

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–033

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

28 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 20 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.

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

Your Request

Please could I ask for the following information related to Personal Health Budgets that you are responsible for under NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board?

1. Please could you send me details of your ICB's PHB Offer available to parents who have children that are eligible for Children's Continuing Care? This includes:
 - Notional Budget
 - 3rd Party Budget
 - Direct Payments
2. Can you confirm whether Clinical Oversight/Supervision of PA/carers is included in your Direct Payments PHB Offer? If yes, please could you confirm how this is achieved (i.e. via Community Nurse, Registered Nurse as part of PHB budget, centralised ICB Nurse, etc.) on:
 - a) a yearly basis
 - b) an ongoing basis (between yearly sign off/refresher training).
3. In general, are there any scenarios where children are eligible for Children's Continuing Care but do not fall into a PHB offer mentioned above? If so,
 - why does this occur

- what happens with these packages
 - what is the percentage of CCC children that fall into this 'non-PHB' category?
4. What pay scale/process is used for PAs / Carers employed under Direct Payment PHBs (and can you share) for NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board?
 5. Who is responsible for ensuring training for the PAs / Carers is provided/undertaken for Direct Payment PHBs (Parents / NHS / ICB / CCN, etc).
 6. Who is Lead Commissioner for the Direct Payment PHB Budgets – Local Authority or ICB (or another)?
 7. What is the current structure of your 'PHB' team (internal to ICB and those who liaise/support parents directly)?

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. The ICB offer personal health budgets for children and young people eligible for children's continuing care funding. The personal health budget is determined by the individual needs of the child or young person and outcomes outlined in the support plan.
2. If the PA's are undertaking delegated health tasks and require training in accordance with the care plan, the training and care plans can be provided by an external company who have the trained staff in the require delegated health care tasks if this is not available via the Foundation Trusts.

There is training available on-line, Local Authority training and broker services eg record keeping, safeguarding, etc.

The training for delegated health care tasks can be provided on an ongoing basis if required to ensure the PA is competent and/or changes to the child or young person's care plan requiring further training.

3. Children and young people who are in the care of the Local Authority (LA) via care order and live in residential placements do not fall into the PHB offer. The packages of support this cohort are commissioned by the LA's and if there is contribution from the ICB this is via the LA recharge process.

There may be instances where the PHB offer is withdrawn and a managed account is utilised if there is evidence of fraudulence use of the PHB monies.

17.74% of the CCC caseload are child in care of the LA.

4. The ICB's PHB process is to match the rate of the LAs direct payment for the area the child or young person is an ordinary resident of or the LA who commission the package of support on behalf of the ICB.
5. The responsibility for ensuring training for PAs for PHBs varies depending on the specific arrangements, tasks required and agreements in place. The training of PAs for delegated health care tasks is the responsibility of the person who is delegating the healthcare task to the PAs.
6. The lead commissioner for DPs for PHBs varies across the ICB is in accordance with the agreements in place with the 14 LAs.

7. There isn't a PHB team for children and young people eligible for children's continuing care funding, it is the role of the nurse assessor from the CCC service from the ICB to support the offer of PHBs.

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**