



**Central Area ICP Evaluation Update
Strategic ICP Meeting 7 December 2023**

This evaluation update is to capture the highlights and key proposals in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and outcomes from the two Area ICP meetings.

- 1. Longer and healthier lives for all*
- 2. Fairer health outcomes for all*
- 3. Best start in life for our children and young people*
- 4. Improving health and care services*

Central Area ICP Chair

Councillor Kelly Chequer

Unfortunately, Councillor Chequer is unable to attend the Strategic ICP meeting on 7 December 2023 as it clashes with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

ICB Executive Area Director

David Gallagher

**Summary Update – Key Themes & Priorities highlighted
(Previous 2 area meetings)**

Introduction

The Central Area has a history of partnership working, working together through the former Central Area Partnership Board. With the advent of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) arrangements, it was agreed that the Board should morph into the Central Area ICP.

The Central Area ICP has met twice since the previous Strategic Integrated Care Partnership held in June – this was on 13 July and 2 November 2023.

Meeting held on 13 July 2023

The meeting was well attended with those present representing the full range of partners from across the NHS, Local Authorities, Primary Care Networks, Healthwatch and the voluntary sector.

Members had already agreed the need to understand key themes from local public feedback and as a result an update from Healthwatch had been agreed as a standing item on the agenda going forward. Common themes being raised by members of the public from across the three Healthwatch areas were highlighted and discussed. They included:



- dentistry including issues with access,
- issues with general practice, again including concerns about access,
- pharmacy, including the shortage of some medications,
- mental health and autism services, including waiting times to receive diagnoses and treatment.

The Partnership then received:

- an outline of the work of the Healthier and Fairer Programme of the NENC ICB,
- the County Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Strategies and their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments,
- the three Place Plans and an update on Planning Work, presented by the Directors of Place,
- an update about the NHS Five Year Joint Forward Plan given by Peter Rooney, Director of Strategy and Planning,
- an update on any relevant issues from the NENC ICB which focussed on the transfer of responsibilities from NHS England to the ICB for the commissioning of primary care services.

During the presentation given by the directors of public health it was determined that potential themes for focus across the Central area were:

- the contribution of health care to prevention, risk, and outcomes,
- inequalities in health care and Core 20+,
- the health inequalities toolkit,
- shared issues not covered elsewhere in the system.

Running through the discussion about each of the agenda items was a focus on the need to reduce health inequalities and the effects of poverty. Members supported the need to ensure that the commitment of all resources including financial arrangements promoted the reduction of inequalities wherever possible.

Meeting held on 2 November 2023

Unfortunately, it was necessary on the day to change this meeting from face to face to a Teams meeting, due to adverse weather and significant flooding across the area. Again, the meeting was well attended with representation from all member groups. Holding the meeting via Teams did not stifle the discussion, with all members contributing.

At this meeting it was reported that the themes of the issues being raised by the public with each of the three Healthwatch teams primarily remained, access to:

- dental services,
- mental health, learning disabilities and autism services,
- GPs, with new concerns about long waits for calls to be answered and some issues with the attitude of receptionists.

The main item for discussion was the Health Inequalities Toolkit, with a detailed presentation being received by Jon Quine, Strategic Lead for Population Health, Prevention and Healthcare Inequalities. The presentation focused on the principles and methodology of the toolkit and the benefits it offered in proactively addressing health inequalities and the effects of poverty.



The presentation gave members food for thought and generated valuable discussion about the approaches to tackling health inequalities across member partners and how they could be further enhanced across the whole system, both in health and social care.

There was a shared enthusiasm to focus on the 'so what' and to pursue how work already being done, and the systems and processes already in place, could be further enhanced.

The Partnership also received updates on:

- the Healthier and Fairer Programme,
- Dental Health Commissioning and access to Dentistry, and
- NENC ICB business including ICB V2.0.

Plans for next steps and future agenda items

Members were keen to have further discussion about how the health inequalities toolkit could be used to address issues across the Central area.

During discussion about the health inequalities toolkit, it had been noted that a parallel piece of work was being done on inclusion health and it was agreed that there should be a focus on that at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that work being undertaken in partnership with the voluntary sector should be shared at the next meeting. This would ensure the sharing of good practice and learning, which it was hoped would lead to a discussion about how best to enhance partnership working with the voluntary sector and how to ensure that their voice was being heard at a strategic level.

The next meeting is planned for 1 February 2024.

Since the most recent Central ICP meeting, an issue has been raised about potential access for the public to future meetings. This would need to be discussed further to agree an approach as a principle, to ensure a considered response.