



Current situation – May 2024

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for all you continue to do alongside people in Leeds in what are far from easy times.

Over the last six months we have been keeping you informed about the NHS finances in Leeds and more widely across West Yorkshire. I thought it would be helpful to give you a brief update now the final planning submissions have gone into NHS England. You will remember in Leeds we started planning for 2024-25 with a projected gap of c£207m in the collective NHS position across Leeds. This was about 7% of the total budget and arose from the underlying position that has been worsening and anticipated pressures for this year.

The positive news, as we enter this financial year, is that the overall NHS position in Leeds has reduced to a forecast c£8m deficit. This is a much lower than other parts of West Yorkshire ICS, which at submission stage was predicting an £85m deficit. Our three NHS providers in Leeds are forecasting that they will break even, having made commitments to meet challenging 6-8% efficiency and waste reduction plans. We know General Practice and Third Sector colleagues face similar very significant financial pressures. The ICB team in Leeds still holds a relatively small deficit from an opening position of £81m. Whilst Leeds is still in deficit overall it is seen, collectively, as one of the strongest places in West Yorkshire financially. For various reasons, relating to the allocation models, and given the work Leeds has done to develop its plans, we will not be asked to further improve our position.

This is good news, and it has taken a lot of hard and often painful work to get us to this place. And the hard work is not over. It remains vital that we deliver the plans we have developed and support each other in doing so.

If we do deliver them, it puts us in a strong position going into next financial year. It will give us the opportunity to consider real and deeper transformation that we all believe is necessary if we are to improve the health of the population. With this in mind, NHS colleagues are starting to work together on our medium-term financial planning alongside colleagues in the council, and we will share more with you in due course over the summer.

Kind regards

Tim Ryley

Leeds Health and Care Partnership

