

**North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Executive Committee (Public)**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 June 2025, 14:45hrs in the
Joseph Swan Suite, Pemberton House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland**

Present: Sam Allen, Chief Executive (Chair)
Levi Buckley, Chief Delivery Officer
David Chandler, Chief Finance Officer
Graham Evans, Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer
Marc Hopkinson, Director of System Resilience deputising for Jacqueline Myers, Chief Strategy Officer
Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse and AHP Officer
Ewan Maule, Director of Pharmacy deputising for Dr Neil O'Brien, Chief Medical Officer
Anya Paradis, Director of Contacting and Oversight (North) deputising for Dave Gallagher, Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer
Claire Riley, Chief Corporate Services Officer

In attendance: Rebecca Herron, Corporate Committees Manager (Committee Secretary)
Deb Cornell, Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary
Siobhan Brown, Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme for Item 10.2 only

EC/2025-26/51 Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

The Chair formally acknowledged this meeting as the final Executive Committee for the Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer, recognising his significant contribution to the NHS and industry over the past 49 years. The Committee extended its appreciation and best wishes for his retirement.

EC/2025-26/52 Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Gallagher, Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer, Jacqueline Myers, Chief Strategy Officer, Neil O'Brien, Chief Medical Officer, Kelly Angus, Interim Chief People Officer, Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (NENC).

No further apologies for absence were received.

EC/2025-26/53 Agenda Item 3 - Declarations of interest

Members had submitted their declarations prior to the meeting which had been made available in the public domain.

There were no additional declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

EC/2025-26/54 Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 May 2025

RESOLVED:

The Executive Committee AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2025, were a true and accurate record

EC/2025-26/55 Agenda Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes and action log

The Chair noted that the action log had been updated and circulated to members.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/178 Child Health and Wellbeing Group Terms of Reference

The Chief Delivery Officer confirmed this action has been superseded and removed due to imminent organisational changes. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/220 Oliver McGowan Training Update Presentation

The Chief Nurse and AHP Officer informed the Committee the Oliver McGowan Training Update was scheduled for the July 2025 meeting. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/270 Living and Ageing Well Subgroup Terms of Reference

The Chief Delivery Officer confirmed this action is complete.

EC/2025-26/56 Agenda Item 6 - Notification of urgent items of any other business

No items of any urgent business were received at this point in the meeting.

EC/2025-26/57 Agenda Item 7 – Governance and Risk Management

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/58 Agenda Item 8.1.1 – All Age Continuing Care Highlight Report May and June 25

The Chief Nurse and AHP Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the All Age Continuing Care Highlight Report for May and June 25.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2025-26/59 Agenda Item 8.1.2 – Cancer Alliance Highlight Report

The Director of System Resilience introduced the report which provided the Committee with the Cancer Alliance Highlight Report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

**EC/2025-26/60 Agenda Item 8.1.3 – Financial Sustainability Group Highlight Report
Month Twelve and Month One**

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the Financial Sustainability Group Highlight Report for Month Twelve and Month One.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2025-26/61 Agenda Item 8.1.4 – Improvement Programme Highlight Report

The Director of System Resilience introduced the report which provided the Committee with the Improvement Programme Highlight Report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2025-26/62 Agenda Item 8.1.5 – Long Term Conditions Group Highlight Report

The Director of Pharmacy introduced the report which provided the Committee with the Long Term Conditions Group Highlight Report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for assurance

EC/2025-26/63 Agenda Item 8.2 – Place Subcommittee Minutes

County Durham - noted for information and assurance only.
South Tyneside - noted for information and assurance only.
Sunderland - noted for information and assurance only

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Subcommittee minutes as listed above for assurance.

**EC/2025-26/64 Agenda Item 8.3 – Clinical Effectiveness and Governance
Subcommittee Minutes**

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Clinical Effectiveness and Governance Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2025-26/65

Agenda Item 8.4 – Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Specialised Commissioning Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2025-26/66

Agenda Item 9.1 – Chief Delivery Officer Report May and June

The Chief Delivery Officer provided a summary of the items outlined in the report, the Committee was asked to particularly note from the report:

- South Tyneside and Sunderland
 - Preparation for SEND inspections continue in both South Tyneside and Sunderland with an expectation that an inspection will be announced for at least one of the local authority areas in the upcoming half term (i.e. before summer school holidays)

RESOLVED:

- 1) **The Committee NOTED the updates provided on confidential local issues across the ICB**
- 2) **The Committee NOTED the decisions and assurance logs within appendix 1 of the report**

EC/2025-26/67

Agenda Item 10.1 – Urgent and Emergency Care Winter Debrief

The Director of System Resilience introduced the report which provided the Committee with findings from the recent Winter Debrief Event for 2024/25 and the proposed plans and process in place for Winter 2025/26.

The Director of System Resilience presented a comprehensive debrief of winter 2024/25 and outlined preparations for 2025/26. The key points outlined were:

- The System Coordination Centre managed over 80 outbreaks
- The ambition of the 78% four hour Accident and Emergency target was achieved.
- Ambulance handover delays reduced to under 30 minutes; a new 45-minute target adopted.

- The progress and delivery of the winter priorities was reviewed at the Winter Debrief Event on 9 May 2025. Over 150 colleagues attended the event
- A winter planning group has been established to support robust, system-wide coordination, delivery assurance and risk escalation to manage the delivery of the winter priorities agreed for 2025/26.
- Mental health representation in winter planning was flagged as a gap
- Staff flu vaccination uptake remains a concern; behavioural insights work is underway

It was noted that staff vaccination will no longer be a reportable Key Performance Indicator.

The Chair noted a concern that there could be an expectation from Foundation Trust colleagues that there is further funding for Urgent and Emergency Care available from the ICB. It was confirmed all funding has been allocated and there is no further funding available.

The Chair emphasised the importance of a coordinated system response to the National Urgent and Emergency Care plan, however, this relies on input from across multiples teams. The Chair proposed the National Urgent and Emergency Care plan response is presented to the Board. The Director of System Resilience confirmed the next Urgent and Emergency Care Network meeting is scheduled for August 2025 and it is planned to present to the Board following that meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **The Committee RECEIVED the report as assurance of the improvements achieved over winter 2024/25**
- 2) **The Committee NOTED the outcome of the Winter Debrief Event held on 9 May 2025**
- 3) **The Committee NOTED the enhanced winter plan process, which has been put in place to manage winter 2025/26**

EC/2025-26/68

Agenda Item 10.2 – Healthier and Fairer Financial Plan

At 15:02pm the Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme attended the meeting to present the report.

The Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme introduced the report which provided the Committee with proposed 2025/26 Healthier and Fairer Financial Plan.

The Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme requested the Committee approve full year costs which will be allocated to our delivery partners. It is proposed that £3m would be used from the Healthier and Fairer Programme efficiencies, infrastructure costs would be scaled back and that we would be looking in house to support programme delivery.

The Director of Pharmacy noted the positive relationship management the team have achieved.

The Chair enquired if Local Authority partners have delivered what they were paid to deliver. The Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme confirmed there will be a deep dive evaluation conducted of the 14 Local Authorities as there is an indication that there is a £1.7m underspend. The Committee were assured that any underspend left by March 2026 will be returned.

The Chief Delivery Officer highlighted the importance of maintaining flexibility for in-year pressures and proposed that any underspend is returned and reprioritised. The Committee agreed with this approach and that communications to staff are to be developed.

The Committee thanked the Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme and the team for their leadership and relationship management.

ACTION:

The Chief Corporate Services Officer and the Chief Finance Officer to develop internal communications for staff regarding the return and reprioritisation of underspend

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the 2025/26 Healthier and Fairer Financial Plan with the caveat that any programme underspend will be returned and reprioritised

At 15:13pm the Director of Healthier and Fairer Programme left the meeting.

EC/2025-26/69

Agenda Item 10.3 – Learning Disability Network Impact Statement 2024/25

The Chief Nurse and AHP Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the impact statement of the Network's work for 2024/25 and the proposed 2025/26 work plan.

The Chief Nurse and AHP Officer informed the Committee that the Network team has provided another great year of innovative, inspiring and creative work. There has been continued success of the Diamond Awards and Diamond Standards. Provider visits and feedback have been well received.

The Committee were informed there are plans to integrate Learning from Lives and Deaths Reviews into the All Age Continuing Care team.

It was noted there are concerns regarding delivering the Oliver McGowan training on top of the Diamond Standards training.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee **APPROVED** the publication of the Network's impact statement 2024/25
- 2) The Committee **APPROVED** the work programme priorities for 2025/26 subject to amendment following confirmation of model ICB strategic priorities

EC/2025-26/70

Agenda Item 11.1 - NENC ICB and ICS Finance Update Month Twelve and Month One

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on the financial performance of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) and NENC Integrated Care System (ICS) in the financial year 2024/25 for the 12 months to 31 March 2025.

As at 31 March 2025 the ICS is reporting an overall outturn surplus of £0.38m. Across the ICS, total efficiencies of almost £521m, slightly behind plan, have been delivered.

ICB running costs:

- The ICB is reporting a final underspend position against running cost budgets of £6m, an underspend on running cost budgets was expected in year as the full reduction in running cost allowance does not materialise until 2025/26

ICB Revenue:

- As at 31 March 2025 the ICB is reporting an outturn surplus of £12.19m, in line with the forecast position

ICS Capital:

- The ICS capital position includes the impact of IFRS16 (lease accounting), resulting in an outturn overspend of £1.96m which has been managed with NHSE at a regional level

The Chief Delivery Officer informed the Committee at month one there was no data available for prescribing and continuing healthcare. All Age Continuing Care and Continuing Healthcare remain the main risks to the ICB.

It was noted that the £70m of unidentified Cost Improvement Programme (CIP) remains a concern and is a risk to the deficit support funding for quarter two.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee NOTED the draft outturn financial position for 2024/25
- 2) The Committee NOTED the position on 2025/26 financial plans and the ICB efficiency programme for 2025/26
- 3) The Committee NOTED the risk regarding the deficit support funding

EC/2025-26/71

Agenda Item 11.2 – Medium Term Financial Plan Update - System Recovery Board

The Chief Finance Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the progress of and assurance on the System Recovery Board programme of work.

The Committee were informed that workforce and service reform are progressing; however, pace remains a concern.

It was noted that for month one the ICS position shows a £4m underspend, largely due to land sale. If the land sale is discounted the ICS CIP is currently £3m - £4m off-plan.

The Chief Delivery Officer raised concerns regarding public-facing communications on provider-level efficiencies. The Chief Corporate Services Officer confirmed a communications plan was being finalised, which would include a flowchart of service change decision-making.

RESOVLED:

The Committee NOTED the assurance report from System Recovery Board in May 2025 and the progress made within the last reporting period

EC/2025-26/72

Agenda Item 12.1 - Integrated Delivery Report

The Director of System Resilience introduced the report which provided the Committee with an overview of quality and performance, highlighting any significant changes, areas of risk and mitigating actions.

The Committee was informed of the key messages as follows:

- Community
 - Two hour community response has dropped from 78% to 70% showing a worsening trend
- Continuing Healthcare
 - There are 14 patients with incomplete CHC referrals delayed by over twelve weeks

The Chair invited reflections from members on the report. The Chief Nurse and AHP Officer suggested that greater scrutiny is required at the Committee before the Board submission of the report.

The Chair expressed concern that the Committee was not fully sighted on key performance issues. Members agreed to review their respective Key Performance Indicators and ensure plans are in place to address any underperformance.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the report for information and assurance

EC/2025-26/73 Agenda Item 13 – Commissioning

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/74 Agenda Item 14 – Strategic Plans and Partnerships

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/75 Agenda Item 15.1 – ICBP051 - Decommissioning Policy

The Committee was asked to approve the updated Decommissioning Policy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP051 - Decommissioning Policy

EC/2025-26/76 Agenda Item 15.2 – ICBP033 - Procurement Policy

The Committee was asked to approve the updated Procurement Policy.

It was noted that the policy has been updated to reflect the changes in guidance and legislation.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP033 - Procurement Policy

EC/2025-26/77 Agenda Item 15.3 – ICBP040 - Value Based Commissioning Policy

The Committee was asked to approve the addition of Tirzepatide for overweight and obesity to the Value Based Commissioning Policy.

It was noted the eligibility criteria is very strict.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP040 - Value Based Commissioning Policy

EC/2025-26/78 Agenda Item 15.4 – ICBP058 - Secure Data Environment (SDE) Disclosure Control, Output Checking and Release Policy

The Committee is asked to approve the new SDE Disclosure Control, Output Checking and Release Policy.

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer informed the Committee as the sole data controller for the SDE, the ICB need to ensure that we have appropriate systems and mechanisms in place to manage the data that is controlled within that platform.

The Committee were assured that the design of the SDE is manufactured in a way that we do not release data unless there is a specific reason and any release follows an appropriate process.

The Chair questioned if a legal review of the policy has been conducted. The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer noted this would need to be confirmed with Health Innovation NENC (HI NENC). The Committee supported the policy.

ACTION:

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer to liaise with HI NENC colleagues to ensure a legal review of the SDE Disclosure Control, Output Checking and Release Policy has been conducted

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP058 - Secure Data Environment (SDE) Disclosure Control, Output Checking and Release Policy

EC/2025-26/79 Agenda Item 16.1 – Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business for consideration.

EC/2025-26/80 Agenda Item 16.2 - New Risks to add to the Risk Register

No new risks were identified.

EC/2025-26/81 Agenda Item 17 - CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 15:50hrs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8 July 10:30am.



**Samantha Allen
Executive Committee Chair
08 July 2025**