

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–357

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By Email

8 January 2025

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 13 December 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you answer the following questions with regard to your services for Continuing Health Care for both Adults and Children with Complex Needs and being supported at Home.

1. Do you currently have a contract or Framework in place to commission CHC funded packages for both Adults and Children?
 - If Yes – How does a Provider Join this Framework.
 - If No – How do you Commission packages
2. How many packages of care for Adults and Children with complex needs eligible for CHC funding have you commissioned over the last 12-month period 1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024?
3. Do you have a set rate for commissioned packages for both adults and children and if yes what is the current rate?
4. What is the correct phone number or email address for the team who commission packages of care for CHC funded Adults and Children with complex care needs?
5. For Commissioning, please advise of their name, email address and telephone number.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

Questions 1 to 3 are answered by each ICB place, below. Please note that the ICB place responses relate to Adult Services only; this is because Continuing Health Care does not apply to children.

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested for questions 4 and 5. However, this is available within the NENC ICB publication scheme which can be accessed on the ICB website: Publications scheme | North East and North Cumbria NHS (northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk) or please refer to our previous related request, our ref: FOI ICB 24-301 from the NENC ICB FOI Disclosure Log at: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/ekdlw4gk/foi-icb-24-301.pdf>

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

County Durham and Tees Valley places

1. In County Durham and Tees Valley places, the ICB has a contract with each of our local authorities who have their own provider framework. We use their framework to commission packages of care. The ICB does not hold information on how a provider joins the local authority framework.
2. The ICB does not hold information on complex needs patients in this ICB place.
3. We do not have a set rate for commissioned packages of care, this is dependent on the care providers rates.

Newcastle Gateshead place

1. There is a Provider Framework. The named contact has moved to another role, so the ICB is holding requests to join the framework at present. Case Managers and Clinical Leads can also commission individual packages with new providers not on the framework.
2. CHC patients in Newcastle Gateshead are not recorded as "complex" or "non-complex" therefore would not be able to provide a breakdown of these numbers.
3. The enhanced rate for homecare ranges from £22.75 to £26.09 per hour for providers on the framework.

North Cumbria place

1. In North Cumbria place, there is no Framework as such. The ICB utilises the Local Authority framework and existing contracts already in place. The ICB is looking at setting up a process and standardised framework across the area for future use.
2. The clinical system does not record the level of detail required to respond to this. Continuing Healthcare does not apply to children.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2

North Tyneside place

1. The Provider Framework is commissioned via North Tyneside Council, who would hold the information for this question. In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the Council's FOI email address below.
2. CHC patients in North Tyneside are not recorded as "complex" or "non-complex" therefore would not be able to provide a breakdown of these numbers.
3. The enhanced rate for homecare is £24.02 to £25.30 per hour, depending on which area of North Tyneside the patient resides in.

Northumberland place

1. There is a framework in place in Northumberland which covers most kinds of 24-hour care other than care homes and shared lives schemes, and which can potentially be used for anyone over the age of 16. This framework is managed by the local authority under a partnership agreement, and is used for social care, CHC and aftercare under section 117 of the Mental Health Act. But since CHC is a funding arrangement for people aged 18+, no services for children are commissioned as CHC.
2. Fifteen people have begun new care arrangements commissioned under the framework and were funded through CHC during 2024 or become eligible for CHC while already receiving support under the framework commissioned under Social Services legislation.
3. Rates and contact details are published on the procurement portal used by Northumberland Council, at <https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=6a261d3e-92a0-ec11-8112-005056b64545&p=1c9e782c-541e-e611-8114-000c29c9ba21>

South Tyneside place

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information for South Tyneside ICB place. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by South Tyneside Council.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the Council's FOI email address below.

Sunderland place

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information for South Tyneside ICB place. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by Sunderland City Council.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the Council's FOI email address below.

For your reference, please find a summary of local authorities in the NENC region, along with their FOI emails.

NENC Local Authorities	Email
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer