



## **Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2024 in London**

#### **Members present:**

Sir Norman Williams, Chair  
Simon Brake  
Tansi Harper  
Graham Jagger  
Rajesh Khanna  
Angela McNab  
Luke March  
Rohan Sivanandan  
David Stout  
Elaine Strachan-Hall  
Miles Wagstaff  
Suzy Walton  
Andrea Young

#### **In attendance:**

Richard Jeavons, IRP Chief Executive  
IRP Secretariat

#### **Apologies:**

Ann Lloyd  
Tony Schapira

### **1. Welcome, declarations of interest and minutes of the previous meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and opened the meeting.
- 1.2 Simon Brake confirmed a new declaration of interest as a member of the West Midlands Clinical Senate's review of intrapartum maternity services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The IRP's register of interests was updated by the Secretariat.
- 1.3 The minutes from the IRP meeting held on 12 March 2024 were formally approved.

### **2. Chair's update**

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed new members present, David Stout, Andrea Young and Angela McNab, who along with Ann Lloyd (apologies received), had all been appointed by ministers to serve four year terms with the IRP.
- 2.2 The IRP continues to have an outstanding vacancy for a clinical member. The Chair is to discuss a way forward with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).
- 2.3 Members received and noted the IRP's annual business review for 2023/24 along with DHSC's strategic objectives for 2024/25 linked to the Secretary of State's three priorities for the health and care system: 'faster, simpler, fairer'.
- 2.4 The Chair was due to meet with the Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care, the Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson MP, to review the recent work of the IRP and to discuss priorities for the year ahead. A letter from the Chair to the Minister sent ahead of the meeting was received by members and had been published on gov.uk for transparency.
- 2.5 Members also received an update from the Secretariat on NHS reconfiguration proposals in the pipeline. It was noted that several requests relating to various NHS

service changes had been made to the Secretary of State to use their call in powers under the Health and Care Act 2022 to intervene and these requests were under review by the Department of Health and Social Care.

### **3. Case study: Somerset acute hospital based stroke services reconfiguration**

- 3.1 Members considered an overview of the series of events that had led up to the NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board's decision to create a single hyperacute stroke unit at Musgrove Park Hospital with acute stroke units at both Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil District Hospital.
- 3.2 It was noted that a request for the Secretary of State to intervene in the decision using the new call in powers in legislation had been received by the Department of Health and Social Care from Somerset Council's health scrutiny committee.
- 3.3 A high level discussion took place with members. This included a consideration of the processes involved in advising the Secretary of State if the IRP were to be commissioned for advice to ensure alignment with the Department of Health and Social Care's statutory guidance.

### **4. Urgent and emergency care transformation**

- 4.1 Members received a presentation on the issues involved in emergency department reconfigurations from Dr Adrian Boyle, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.
- 4.2 Topics discussed included emergency department core functions, staffing, imaging and pathology support, and links to other specialties such as mental health liaison services.
- 4.3 The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.