



**North East and
North Cumbria**

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

**Neighbourhood Health South
Update**

June 2026

2026/27 Context...

NHS 10-year plan
launched

Neighbourhood
Health Guidance
launched

Structural Changes
to Integrated Care
Boards

Progression of ICB
Better Health and
Well Being for All
Strategy

Development of
ICB 5-year strategic
commissioning plan

NENC ICB Draft Five Year Strategic Commissioning Plan...

- **10 year strategy: Better health and wellbeing** for all in place since 2023, but we have a requirement to respond to:
 - National direction: NHS England 10 Year Health Plan
 - Hospital → Community: Care closer to home
 - Analogue → Digital: Data, technology and automation
 - Sickness → Prevention: Tackling root causes, not just symptoms
 - ICB becoming a strategic commissioning organisation
 - National and local priorities including operational performance, quality and finance
- To this end, a 5-year strategic commissioning plan has been developed that builds on the strategy, focussing on:



**Longer &
healthier
lives**



**Fairer
outcomes
for all**



**Better
health &
care services**



**Giving children
and young people
the best
start in life**

Longer, Healthier and Fairer Lives and Fairer Outcomes for All...

Focus on tackling the primary causes of poor health:

- Healthy Weight & Obesity
 - Sustainable Tier 3 services
 - Primary care prescribing pathways
 - Childhood obesity prevention
- Alcohol & Tobacco
 - Alcohol Care Teams in all trusts
 - Tobacco Dependence Treatment Services
 - Continued regional tobacco control via FRESH
- Reducing Health Inequalities
 - Core20PLUS5 embedded across commissioning
 - Focus on most deprived communities
 - Health literacy and inclusion health
 - Poverty proofing of services
- Long Term Conditions (LTCs)

Better Health and Care Services...

Neighbourhood Health is the engine of transformation

Integrated Neighbourhood Health	Primary and Community Care	Community Pharmacy, Optometry & Dentistry	Mental health, learning disabilities and neurodivergence	Secondary Care Transformation	Demand Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Urgent Care & Recovery • Neighbourhood Proactive & Preventative Care • Outcome-based commissioning and Left Shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger PCNs and neighbourhood leadership • General practice sustainability • Workforce diversification (ARRS) • Digital tools and data-driven care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy First expansion • Improved urgent dental access • Oral Health and Dental Strategy 2025-27 • Optimise eye care pathways and enhancing links between primary care and secondary care (incl. I.S.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health is embedded within neighbourhood health • Community-based, trauma-informed models • Reduced inpatient and out-of-area care • Earlier diagnosis and intervention • Integrated crisis response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent & Emergency Care: alternatives to admission, better flow • Elective Care: productivity, pathway redesign • Diagnostics: community access and digital optimisation • Cancer: earlier diagnosis, neighbourhood models, reduced variation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign whole-system pathways • Reduce inappropriate demand into secondary care • ENT, eyecare, MSK and endoscopy transformation • Value-based commissioning embedded in contracts

Giving our children and young people the best start in life...

- Maternity
 - Safer, more personalised maternity care
 - Respond to the SoS independent investigation into maternity and neonatal care
- Children and Young People
 - Integrated neighbourhood teams for CYP
 - Reduced waiting times in community services
 - Family-based, preventative approaches
 - Tackling childhood obesity and perinatal mental health

Neighbourhood Health...

- Recent guidance produced in relation to neighbourhood health
- Compliments the 10-year health plan and aims to support partners to work together in a collaborative way to deliver the left shift agenda, driving care from hospital to community and supporting a shift in focus from sickness to prevention
- Key aims include:
 - Improving outcomes
 - Providing more personalised care closer to home, reducing pressure on acute hospitals
 - Build public confidence through improvements in access and continuity

6 core components...

Population Health Management: Using data to identify local health needs and risks to target interventions effectively.

Modern General Practice: Strengthening primary care services, including GP practices, as the foundation of the local health system.

Local Standardised Community Health Services: Ensuring consistent, high-quality community-based services such as district nursing and health visiting.

Neighbourhood Multidisciplinary Teams (INTs): Integrating professionals from health, social care, and the voluntary sector to work together.

Integrated Intermediate Care: Providing services that prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitate timely discharge (e.g., "home first" approach).

Urgent Neighbourhood Services: Offering prompt, local care to manage acute needs and reduce pressure on emergency departments.

Neighbourhood Health:

A Multi-Agency Approach

Responding to Population Health Needs



Neighbourhood Framework – two stages...

STAGE 1: IMMEDIATE FOUNDATIONAL ACTIONS (2026-27)

ICBs Ensure Delivery of Basic Foundations & Begin Joint Planning with HWBs and Partners



REDUCING HOSPITAL DEMAND

- Develop initial plan: non-elective admissions & bed days
- Expanded urgent care, rehab, reablement (neighbourhood level)
- Informed by risk register analysis



IMPROVING GENERAL PRACTICE ACCESS

- Agree plans to tackle unwarranted variation & improve access
- Ensure GP practices meet core hours & new urgent requirements (GMS contract)



ELECTIVE CARE REFORM

- Begin planning neighbourhood-based elective pathway
- Support RTT standards & use devolved commissioning budgets



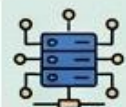
FUNDING & PARTNERSHIP

- Confirm pooled Better Care Fund (BCF) use
- Improve primary-secondary interface (Red Tape Challenge)
- Confirm organisational ownership of deliverables



REDUCING COMMUNITY HEALTH WAITING TIMES

- Confirm plans to meet 18-week waits & eliminate 52-week waits



DATA & EVALUATION

- Robust data-sharing for patient ID, monitoring & evaluation



OVERSIGHT

- Regional NHS teams work with ICBs to monitor implementation

STAGE 2: LONGER-TERM REFORM (APRIL 2027 – MARCH 2029)

ICBs, HWBs and Local Partners Develop locally owned Neighbourhood Health Plan for fundamental reform and delivering national objectives

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH PLAN

(A) THE THREE NATIONAL REFORM AGENDAS



- **Reform agenda 1:** improve services for people who need routine healthcare, so neighbourhood health benefits everyone



- **Reform Agenda 2:** Proactive care for people with complex needs



- **Reform Agenda 3:** Deliver better alternatives to hospital care

(B) WIDER LOCAL GOALS & INEQUALITIES



- Describe local delivery of the three agendas
- Support wider goals, reduce health inequalities, contribute to broader reform

(C) INFORMED BY ASSESSMENTS



- Local objectives informed by JSNA & other assessments

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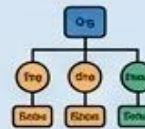
- Local objectives informed by JSNA & other assessments

(D) CONFIRM GEOGRAPHIES



- Confirm final neighbourhood geographies for delivery

(E) ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES



- Set out responsibilities: who delivers what

(F) GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP



- Define governance & operational arrangements

(G) ALIGN WITH LOCAL INITIATIVES



- Align with Best Start Family Hubs, mental health hubs, housing, Pride in Place, employment support

Local development of plans...



Health and Well Being Board will co-lead the development of neighbourhood health alongside ICBs. ICB will act as strategic commissioner, with leadership through a place partnership and the role of the HWBB



JSNA priorities will be reflected in plans. Plans are being developed through partnership working across Middlesbrough



Plans will integrate with wider public sector reforms, through partnership working



Plans will align with programmes such as Pride in Place, Best Start in Life, SEND reforms, housing programmes etc



Local Partnership Steering Group implemented which reports to the Health and Well Being Board, Chaired by the Director of Public Health across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland – building on existing work across partners



Draft 'neighbourhoods' developed based on existing communities through discussion with partners