



Update

ICS update - 18 June 2021

This bulletin provides an update from the Integrated Care System in the North East and North Cumbria regarding our latest information and plans to care for patients, staff and our communities. This Integrated Care System is led by Alan Foster, executive lead. If you have any questions or would like us to send vital information to partners through this bulletin, please contact us [here](#).

Message from Alan Foster



Framework for ICS

Yesterday the [Integrated Care System Design Framework](#) was published by NHS England. It sets out the operating model for integrated care systems (ICSs) from April 2022 and acts the interim guidance ICSs need to continue to develop and prepare for new statutory arrangements over the next ten months.

I am pleased to see that the framework gives us the flexibility to both build on the existing joint arrangements we have in each of our local authority areas, protecting and enhancing place-based working, and to ensure that our ICS delivers improved health and care for our whole population through joint working at scale on our shared priorities.

Myself and our ICS chair, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, will be writing to our partners across local authorities, the NHS and voluntary organisations setting out a proposed timetable for a series of discussions to explore this guidance and consider our shared priorities together; as well as the governance and key functions we will need to put in place at both place and system level.

The framework highlights the importance of partnership working as well as connecting with and involving our communities. This continues to be a key strength for us all and of course has been crucial during the pandemic.

I look forward to discussing this further with colleagues over the coming weeks so we can work together to deliver our shared ambition to improve the health of all our communities. There's lots more information in the framework but here are a few key points from the document.

- As set out in the government's [white paper](#) the ICS will be made up of two parts - the ICS partnership and the statutory ICS NHS body (functions will include planning to meet population health needs, allocating resources and overseeing delivery). The statutory minimum membership of the board will be confirmed in legislation but likely to include: a chair and at least two independent non-executive directors; a chief executive and three executive directors; and a minimum of three 'partner' members, representing trusts, primary care and local authorities.
- ICSs will be expected to agree with local partners the form of governance at place level. The design framework sets five potential place-based governance arrangements: a consultative forum; a committee of the ICS NHS body; a joint committee of the ICS NHS body and one or more statutory provider; an ICS NHS body director with delegated authority; or a lead provider contracted to manage resources at place level.
- The framework re-iterates that trusts are expected to be part of one provider collaborative, and as you know ours is already established. More guidance is expected on provider collaboratives in the coming months.
- The final 2021/22 System Oversight Framework (SOF) is expected to confirm ICSs' formal role in the oversight of organisations and partnership arrangements within their system.
- The framework reiterates seven principles for how ICSs should work with people and communities, including working with Healthwatch and the VCSE sector as key partners. As ever this will continue to be crucial as we move forward together across the North East and North Cumbria.

The framework also includes a roadmap to ensuring a smooth transition of staff from CCGs and guidance has been published you can view [here](#). We will be doing all we can to support staff through the changes being planned which includes ensuring regular

communications.

To ensure this smooth transition and support our staff - as well as deliver what is required from 1 April 2022 - we have established a North East and North Cumbria ICS Development and Transition Programme Board. Part of the Board's function will be overseeing the work programmes and plans required to ensure a safe transition of CCG functions to the ICS. Reporting initially to the ICS senior leaders group prior to the establishment of the shadow ICS Board. In addition, engagement processes are being developed that ensure all partners across the system, including CCG staff, our acute and community service providers, primary care providers, and other stakeholders such as directors of public health and local authority leaders, are able to contribute to the development of our plans.

Covid-19 and vaccine update

People will be aware that this week the Prime Minister announced a delay in the roadmap to lift restrictions as result of a rise in the number of cases due to the spread of the delta variant. We will of course be using this time to continue to deliver our vaccination programme so we can protect our communities and there is an update below on just some of the activities happening in this area. The directors of public health from across the seven local authorities in the north east have issued [this statement](#).

Vaccine cohorts

This week saw adults aged over 21 being able to book for their vaccine and this will drop even further by the end of this week allowing all over 18s to book in for their COVID-19 vaccination. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the vaccination programme. The vaccine is our best defence against this virus and it so important we encourage people to come forward for their first and second doses. Please do share this vital message.

The vaccine hesitancy campaign

#BeatCovidNE launched their [vaccine hesitancy campaign](#). The aim of the campaign is to make sure that as many people as possible get vaccinated against the virus, especially those who have been hesitant so far in coming forward. It features a series of videos that can be watched through social media channels. Please do support the campaign.

Delta Variant

The Delta Variant has been reported as being 60 per cent more transmissible than other strains with hospital admissions rising (although overall still remaining low) in the under 55s. This variant is spreading mainly in the 18-29 year-olds. So, there's a push to offer a first dose to all adults as soon as possible, as well as a big focus on completing all second doses. All second doses continue being brought forward to eight weeks for

those aged over 40.

Reducing waiting times

Good to see some coverage on Tyne Tees this week on efforts to reduce waiting times from our colleagues at North Tees. You can watch it [here](#). Also Northumbria Healthcare has recently established a new health inequalities programme board to focus on ensuring access to treatment for those patients that need it the most. You can read more [here](#).

Last week we shared the latest figures on the numbers of people waiting more than 52 weeks and those seen within 18 weeks. While we compare well to other parts of the country this continues to be a key focus across the ICS and provider collaborative. as you may also be aware we have been chosen as an accelerator site and have received a share of £160m additional financial support to help us treat more patients more quickly and share learning [across the NHS](#).

Supporting our staff

Our regional staff wellbeing hub is keen to ensure that people are aware they can access this service no matter where they work across health and care. Please do share information about this great service – it's vital our staff know how and where they can get support from during these difficult times. You can find out more [here](#).

Notes from the front-line

This Sunday – 20th June - there is a free online music event at 2pm called Notes from the Frontline - brought together by the Connection through Music volunteers and the Wellbeing Hub. Composers, musical mentors and engineers have worked with some of our NHS staff and co-created fantastic songs that represent our lives and experiences over the last year. The NHS staff will be joined by well-known UK musicians including Sting, Eric Clapton, KT Tunstall, Nadine Benjamin and Matthew Sheeran. The event takes place 2-3pm but the Connection through Music. For more information and how to watch, visit: <https://www.giggabox.co.uk/notesfromthefrontline/>

CIPR award winners

Our regional #DoYourBit campaign won a prestigious national Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) award last night for healthcare campaign of the year. The campaign is a great example of our region's incredible ability to work together as one for the good of our communities. I'd like to thank our communications network across the NHS in our region, as well as our colleagues from the Local Authorities, for their amazing work in making this campaign such a huge success.

Our colleagues at North East Ambulance Service also won the internal communications campaign category, which is testament to the amazing support they have provided their staff during the pandemic.

Well done everyone, you should all be incredibly proud.

Best wishes,

Alan

Alan Foster is the executive lead for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System

Other news and updates

The R number in the UK: The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK can be found here on [GOV.UK](#).

Public Health England dashboard: The Public Health England (PHE) dashboard can be found [here](#). Daily reporting includes deaths that have occurred in all settings where there has been a positive COVID-19 test, including hospitals, care homes and the wider community. The report also includes case rates per 100,000 resident population at lower-tier local authority level.

National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports: A link to the weekly national flu and COVID-19 report, monitoring COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses can be found [here](#).

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