Our Joint Improvement Plan (JIP) projects have been coming to fruition and this year we have focused on telecare, joint adult/children’s efficiencies, integrated data for joint commissioning, quality in care homes, workforce development, four social inclusion projects, six adult safeguarding projects, Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) and continuing health care.

The outputs from this have been:

- Telecare: evaluations completed in eight local authorities that evidenced quality impact and cost efficiencies of telecare from both a health and social care perspective.
- Joint adult/children’s efficiencies: project initiated to deliver cost savings through reducing the number of out of area high cost placements by developing local, person-centred independent living options.
- Joint commissioning: integrated data through a joint high level health and social care outcomes dashboard.
- Workforce development: reablement workforce plans have been developed. An organisational redesign tool that supported workforce remodelling and delivered efficiency savings, secured Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme (RIEP) funding to roll out to other East Midlands local authorities.
- Social inclusion projects: better housing solutions programme has delivered savings of over £400k and
improved access to housing in some localities. MI Enterprise promoted the idea of self-employment for disabled people and has seen the development of a new community interest company that spans Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland, which will support individuals in developing small businesses.

- **Safeguarding**: benchmarked alerts, referrals and case loads, launch of Mental Capacity Act e-learning tool for primary care, best practice guide on user involvement, framework for serious case reviews and other learning opportunities and an annual safeguarding conference.

- **TLAP**: three *Think Local Act Personal in Tough Times* events to support local implementation. They focused on:
  - **self-directed support**: making it efficient and keeping it real,
  - **commissioning** and market development,
  - **strategic market development** (and *Caring for our future, market development consultation*).

In the year ahead we will continue with a focus on sector-led improvement, efficiencies, integrated working and service transformation.

Membership of the region has changed over 2011 with four of the nine authorities having combined their adults and children’s functions. We also got slightly bigger with Milton Keynes in the form of Linda Bull joining the region. We also sadly lost a former colleague, Margaret McGlade, to cancer.