

Guidance on the preparation of Integrated Care Strategies

Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) are required to publish an initial strategy by December 2022.



Statutory requirements of the Integrated Care Partnership in relation to preparation of the integrated care strategy:

1. Must set out how the 'assessed needs' from the joint strategic needs assessments are to be met by the functions of the ICB, NHSE or partner local authorities
2. Must consider whether needs could be more effectively met with a section 75 arrangement
3. May include a statement on better integration of health or social care services with "health-related" services
4. Must have regard to the NHS mandate (unless compelling or exceptional reasons not to do so)
5. Must involve local Healthwatch organisations whose areas coincide with or fall wholly/partly in the ICPs area; and people who live and work in the area
6. Must publish the strategy and distribute copies to each partner local authority and each ICB that is partner to one of those local authorities
7. Must consider revising the ICS whenever they receive a new joint strategic needs assessment

1. Responsibility for developing the strategy

- ICPs have responsibility for preparing the integrated care strategy but should encourage engagement, cooperation and seek resources from ICBs and partner local authorities
- Processes for finalising and signing off the strategy should be agreed at the same time as ICPs establish their procedures
- ICPs have a legal duty to ensure the strategy is prepared to meet the statutory requirements outlined above

2. Purpose of the Integrated Care Strategy

- Opportunity for joint working with a wide range of ICS partners to co-develop evidence-based, system-wide priorities
- Priorities should be aimed at improving the public's health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities
- Intended to address how assessed needs can be met within the ICS through commissioning and the provision of quality services by its statutory organisations

3. Health and wellbeing boards and subsidiarity

- The strategy should complement the production of local strategic needs assessments and joint local health and wellbeing strategies, produced by the relevant health and wellbeing boards
- It should acknowledge where needs are best addressed at an ICS-level and complement but not replace/supersede priorities outlined at a local level
- The ICP should encourage partners to ensure decisions and delivery are occurring at the right level when producing the strategy
- Where an ICS has one joint local health and wellbeing strategy, the ICP and H&WB should determine how to best address assessed needs collectively across the two strategies

4. Evidence of need

- The integrated care strategy should address the physical and mental needs of local people of all ages identified in the joint strategic needs assessments, particularly focusing on where system-wide interventions would be the most effective
- It should also acknowledge groups under-represented in assessments of need and support ICS statutory organisations to identify and meet the needs of all persons, in respect to accessing health services

5. Involving People and Organisations

- In order to draw upon best practice and guidance across the ICS, widespread stakeholder engagement and co-production will be essential
- Development of the strategy must involve local Healthwatch organisations and people living and working in the area covered by the ICP
- The organisations that should be involved and the nature and level of their involvement will be up to the individual ICPs

6. Approaches and mechanisms

- A set of shared priority outcomes in response to the assessed needs should be developed and agreed by all ICS organisations
- The ICP should consider whether needs could be better met through a section 75 arrangement e.g. pooling of budgets
- Approaches to continuous and sustainable improvement in care quality and outcomes should be a key consideration

7. Publication and review

- ICPs are responsible for publishing the the integrated care strategy and making it readily available and accessible across the ICS
- Refresh of the strategy will be required at intervals to ensure alignment with other policies / guidance e.g. joint strategic needs assessments
- The ICP should regularly review the impact of the strategy within the system and its delivery by the ICB, NHSE and local authorities



Areas to consider in the Integrated Care Strategy:

<p>Personalised Care</p> <p>Integration of services to create a more flexible and personalised service for people who draw on health and adult social care services</p>	<p>Health protection</p> <p>Allocating health protection responsibilities to system partners to deliver improved outcomes to communities e.g. infection prevention measures, immunisation, emergency preparedness</p>	<p>Research and innovation</p> <p>Utilising research and practice-based evidence to effectively assess population needs, explore the most effective ways to address these needs, and support the reduction of health inequalities</p>
<p>Disparities in health and social care</p> <p>Outlining ways to address unwarranted variations in population health, access, outcomes and experiences</p>	<p>Babies, children, young people, their families and healthy ageing</p> <p>Responding to the needs of the whole population of all ages E.g. family hubs with a whole-family approach through integration with wider health-related services</p>	<p>'Health-related' services</p> <p>Encouraging closer integration with non-health or social care services that could affect the wider determinants of health e.g. housing / employment</p>
<p>Population health and prevention</p> <p>Exploring opportunities to work jointly and use collective resources across partners to support prevention of physical and mental ill-health, and health and wellbeing across the population</p>	<p>Workforce</p> <p>Outlining the next steps to achieving an integrated / 'one workforce' approach across health and adults social care, designed to support improved ways of working and patient-focused care</p>	<p>Data and information sharing</p> <p>Developing digital and data infrastructure, building data quality and digital capability to inform decision making, and improving compliance with confidentiality laws and data protection obligations</p>