

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–233

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 535 4288
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

27 August 2026

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 6 August 2026 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

I am investigating demand for Community Musculoskeletal (MSK), Pain and Related Services, and NHS Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), across England. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to the commissioning and expenditure of each of these types of service by your Integrated Care Board.

1. Community MSK, Pain and Related Services

- a. Please describe how Community Musculoskeletal (MSK) services are commissioned within your Integrated Care Board and confirm which of the following services are included within the commissioned contract(s): Community MSK, Physiotherapy, Pain Management, Orthopedic triage, Rheumatology triage, Diagnostic Imaging Access – please list any additional services not listed above
- b. What was the total expenditure (£) on Community MSK and related services for each of the last three completed financial years?
- c. What is the expected budget allocated for Community MSK and related services for the current financial year?
- d. Please provide the name of the current provider(s) and indicate whether each provider is an NHS Trust, Community Trust, CIC, independent provider or other organisation.
- e. For the most recently completed financial year, please provide the amount spent with each provider identified above.

- f. Please provide the contract start date, contract end date, and any available extension options for the current contract(s).
- g. Are any Community MSK and related service contracts expected to be retendered, recommissioned or otherwise reviewed within the next three years? If so, please provide the expected timing.

To clarify question 1:

- I am seeking information on Community MSK services and any related services that are commissioned by the ICB as part of, or alongside, the Community MSK pathway.
- In question (a), I am asking the ICB to confirm which of the listed service areas are included within its commissioned Community MSK service or contract(s).
- For questions (b) to (g), I am requesting the relevant data (expenditure, budget, provider, spend by provider, contract dates, extension options, and expected retendering / recommissioning information) for the Community MSK service and any of the related service areas listed above, where these are commissioned by the ICB.
- If some of these service areas are not included within the main Community MSK contract but are commissioned separately, please provide the information for those separate contracts where held, and indicate that they are commissioned separately.

2. NHS Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT)

- a. Please describe how NHS Talking Therapies services are commissioned within your Integrated Care Board and confirm whether these services are commissioned as a standalone contract or as part of a broader mental health or community services contract.
- b. What was the total expenditure (£) on NHS Talking Therapies services for each of the last three completed financial years?
- c. What is the expected budget allocated for NHS Talking Therapies services for the current financial year?
- d. Please provide the name of the current provider(s) and indicate whether each provider is an NHS Trust, Mental Health Trust, CIC, independent provider or other organisation.
- e. For the most recently completed financial year, please provide the amount spent with each provider identified above.
- f. Please provide the contract start date, contract end date, and any available extension options for the current contract(s).
- g. Are any NHS Talking Therapies contracts expected to be retendered, recommissioned or otherwise reviewed within the next three years? If so, please provide the expected timing.

Where possible, please provide the information in Excel or CSV format. If it is easier to provide the information in another format, please provide it in the format in which it is held.

Our Response

1. Community MSK, Pain and Related Services

- a. Services are commissioned and contracted by individual local geographies.

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust (NCIC) provide community MSK services in North Cumbria.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provide the Joint Musculoskeletal and Pain Service (JMAPS) and North Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (NTIMS) services in Northumberland and North Tyneside. These services are commissioned as follows:

Joint Musculoskeletal and Pain Service (JMAPS, Northumberland) provide:

- Community MSK,
- Physiotherapy,
- Pain Management,
- Diagnostic Imaging Access

North Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (NTIMS, North Tyneside) provide:

- Community MSK,
- Physiotherapy,
- Pain Management,
- Orthopaedic triage,
- Diagnostic Imaging Access

For Newcastle and Gateshead, MSK services are provided by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH) and Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (TIMS). TIMS is a joint Newcastle and Gateshead service which offers self-care advice and fast access to expert opinion, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of muscle, joint and soft tissue conditions and persistent pain.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) is the current provider for MSK services in the community in Durham. Cora Health is the current provider for MSK services in the community in South Tyneside. South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT) is the current provider for MSK services in the community in Sunderland.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), South Tees Hospitals NHS FT (STHFT) and Cora Health supply MSK community services.

NTHFT and Cora Health provide an integrated MSK service, that includes pain management and rheumatology. For the STHFT MSK service, pain and rheumatology are delivered as separate services and have their own pathways in place.

- Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- Current start and end dates are noted below where the information is held.

ICB place	ICB held contract	Contract start date	Contract end date	Available options
North Cumbria	NCIC	Information not held	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2028
Northumberland	NHCFT (JMAPS)	01/07/2026	30/06/2031	No current extension option
North Tyneside	NHCFT (TIMS)	01/04/2024	31/03/2029	No current extension option
Newcastle and Gateshead	NUTH and TIMS	01/04/2026	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2029
South Tyneside	Cora Health	01/04/2022	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2029

ICB place	ICB held contract	Contract start date	Contract end date	Available options
Sunderland	STSFT	Information not held	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2029
County Durham	CDDFT	Information not held	31/03/2028	Part of block contract
Tees Valley	Cora Health	Information not held	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2028
	NTHFT	01/04/2024	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2029
	STHFT	01/04/2015	31/03/2027	Extend to 31/03/2029

g. There are no current plans to retender, recommission or review community MSK.

2. NHS Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT)

- a. Services are commissioned both as stand-alone contracts and as part of block contracting arrangements across the ICB footprint.
- b. Total expenditure (£) on NHS Talking Therapies services for each of the last three completed financial years:

Financial year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total expenditure (£)	£48,214	£50,550	£51,491

c. The expected budget allocated for Community MSK and related services for the current financial year (2026/27 plan) is £52,541.

d. Current providers are:

- North Cumbria area: Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW (Mental Health Trust)), is the provider
- Northumberland area: CNTW is the lead provider, sub-contracting full delivery to Mental Health Matters (MHM, (Charitable Incorporated Organisation- CIO)), with MHM subcontracting part pathway to Sunderland Counselling Service (SCS) (CIO).
- North Tyneside area: Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT, (NHS Trust)) is the provider, sub-contracting part pathway with SCS.
- Newcastle area: Vita Health Group (independent provider) is the provider, sub-contracting elements to JET (CIO), PROPS North East (CIO) and Search (CIO)
- Gateshead area: South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust is the provider (NHS Trust)
- South Tyneside area: South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust is the provider
- Sunderland area: CNTW is the lead provider, sub-contracting elements to Washington Mind (CIO), Sunderland Mind (CIO), SCS.
- County Durham and Darlington area: Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV (Mental Health Trust)) is the provider, subcontracting part pathway to MHM and SCS.
- Teesside area: Alliance is the provider (Independent provider), sub-contracting part pathway to Teesside Mind (CIO).

e. 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 all of the information requested. Spend with NHS providers is

part of a block contract and cannot be split between services. The ICB has provided information held on talking therapies spend with each provider identified in response to question 2e below, where held:

Provider	Spend in 2025/26
Alliance	£8,483
Vita	£5,569
NHS Block Contracts	£37,439

- f. Contract start date, contract end date, and any available extension options for the current contract(s) are noted in the table below:

ICB place	ICB held contract	Contract start date	Contract end date	Available options
North Cumbria	CNTW	01/04/2024	31/03/2027	Block contract with 2-year extension
Northumberland	CNTW	01/09/2025	31/08/2029	1 year extension available
North Tyneside	NHCFT	01/04/2024	31/03/2027	Block contract with 2-year extension
Newcastle	Vita Health Group	01/08/2022	01/08/2027	Currently in 2-year extension period
Gateshead	STSFT	01/04/2026	31/03/2027	Block contract (renewed yearly)
South Tyneside	STSFT	01/04/2026	31/03/2027	Block contract (renewed yearly)
Sunderland	CNTW	01/04/2026	31/03/2027	No extension option
Durham and Darlington	TEWV	01/04/2024	31/03/2027	Block contract with 2-year extension
Teesside	Alliance	01/04/2020	31/03/2027	Currently in 2-year extension period

Note: NENC ICB cannot comment on sub-contractors, please redirect the query to lead providers.

- g. The ICB is currently reviewing all commissioning plans for talking therapies. The plans are not available or approved at this time.

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 Information 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**