

## Foreword

Rutland is a very special community in which to live, work and study. The Rutland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) formalises Rutland's status as a place in the LLR Integrated Care System. The JHWS sets out our vision to create a place where we all work together in partnership to improve health outcomes and opportunities for all our residents.

The past two years have tested our community like no others; we have lost friends and family and our frontline staff have been tested to their limit. And yet, the community spirit of Rutland has risen to the challenge. Many ways of partnership working we thought impossible have been achieved. These are the seedlings through which our integrated care strategy can grow.

As we emerge from the pandemic and with the reorganisation of Health and Social Care, we have the opportunity to develop a system for us all, one which responds to the rural character of Rutland and embodies our priorities, including by addressing inequalities and bringing more care closer to home. It must also benefit from fit for purpose infrastructure that addresses Rutland's needs and factors into the wider reconfiguration of health services.

This strategy sets out our vision and commitment, and is a living document that will grow as we need it with the voice of our community at its heart.

I would like to thank the Health and Wellbeing Board and all of our colleagues and partners for their time and commitment developing this strategy, especially as it was produced during the peak of the pandemic. Special thanks also go to all our community who took the opportunity to feed in their own experiences and views, and develop its heart.

Together we can build an ever healthier community for Rutland.

Councillor Saman

Rutland County Council Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and  
on behalf of the Rutland Health and Wellb

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Rutland Health and Wellbeing Context

People in Rutland on the whole live long and healthy lives, enjoying better than average mental and physical health when compared with many parts of the country. The county's health and care partners have a strong track record of working together effectively to support health and wellbeing, developing integrated approaches which prioritise prevention and place the individual front and centre, and supporting change for people of all ages facing a range of disadvantages which can lead to poorer outcomes. There are always new challenges, however, and we cannot stand still. The population is growing and changing, and patterns of inequality are evolving. We are also facing new demands recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. This document aims to share our collaborative journey in how we will set a clear single vision for Rutland over the next five years that responds to meet the health and wellbeing needs of our population, building on the excellent foundations in place already, [bringing care closer to home wherever possible, and working to ensure that Rutland's needs are fully understood and factored into the wider reconfiguration of health services and infrastructure in our region.](#)

### 1.2 Wider System Context

- **NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) (January 2019):** The [LTP](#) created Integrated Care Systems (ICS), giving a platform for partnership working and integration. Across the Leicester, [Leicestershire and Rutland ICS](#) is now approved as an ICS, consisting of the [Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care System \(ICS\)](#), the three local authorities

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- **NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) (January 2019)** (ICS), giving a platform for partnership working across the Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) system, with the NHS bodies of the LLR Clinical Commissioning Group, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS Foundation Trust, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Maternity System, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Primary Care Network, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Healthwatch, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Social Care Partnership, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Wellbeing Board, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and Leicestershire and Rutland Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) wider partners such as the voluntary and community sector.
- **Integration and innovation: working together (January 2021):** This [white paper](#) put ICS's Health and Social Care partnership, bringing together local authorities, the voluntary and community sector, NHS bodies and others to look collectively at the needs of the population at the various partnership levels i.e. System, Place and Neighbourhood. At the Place level, i.e. for the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland local authority areas respectively, local partnerships are responsible for developing 'place led plans' to meet the population's health, public health, and social care needs. This Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) is the 'place led plan' for Rutland, and will provide the place and neighbourhood level priorities reflecting the differences in need and the services required across Rutland and its neighbouring areas.
- **Building Better Hospitals** – This [programme](#) represents a significant and ambitious capital investment **change** programme for the University Hospitals Leicester (UHL), which will inform key changes in hospital provision across LLR. [Rutland's requirements need to be fully factored into this and considered in relation to the parallel change programmes in neighbouring areas.](#)

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#### Priority 4: Ensuring equitable access to services for all Rutland residents

The aim of this priority is to understand and take steps to ameliorate some of the inequities that are faced in Rutland in the ability to access services. This has a number of aspects which are set out below. Related to this, the sufficiency of GP services is also addressed in Priority 5, which looks at evolving services in response to a growing and changing population.

Where are we now and what do we want to achieve?

Rutland is a rural county that borders a number of other local authorities and healthcare systems and has no acute healthcare facilities within its boundaries. This creates challenges for many in accessing services which can often be distant, requiring long travel times by car and even longer times by public transport.

The challenge of accessing services in Rutland is one of the public's most frequently raised health and care issues, with experiences varying depending on individual factors such as the extent of health need, any access needs, the remoteness of the home address, modes of transport, and time and money available. While we cannot entirely remove the challenges around access to services, we will work to improve access to health and wellbeing services and opportunities, by working on a number of dimensions of this problem.

Equity of access to services across borders is a challenge for Rutland. The Council can only provide statutory services to people defined as living in Rutland, but some people registered with the Rutland GP practices live outside the area and require other solutions if a Council service is needed. Likewise, some people living in Rutland are served by GP practices outside the county. This can lead to inequities between the health and care support available to different residents and patients. We will work with cross border partners to understand and reduce some of these barriers.

To reduce the overall distances that need to be travelled, we also intend to bring a wider range of planned and diagnostic health services closer to Rutland residents, supported by fit for purpose infrastructure. We will be working to improve access to primary and community health and care services within Rutland, including community pharmacy. We will also work to ensure that the implications of acute hospital reconfigurations for Rutland patients are well understood and are fully factored into decision-making.

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