

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-474

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By Email

11 March 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 28 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I am making a Freedom of Information request and would be grateful if you would answer the following questions:

1. How is personalised care and support for people living with cancer delivered in the ICS?
2. Is there a specific Living with Cancer (LWC) or Living with and Beyond Cancer Programme within the ICS?
3. Is there a strategy or plan? Is this published, where can it be found? How is success measured?
4. Who leads the LWC Programme, is there a specific team, are these roles permanently funded? If not when will funding end?
5. How is delivery funded?
6. What engagement specifically with people LWC or people affected by cancer has been carried out since 2016?
7. If there is not a specific LWC Programme, has there ever been one? When did it finish? What were the reasons for not continuing the programme?

Please would you respond via email and attach any relevant documents.

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

1. The Northern Cancer Alliance (NCA) is hosted by and is coterminous with North East and North Cumbria ICB. As such the LWBC programme as defined at a national level and in response to systems needs is delivered via the NCA on a yearly basis. The NCA works within the ICB to achieve its strategic objectives, working with partners across the Integrated Care System, including Trusts, PCNs, LAs and the VSCE as required to deliver the outcomes agreed.
2. As noted above the NCA is the strategic delivery arm of the ICS in regard to the transformative agenda for cancer at a national and local level. As such the NCA develops on an annual basis a programme and related work plan for LWBC.
3. The LWBC programme is defined in response to the national planning ask on a yearly basis. The NCA's response to the national workplan is posted on the Futures website. In addition to the response a yearly action plan is developed in response to the planning return. This work plan is then augmented with additional project lines beyond but in line with the scope of the national plan. Where a project is of sufficient scale a project initiation document is developed and implemented and overseen by the relevant project groups and NCA governance structures. Success is measured in line with nationally and locally agreed metrics on a project specific basis e.g. in relation to PSFU etc this is monitored quantitatively through COSD returns and at a more qualitative level via regular contact with providers.
4. The LWBC programme is managed by a permanently funded Programme Manager (8b), as part of their wider portfolio of projects as well as a full time Delivery Lead (7). In addition, there is a Macmillan funded (7), and one day of clinical input. The Macmillan funded post will end in March 26 and ahead of that time the post will be evaluated and consideration given to adding to the core establishment.
5. Delivery of the LWBC programme is funded through allocation of SDF on a yearly basis. Funding is broadly allocated based on Trust population size, activity and health inequalities. Unless an element is needed for universal deployment e.g. Trust based personalised care or prehabilitation project leads where funding is allocated on a post per Trust basis.
6. The NCA has patient engagement and involvement at the heart of its business and has had from an early point in its development lay members as part of its Board as well as supporting a Public Involvement Accountability Forum (PIAF). The role of PIAF is to hold the NCA to account through review and scrutiny. Providing assurance that the views of the public are taken into account in the planning, operation and evaluation of the whole Northern Cancer Alliance programme. The principles of which are set out in the related public involvement framework. In addition to the above a lay member is part of the personalised care project team, that meets on a weekly basis and public involvement and engagement is an expectation for all LWBC projects both internally and externally.
7. Please refer to the responses to questions 1 to 6.

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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer