



**North East and  
North Cumbria**

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

# GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK

Issue 10-0  
Approved - 25 March 2025

**Better health  
and wellbeing for all...**



## **Introduction**

### **Who are we?**

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NE & NC ICB) is a statutory health body established to arrange for the provision of health services within the North East and North Cumbria.

### **What is the Governance Handbook?**

The North East and North Cumbria ICB must publish its constitution. The constitution sets out the duties of the ICB, the makeup of its board and the overarching rules by which it operates. The constitution is available here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/>

The governance handbook is supplementary to the constitution and sets out how the ICB makes its decisions. This is captured in several documents which make up this handbook.

#### **Scheme of Reservation & Delegation**

This document sets out those decisions reserved to the ICB board and those decisions which are delegated to others. Delegations may be made to individuals, committees, or other organisations.

#### **Functions & Decisions Map**

This map sets out those functions and decisions taken by the ICB centrally or by the ICB at place. There are 14 places in the North East and North Cumbria ICB, and these are listed in the ICB constitution, available here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/>

#### **Committee Terms of Reference**

The ICB has established five committees of the board. Each of these has a term of reference which sets out their remit and the decisions that each committee may make.

#### **Financial Documents**

The ICB has three key financial documents which set out the rules for making decisions, who decisions are delegated to, and the financial limits applicable to ICB staff.

## Standards of Business Conduct Policy/Conflicts of interest policy and procedures

The ICB must maintain registers of the interests of members of the ICB Board, members of its committees or sub-committees, and its employees. These registers are included in this governance handbook.

Members of the board, committees, sub committees, and all staff must comply with the ICB's Standards of Business Conduct Policy/Conflicts of interest policy. This is also included in this governance handbook.

## **How you can inform decision making**

### Communities and People Involvement and Engagement Strategy for the North East and North Cumbria

No decision will be made about **substantial** changes to health and care services that people receive without talking and listening to people receiving those services or who may do in the future, about it first. It is important that people have their say to shape and improve local services.

The ICB's Communities and People Involvement and Engagement Strategy sets out how the ICB will engage and involve people and is available here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/get-involved/>

### Healthwatch

There is a local Healthwatch in every area of England which acts as the independent champion for people who use health and care services. Healthwatch find out what people like about services, and what could be improved, and share these views with those with the authority to make change happen.

Healthwatch also help people find the information they need about services in their area, and we help make sure their views shape the support they need. Healthwatch will be an important critical friend to the ICB.

### ICB Board Meetings

ICB board meetings are held in public. The ICB will hold its board meetings throughout the North East & North Cumbria and all members of the public are welcome to attend. The dates of the board meetings, agendas and papers are posted on the ICB's website here [Meetings and agendas | North East and North Cumbria \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/Meetings-and-agendas-North-East-and-North-Cumbria)

## Version Control (see appendix 2 for version control history)

Issue 10	<p>As for issue 9 with the following changes:</p> <p><b><u>Material Changes – Board Approval</u></b></p> <p><u>ICB Scheme of Delegation and Reservation</u> (Version 7-0) <u>Changes to:</u> Page 23 reflecting the delegation agreement of Specialised Commissioning from NHS England.</p> <p><u>ICB Financial Delegation</u> (Version 3-1) <u>Changes to:</u> Reflecting the transfer of responsibilities currently with Finance, Performance and Investment Committee (FPIC) to Executive Committee. Ref 8.1 – approval of any losses and special payments between £50,000 to £300,000 Ref 10.2 – approval of any budget virements over £1,000,000</p> <p><u>ICB Financial Limits</u> (Version 4-1) <u>Changes to:</u> Reflect that the relevant ICB officers within the Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee will be able to make decisions up to a £5m limit. Removal of appendix 1 included in version 3-0 of the Financial Limits, outlining specific delegated limits applying to staff in North of England Commissioning Support (NECS). No longer relevant following the agreed transfer of relevant staff and services from NECS to the ICB.</p> <p><u>Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 1-0) A new addition of Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee Terms of Reference.</p> <p><b><u>Minor Changes – To Note</u></b></p> <p><u>NENC Committee Structure (Version 7-0)</u></p> <p>The Committee structure has been updated to reflect the following:</p> <p>The approved additional subcommittees and subgroups of the Executive Committee, Finance Performance and Investment Committee and Quality and Safety Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee</li> <li>• Business Case Review Group</li> <li>• Winter Planning and Oversight Group</li> <li>• Digital and Infrastructure Group</li> <li>• Strategic Transition Steering Group</li> <li>• Improvement Steering Group</li> <li>• Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Strategic Oversight Group</li> </ul> <p>The removal of the following:</p>	25 March 2025
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Oversight Group</li> </ul> <p>The changes to the Area Quality and Safety Subcommittees. The following replace the previous North, North Cumbria, Central and Tees Valley Area Quality and Safety Subcommittees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee</li> <li>• South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee</li> </ul> <p>The changes to the Individual Funding Request Panel Subcommittee. The following replaces the Individual Funding Request Panel (North) and Individual Funding Request Panel (South).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Funding Request Panel</li> </ul> <p>The changes to the Area Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) structure. The following replace the previous separate Central, and North Area ICPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North and Central Area Integrated Care Partnership</li> </ul> <p><u>North Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 3-0) A new version of the North Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Terms of Reference was approved at Quality and Safety Committee November 2024. Document 19.1, included in Issue 10 replaces the previous North Area and North Cumbria Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Terms of Reference (documents 19.1 and 19.2).</p> <p><u>South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 2-0) A new version of the South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee Terms of Reference was approved at Quality and Safety Committee, November 2024. Document 19.2 included in Issue 10 replaces the previous Central Area and Tees Valley Area Quality and Safety Subcommittees Terms of Reference (documents 19.3 and 19.4)</p> <p><u>Safeguarding Health Executive Subcommittee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 2-0) A new version of the Safeguarding Health Executive Subcommittee was approved at Quality and Safety Committee, March 2025.</p> <p><u>Primary Care Subcommittee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 3-0) A new version of the Primary Care Subcommittee Terms of Reference was approved at Executive Committee, February 2025, reflecting the name change of "Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Subcommittee" to "Primary Care Subcommittee".</p>	
Issue 10	<p><u>As for Issue 10 with the following addition:</u></p> <p><u>Transition Committee Terms of Reference</u> (Version 1-0) A new addition of the Terms of Reference for Transition Committee, a new Committee of the Board.</p>	29 May 2025

Issue 10	<p><u>As for Issue 10 with the following amendment:</u></p> <p><u>List of eligible Primary Care Service Providers</u> (Version 3-0)</p> <p>An updated list of eligible Primary Care Service Providers to reflect the current details of GP practices across North East North Cumbria. The new version was confirmed 02 July 2025.</p>	N/A
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Document Number	Title	Version
1	Scheme of Reservation and Delegation	V7-0
2	Functions and Decision Map	V2-0
3	Financial Delegations	V3-1
4	Financial Limits	V4-1
5	Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs)	V3-0
6	Quality and Safety Committee Terms of Reference	V4-0
7	Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference	V3-0
8	Finance, Performance, and Investment Committee Terms of Reference	V5-0
9	Executive Committee Terms of Reference	V5-0
10	Audit Committee Terms of Reference	V3-0
11	Standards of Business Conduct Policy/Conflicts of interest policy and procedures <b>[linked from Policies web page to Governance Handbook web page]</b>	V4-0
12	Involving People and Communities Strategy 2024 - 2028	N/A
13	Registers of Interests <b>[latest version shown on the web page]</b>	N/A
14	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Strategic Terms of Reference	V1-0
15	NENC ICB Committee Structure	V7-0
	NENC ICB Place Subcommittee Terms of Reference:	
16.1	County Durham Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.2	Darlington Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.3	Gateshead Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.4	Hartlepool Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.5	Newcastle Place Subcommittee	V3-0
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16.7	Northumberland Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.8	South Tees Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.9	South Tyneside Place Subcommittee	V2-0
16.10	Stockton Place Subcommittee	V3-0
16.11	Sunderland Place Subcommittee	V2-0
16.12	North Cumbria Place Subcommittee	V3-0

Document Number	Title	Version
17	List of eligible providers of primary medical services	V3-0
18	NENC Healthier and Fairer Advisory Group (Subcommittee) Terms of Reference	V2-0
19.1 19.2	Quality and Safety Area Subcommittee Terms of Reference:  North Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee South Area Quality and Safety Subcommittee	V3-0 V2-0
20	Safeguarding Sub-committee Terms of Reference	V2-0
21	NENC Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
22	Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V3-0
23	Pharmaceutical Services Regulatory Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
24	Individual Funding Requests (IFR) Panel Terms of Reference	V2-0
25	NENC ICB Remuneration Guidance	V1-0
26	Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
27	Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Assurance Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
28	People & Organisational Development Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
29	Clinical Effectiveness and Governance Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V2-0
30	Investment Oversight and Vacancy Control Panel terms of Reference	V2-0
31	Contracting Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V1-0
32	Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee Terms of Reference	V1-0
33	Transition Committee Terms of Reference	V1-0

Appendix 1	Governance Handbook - Definitions of Board Specialist Lead Roles
Appendix 2	Governance Handbook - version control history