

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-025

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

23 April 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 on 11 April 2025 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, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

The questions below which I would like you to answer are designed to help me understand:

- how much money NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB spent on hospice services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in 2024/25
- how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in your ICB footprint accessed hospice care during 2024/25
- how much money your integrated care board (ICB) plans to spend on hospice services for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions during 2025/26, excluding the £26 million of funding that NHS England has asked every ICB to distribute.

In order to help you meet my request, I provide definitions to the terms I use in my questions below:

Life-limiting and life-threatening conditions

“Life-limiting conditions are those for which there is no reasonable hope of cure and from which children will die. Some of these conditions cause slow deterioration over time rendering the child

increasingly dependent on parents and carers. Life-threatening conditions are those for which curative treatment may be feasible but can fail, such as cancer.”

Children and young people

Babies, children and young people aged 0-25.

My questions

1. Please set out how much money your integrated care board spent on hospice care for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions between 6 April 2024 and 5 April 2025. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per children's hospice organisation.

To clarify: When responding to question 1, can you please ensure that any amounts listed exclude any money that was paid as part of the £25 million of NHS England funding for 2024/25.

2. Please set out the arrangement through which this money was paid in 2024/25 – was this by standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or other by means.
3. Please set out how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions who live in your integrated care board footprint accessed hospice care between 6 April 2024 and 5 April 2025. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per hospice organisation.
4. Please set out how many children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions who live in your integrated care board footprint could benefit from children's hospice care.
5. Please set out how much money your integrated care board plans to spend on hospice care for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions between 6 April 2025 and 5 April 2026, excluding any money that is set to be paid as part of the £26 million of NHS England funding. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per hospice organisation.
6. Please set out the arrangement through which this money will be paid in 2025/26 – by standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or other by means.

Our Response

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. 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.

NENC ICB contracts with hospices are not split between adults and children, other than the specific children's hospice grant funding received from NHS England, and we do not have information on the amounts relating to children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

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 ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or 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 faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**