

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-269

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

15 October 2024

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 1 October 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

1. How have you spent the women's health hub financial allocation from NHS England?
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-hubs-information-and-guidance/womens-health-hubs-core-specification> Please provide a breakdown on how this money has been spent and on what services.
2. Please describe your approach to provision of a women's health hub in your area.
3. How have you promoted this to women in your area?
4. What, if any, women's health budget are you yet to spend from this allocation?
5. Have you determined how you will spend this yet and if so, please provide details.
6. Have you allocated any further funding to improve women's health services in the coming year?
7. How did you determine how to spend the two-year allocation?
8. What was the governance process for this decision?
9. How did you involve local women in this process?
10. What did local women tell you they needed to improve their health and wellbeing?
11. Once the two-year allocation for women's health is spent, how do you propose to continue to support women's health and wellbeing?
12. Are there any reports on women's health that you can share?

13. Do you have a one stop shop approach to women's health? If yes, please can you provide details. If no, why not?
14. Would you be interested in finding out more about a clinically developed service which includes signposting to women's health advice and charities, a forum for women to discuss women's health issues, online and face-to-face information sessions with a GP, coaching services to support women.
15. Please provide the name and contact details (email and phone) for your lead commissioner for women's health within your ICB, your women's health champion, the director responsible for women's health, and the person on your governing body with a special interest in/responsibility for women's health.
16. Do you have a women's health strategy or plan in place? Please share.
17. Do you plan to develop a women's health strategy or plan and if yes, what is the timescale for this and how do you plan to involve women in its development?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Spending is £595,000 across 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years. Financial allocation across women's health hub pilots across 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years:
 - £250,000: Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
 - £250,000: Sunderland GP Alliance
 - £50,000: North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
 - £40,000: Training programme, specifically looking at LARC fitting and menopause training.
 - £5,000: miscellaneous planning, co-ordination & evaluation costs.
2. Three unique women's health hubs pilots have been established across the North East and North Cumbria ICB.
3. Each individual women's health hub promote as core services are commenced for delivery.
4. Budget yet to spend is £40,000 for training programme.
5. Yes, a procurement process to select a provider/s to roll out a sustainable training programme is currently being finalised.
6. Funding for women's health is allocated across 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years.
7. The spend was determined through a robust governance and leadership structure, whereby a 'Women's Health Programme Steering Group' was established as a sub-group of the NENC ICB Board.
8. Please refer to the response to question 7.
9. Women are involved through various women's voice focus group activities already established via our NECS ICB networks e.g. Northern Cancer Alliance Network, Young Women's Youth work and through the inaugural Women's Health conference held in Oct 2023 and second Conference delivered in July 2024. Our BIG Conversation is an initiative we also launched earlier this year, which is designed to listen and act upon the views and experiences of local women in order to better understand what's working well and what can be improved.
10. This is captured in our comprehensive [Women's Health Needs Assessment](#), which was published at our Women's Health Conference in July 2024. 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.
11. NENC ICB is committed to utilising the learning from our work across our partnership networks, particularly our Women's Health Hubs, which we have invested in to ensure transformational,

sustainable change is co-designed to provide enhanced access to the health and care needs for all women and girls across the North East and North Cumbria.

12. Further details about our Women's Health Programme, including our Women's Health Needs Assessment is available online at [Women's Health Programme | Boost](#). 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.
13. The 3 women's health hub pilot sites operating across North Cumbria, Gateshead and Sunderland are designed to using 3 different models for delivery, which all provide a one-stop shop for local women to access. The evaluation of these pilots will inform the ICBs approach to women's health hubs in future years.
14. Yes, we are always exploring new and meaningful clinical and non-clinical services to enhance our offer to women and girls across the North East and North Cumbria.
15. Lead commissioner for women's health:
Siobhan Brown
Direct for Healthier Fairer, Women's Health and Project Management Office
Email: Siobhan.brown3@nhs.net
Mobile: 0776 9977 997

Clinical lead for women's health:
Dr Alex Kent
Medical Director [North]
Email: alexandra.kent3@nhs.net
Mobile: 07917 421 728

16. Following the publication of our Women's Health Needs Assessment, we are finalising a Women's Health Programme plan for the North East & North Cumbria, which will contribute towards the strategic aims contained in the national [Women's Health Strategy for England](#) and [NENC Better Health and Wellbeing for All joint Forward Plan 2023-28](#) outcomes. 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.
17. Yes, a NENC plan is being finalised to be approved and published via our governance and leadership structures by January 2025.

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