

One Eastern Devon Partnership Forum Agenda Notes

15 September 2026 | Kerry Durkin and Matt Merriam, co-chairs | Microsoft Teams

These brief notes follow the published agenda. Each item records the answer given to its questions, the group's reflection and suggested follow up. "Suggested" does not mean an action was formally agreed or that the person named accepted ownership. The transcript excludes breakout-room audio and the Teams chat.

Attendance

Meeting co-chairs Kerry Durkin (Devon Partnership NHS Trust) and Matt Merriam (Devon Mental Health Alliance/CoLab).

Present (46, including the co-chairs) Kerry Durkin; Matt Merriam; Kier Ayres-Wyndham; Ellie Barnes; Ian Blackwell; Richard Blackwell; Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking; Sally Burgess; Fiona Carden; Nicolas Child; Stephen Clayton; Si Culley; Brett Elliott; Nic Ferreira; Nicky Flynn; Sarah Forde; Tony George; John Groom; Darin Halifax; Hannah Hulin; Sue Julyan; Simon Kingsman; Anthea Langshaw; Marie Light; James Martin; Rachael McCarthy; Emma O'Connell; Bernadette Orgee; Henry Palmer; Stephany Phillips; Lisa Pike; John Powell; Jenna Rickard; Ann Rhys; Kerry Shakeheave; Dean Smith; Andy Stapley; Caroline Stead; Laura Syree; Sue Taylor; Isobel Vanstone; Paul White; Grace Williams; Heather Wolhuter; Lisa Woodward; Nicki Wright.

1.1 Welcome and system temperature check

Introductions and previous actions Kerry and Matt introduced themselves as the new co chairs. Given the size of the meeting, contributors introduced themselves when speaking rather than in a full round. Kerry said the chairs had reviewed the 7 May action log before the meeting and regarded its actions as complete; they were not discussed item by item.

What are people noticing? Short breakout report-backs mentioned the DWP Confident Futures offer, a schools and neighbourhood-working event, a proposed DMHA and DPT joint triage, gaps in bereavement support, difficulty finding mental health help in smaller towns, income pressures and forthcoming changes to carers' services. These were examples shared in plenary, not a full record of the breakouts.

Reflection Members described energy to work differently alongside uncertainty about funding, staff capacity and organisational culture. The range of concerns showed why a broad temperature check can bring intelligence that would otherwise remain in separate services.

Suggested follow up Kerry invited all members to review the OED website and send omissions or changes to Isobel before the December Forum. James Martin and John Powell offered to talk separately about the carers-service changes. Matt invited anything not shared aloud to be added to the chat.

1.2 Executive Board update

What has the Board decided? Fiona described work on the Board's structure and representation, but reported no new substantive decision or delegated decision-making power. Links with the ICB, the meeting structure and funding flows were still being determined. She hoped for greater clarity within a few weeks; this was an expectation, not an agreed deadline.

What concerns the Board and members? Governance uncertainty, overlapping meetings and duplicated effort were prominent. Nicky Flynn asked how communities, groups, the Forum and Board connect, and where accountability and sign-off sit. Sue Julyan called for a current guide to the different meetings and their purposes.

Where was the Forum's wisdom or mandate sought? No specific decision was put to the Forum for a mandate. Matt invited views on whether a short Board update organised around the agenda's three questions would be useful. Kerry stressed that questions and learning should travel back from the Forum into strategic meetings, with decisions then reported to members.

Reflection Members appeared to value the proposed two-way relationship, but could not yet see the Board's authority or a dependable route for influence and response. A guide would need to stay current as arrangements change.

Suggested follow up Matt and Kerry invited suggestions on the update format. Fiona said a brief account of structures was being checked with ICB colleagues. A clear map of purpose, decision rights, reporting routes and funding remains to be confirmed with the relevant bodies before publication.

2.1 Neighbourhood health and local government change

What is changing? Caroline said local government reorganisation decisions had been paused; James Martin described the position as still subject to review. ICB and OED neighbourhood planning would continue. A neighbourhood steering group was already operating, and frailty and end-of-life work faced immediate winter delivery pressures. Funding for neighbourhood leadership was possible but its design was not settled.

What might it mean? John Groom thought the pause could release some local-authority capacity for integration. Caroline and John described an agile approach to frailty work rather than a long business-case cycle. Nicky Flynn asked for the workshops to have clear outputs. Acute providers needed confidence that care could be supported in community and primary-care settings before resources shifted.

What does OED need to wrestle with? How can urgent frailty measures draw on existing community practice and become more preventive over time? Kerry questioned the medical emphasis and whether frailty included mental health and dementia. Ann Rhys pressed for adult end-of-life and hospice work; Emma O'Connell raised children's end-of-life care. Paul White asked for community involvement in designing leadership. No neighbourhood design or leadership model was agreed.

Reflection Members supported moving quickly while questioning who has a voice in that movement. Ellie Barnes asked speakers to distinguish when "we" meant the ICB and when it meant the whole partnership. Paul called for an actual shared co-design space; Fiona suggested partners could better understand one another's constraints.

Suggested follow up John Groom undertook to raise the place of end-of-life care in frailty planning. Caroline pointed to the Eastern Frailty workshops as the next working space. Members suggested bringing mental health, dementia, children, hospice and VCSE practice into that work, and exploring community as well as clinical leadership. Owners for the wider set of requests were not settled.

3.1 Partnership groups and Health Inequalities Framework

What did the groups report? The Mental Health group met monthly and discussed neighbourhood teams, primary-care triage and suicide-prevention guidance. Healthy Ageing met quarterly and focused on dementia, discharge, care at home, frailty and transport, but lacked administrative support. CYP Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing Alliance updates were in the papers. No Unpaid Carers representative spoke, and its group was said to have been inactive; no Loneliness update was heard. Ellie said the former VCSE partnership meeting had not met for some time, while separate reflective learning sessions remained active. Caroline described the one-off Framework working group and shared draft visual summaries for comment.

Which gaps or groups need revisiting? Kerry proposed a stocktake rather than deciding any group's future in the meeting. Questions included which groups remained useful, where carers' issues should be heard, whether community-based groups could influence neighbourhood work, and what practical support existing groups need.

How should learning reach the Forum and strategic groups? Matt proposed that partnership groups report how their work contributes to the Health Inequalities Framework. The route from group insight through the Forum to the Board and neighbourhood steering group was discussed but not defined.

Reflection Members wanted the Framework to guide real work rather than sit apart from it. Paul White challenged the NHS emphasis and asked where longer-term community innovation belongs. Matt pointed to the Health and Wellbeing Alliances as local spaces for action and learning, while acknowledging harm from funding withdrawn above OED.

Suggested follow up Kerry and Matt offered to consider a short survey or poll on group purpose, gaps and support. The Healthy Ageing administrative gap needs a named route for resolution. Caroline invited comments on the draft infographics and raised a possible presentation of Paul White's All About the Place model; neither the visuals nor model were adopted at this meeting.

3.2 System focus on one live issue

How might this agenda slot work? Matt proposed a recurring short exploration, using a case, personal account, practice experience or data to help members understand one issue beyond organisational updates. Henry Palmer suggested housing and health; Paul White suggested examining how collaboration works and how slower social change is measured; Nicky Flynn suggested frailty and trauma-informed practice. No format, length or next topic was selected.

Reflection The suggestions showed an appetite to learn across boundaries and to connect immediate priorities with wider determinants. Sue Taylor and Ellie Barnes also asked what had happened to the 3 July frailty workshop outputs, so that another round of discussion would build on existing work.

Suggested follow up Caroline expected the 3 July learning to be picked up in the Eastern Frailty workshops and said attendees should flag it if missing. Matt and Kerry invited further topic ideas. Whether the July outputs had already reached the Board was not answered.

4.1 Collective sense making

What felt most significant? John Powell voiced impatience to start practical work. Paul White argued that much community work had already started and needed recognition and support. Liz Brookes-Hocking saw a stronger connection with local-council clusters and Health and Wellbeing Alliances. Sue Taylor asked how the Forum could know what winter priorities were being discussed. Ellie Barnes identified unresolved questions about community leadership, equitable participation, carers' service changes and work that loses momentum after workshops. Bernadette Orgee described a dementia network of more than 60 organisations whose coordination depended on short-term funding.

What could be tested, connected, unblocked or amplified? Kerry later noted contacts being exchanged in the chat, but the transcript does not capture their outcomes. Members pointed to existing community initiatives, the 3 July frailty work and the need for clearer access to decisions. No particular test, resource commitment or joint project was selected by the Forum.

Reflection The room held both anticipation and frustration. Members wanted to value community knowledge without drawing on people's time merely for consultation. Laura Syree's example of grandparents caring for children illustrated how a frailty focus can intersect with family and prevention work.

Suggested follow up Possible connections and issues to pursue included the local-council clusters, DCC carers-service co-production, existing prevention projects and winter frailty work. Ellie said she would take some carers questions to the VCSE Assembly. No collective owner or completion date was agreed for these wider possibilities.

4.2 Emergent action and escalation

What should reach the neighbourhood or Executive groups? In her closing synthesis, Kerry identified Board authority and possible funding powers, the relationship with the neighbourhood group, information flowing both ways, the Forum's sphere of influence, and the need to carry the 3 July workshop into frailty planning. She also asked how OED could identify and support good work already happening. These were the chairs' questions to take forward, not a formally voted Forum mandate.

Reflection The meeting had established the value of this open space, while leaving its influence on decisions unclear. There was no separate group deliberation or prioritisation after Kerry's synthesis.

Suggested follow up Kerry said she and Matt would digest the discussion with Isobel, Fiona and others and consider communication and website needs. The exact recipient, owner and timing of each escalation, and the route for a response to members, were not confirmed in the meeting.

5.1 Closing business and next meeting

Any other business and next agenda? No further substantive item was discussed. Kerry and Matt invited feedback on the meeting format and ideas for the next live issue. No subject was chosen.

Reflection Kerry thanked members for a respectful, open discussion and the contacts made alongside it. She recognised that two hours without a break was a substantial demand on people's time.

Suggested follow up Members were invited to send suggestions to Matt and Kerry. The next Executive Board was listed for 21 October 2026. The next Forum was listed for 8 December 2026 in person at Aperture House, Exeter; its agenda prints 13.30 as both start and end time, so the end time should be confirmed.

Sources: attendance from action minutes; discussion from transcript, agenda and draft purpose.

One Eastern Devon LCP Forum Action Grid

15 September 2026

Action no.	Comments	Lead	Outcome
Tuesday 15 September 2026			
1.1a	Kerry invited all members to review the OED website and send omissions or changes to Isobel before the December Forum	All	
1.2	Fiona said a brief account of structures was being checked with ICB colleagues. A clear map of purpose, decision rights, reporting routes and funding remains to be confirmed with the relevant bodies before publication.	FC/AH	
2.1	John Groom undertook to raise the place of end-of-life care in frailty planning. Caroline pointed to the Eastern Frailty workshops as the next working space. Members suggested bringing mental health, dementia, children, hospice and VCSE practice into that work, and exploring community as well as clinical leadership.	JG/All	
3.1a	Kerry and Matt offered to consider a short survey or poll on group purpose, gaps and support.	KD/MM	
3.1b	The Healthy Ageing administrative gap needs a named route for resolution.	KD/MM	
4.1	Possible connections and issues to pursue for future meetings include: housing and health inequalities, the local-council clusters, DCC carers-service co-production, existing prevention projects and winter frailty work.	KD/MM	

