, quality, and alignment with national healthcare objectives, while also allowing local systems to adapt to regional and local needs. While national guidance informs our approach, STW ICS retains the flexibility to tailor services to meet local challenges, including pressures on urgent care. We work closely with our local partners—including NHS providers, councils, and voluntary sector organisations, to ensure that services are responsive to the specific needs of our communities. While some NHS England communications are publicly available (such as policy documents and national directives), others may contain operational or sensitive information, so may not be available within the public domain. However, we are committed to open and accountable decision-making and regularly share relevant updates through our board meetings, public reports, and engagement events.</p>
<p><b>Email</b></p>	<p><b><u>QUESTION 10</u></b></p>	<p>Exec – Lorna Clarson</p>	<p>The Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Dental Service Equity Audit highlighted that Meole includes an area of significant</p>

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<p><b>27/01/2025</b> <b>11:56</b> <b>Bernard</b> <b>Bentick</b> <b>Meole Ward</b> <b>Councillor at</b> <b>Shropshire</b> <b>Council</b></p>	<p><i>“Dear Sir/Madam,</i>  <i>my question relates to Board Agenda ICB 29-01.110, Item 4.2</i>  <i>Question start:</i>  <i>7 priority Wards have been selected, including deprived North Shrewsbury Wards and Ludlow Wards.</i>  <i>Meole Ward in South Shrewsbury has the 5th most deprived area in Shropshire, namely Meole Estate.</i>  <i>Will STW ICB extend its priority areas to include Meole Ward inn Shrewsbury?</i>  <i>Question end.”</i></p>	<p>SLT Lead – Liz Walker</p>	<p>deprivation and quantified the number of residents needing to be seen by an NHS dentist to increase the dental service access rate to the ICB average of 2019. Meole ward has now been added to the list of Priority area 7.</p> <p>The ICB can assure you that the need for services in Meole was taken account of in the recent commissioning of additional dental services for Shrewsbury. Residents of that area are currently being signposted to 2 dental practices taking on NHS patients and local partners such as health visitors, social workers etc. working with residents of Meole are able to refer them directly to local dental practices if they want access to a dentist on a regular basis. Urgent dental care is available to all who need it both in-hours and out of hours via the Urgent Dental Care Service provided by the Community Dental Service of Shropshire Community NHS Trust. Patients can access this service by phoning the Shropshire, Telford &amp; Wrekin Dental Advice Line on 01743 322199.</p>
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