

Health and Wellbeing Board Briefing Note

March 2026

Thames Valley ICB operating model and staff consultation

Planning 2026/2027

Thames Valley Innovation Fund

Dr Nick Broughton

Thames Valley ICB operating model and staff consultation

BOB and Frimley ICB chief officers are working to develop an operating model for the new Thames Valley ICB from 1 April 2026. This will include new areas of focus, ways of working and potential alternative hosting arrangements for some services or teams. This will be shared with staff as part of the formal consultation - due to launch on 24 February - in line with the ICBs' statutory duties and the restructuring process.

The ICB is keen to hear the thoughts of valued stakeholders on how Thames Valley ICB might best support their work and keep them engaged to deliver better, more joined-up services to the communities they serve.

The ICB will invite stakeholder feedback on the operating model in the coming weeks. This will include a survey and the opportunity to join a workshop.

In the meantime, colleagues from BOB and Frimley ICBs are working together to ensure the safe closedown of the individual organisations and the set-up of Thames Valley ICB, ready for launch on 1 April.

Planning 2026/2027

The ICB Cluster (BOB and Frimley) has submitted its final plan for 2026/27 to NHS England, which includes a 3-year finance plan (4 years for capital), a 3-year workforce plan (primary care and non-NHS mental health workforce) and a 3-year activity plan.

Also submitted was a 5-year narrative plan, based on the recently published [Thames Valley Commissioning Intentions](#). The document sets out strategic objectives to

deliver improved value, build neighbourhood health and prioritise prevention, and the approaches to measure and manage this work.

Following the plan submission, we will work with providers across Thames Valley to finalise contracts in the period up to April 2026, alongside preparing for the formal establishment of Thames Valley ICB.

We expect to hear from NHS England regarding acceptance of by the end of March at the latest.

Thames Valley Innovation Fund

The fund was launched in December with a total value of £53 million to support delivery of ICB commissioning intentions. The response has been strong, with 195 expressions of interest from across the Thames Valley. Notably, more than eight out of 10 were joint submissions involving more than one organisation. Collectively, the bids request more than £139 million for 2026/27, which significantly exceeds the available funding.

The ICB expects to communicate next steps to all submissions shortly.

Dr Nick Broughton

BOB and Frimley ICB Chief Executive, Dr Nick Broughton has been successful in securing an additional leadership role with NHS England. Alongside his ICB Chief Executive post, Nick will be National Priority Programme Director for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Neurodevelopmental Conditions.

As the national lead, Nick will be responsible for shaping and driving the mental health, learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental conditions agenda across the country. His work will include leading national programmes, supporting policy development, and strengthening partnerships with regions and systems to improve outcomes and access to these services nationally.

While Nick is carrying out his national responsibilities, he will be supported by his Chief Officer team in leading the ICB cluster and the new Thames Valley ICB from April.