

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2025, 10:35hrs 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
Dave Gallagher, Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer
Hilary Lloyd, Chief Nurse and AHP Officer
Jacqueline Myers, Chief Strategy Officer
Dr Neil O'Brien, Chief Medical Officer (Vice Chair)
Claire Riley, Chief Corporate Services Officer
- In attendance:** Rebecca Herron, Corporate Committees Manager (Committee Secretary)
Deborah Cornell, Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary
Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (NENC)
- EC/2024-25/341 Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions**
- The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- EC/2024-25/342 Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence**
- Apologies for absence were received from Kelly Angus, Interim Chief People Officer.
- No further apologies for absence were received.
- EC/2024-25/343 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/2024-25/344 Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February 2025**

RESOLVED:

The Executive Committee AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025, were a true and accurate record.

EC/2024-25/345 Agenda Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes and action log

Minute reference EC/2024-25/192 Adoption Assessment Service

The Chief Delivery Officer informed the Committee this action is ongoing.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/217 Executive Area Directors Update Report November 2024

The Chief Delivery Officer informed the Committee the decision logs and format of the report have been reviewed. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/245 Healthier and Fairer Deep Dive

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the Healthier and Fairer prioritisation proposal has been considered within the System Development Fund review. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/269 Board Assurance Framework and Risk Management Report Quarter 3

The Chief Delivery Officer informed the Committee the review of the four goals will be undertaken at the April network meeting. Action ongoing.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/281 Targeted Lung Health Checks

The Chief Delivery Officer and Chief Corporate Services Officer informed the Committee both actions are now complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/283 Integrated Delivery Report (IDR)

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee the perinatal services will not hit the quarter four target. A recovery plan has been implemented as part of the 2025/26 planning round. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/283 Integrated Delivery Report (IDR)

The Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer assured the Committee the provider recovery trajectory plans are being incorporated into the provider oversight meetings. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/332 Weight Management Drugs Proposal

The Chair informed the Committee that right to choose providers is part of the Chief Executives update to the Board. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/338 Outcome of the ICB Investment Prioritisation Process 2025/27

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee an after action review is being undertaken and the additional considerations will be refined following the after action review completion. Action ongoing.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/334 Integrated Delivery Report (IDR)

The Chief Delivery Officer informed the Committee a briefing is being developed for March Board. Action complete.

Minute reference EC/2024-25/338 Outcome of the ICB Investment
Prioritisation Process 2025/26

The Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary informed the Committee this action was now complete.

The Chief Contracting and Procurement Officer noted actions EC/2024-25/331,332 and 332 (300, 301, 303) have been addressed by a paper circulated to the members. Actions complete.

The Chair requested all Executive Committee members review and update their remaining allocated actions.

ACTION:

All Executive Directors to review and update their allocated actions on the action log within one week

EC/2024-25/346 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/2024-25/347 Agenda Item 7 – Governance and Risk Management

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/348 Agenda Item 8.1 – 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.
Hartlepool - noted for information and assurance only
Stockton - noted for information and assurance only
Gateshead - noted for information and assurance only.
Newcastle - noted for information and assurance only.
North Cumbria - noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

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

**EC/2024-25/349 Agenda Item 8.2 – Clinical Effectiveness and Governance
Subcommittee Minutes**

RESOLVED:

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

EC/2024-25/350 Agenda Item 8.3 – Contracting Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Contracting Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/351 Agenda Item 8.4 – Healthier & Fairer Advisory Group Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Healthier & Fairer Advisory Group Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/352 Agenda Item 8.5 – Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/353 Agenda Item 8.6 – Pharmaceutical Services Regulatory Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Pharmaceutical Services Regulatory Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2024-25/354 Agenda Item 9 - Place Based Delivery

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/355 Agenda Item 10 – ICB Delivery

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/356 Agenda Item 11.1 - NENC ICB and ICS Finance Report Month 10

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 nine months to 31 January 2025.

The ICS is reporting a year-to-date deficit of £21.8m compared to a planned deficit of £19.3m, a slight deterioration compared to the previous

month. This is a worsened position compared to the previous month largely due to pay award pressures, efficiency underperformance and pressures on drugs and devices.

Net unmitigated financial risk across the ICS is now estimated at £161m across the system. This largely relates to the delivery of required efficiency plans which are higher than those delivered in 2023/24.

At month 10 this unmitigated financial risk is estimated and has been reported to NHSE at £17.8m (reduced from £36.1m at month 9) although work continues across the system to review this. This includes unmitigated net risks of £2m for the ICB, predominantly relating to prescribing, Continuing Healthcare and delivery of efficiencies.

ICB running costs:

- The ICB is reporting an underspend position against running cost budgets of £2.15m year to date and a forecast underspend of £5.8m, mainly due to vacancies

ICB Revenue:

- The ICB is reporting a year-to-date surplus of £8m compared to a plan of £3m, and a forecast surplus of £12.2m compared with a revised full year plan surplus of £3.6m

ICS Capital:

- ICS capital spending forecasts are currently in line with the confirmed capital allocation

The Chief Finance Officer noted in final month 11 allocations, a total of £20.4m surge funding has been received from NHSE to support specific pressures in a number of Foundation Trusts, in particular relating to Private Finance Initiative costs. This is pass through funding which will be transferred to relevant Foundation Trusts, predominantly County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Further Elective Recovery Fund overperformance funding was also received in month 11, a total of £56.2m. This funding was anticipated at around these levels, based on latest activity forecasts and will be used to pay relevant providers, both NHS Foundation Trusts and independent sector providers, for relevant activity delivered.

The Committee is asked to delegate authority for the Chief Finance Officer to approve the transaction of surge pass through funding from NHSE and Elective Recovery Fund over-performance funding and for the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive to approve any further non-recurring funding within available resources for 2024/25 where timescales require urgent action.

It was noted that IRFS16 outstanding invoiced have now been paid.

The Chief Finance Officer informed the Committee that work is progressing on the development of both the ICB and wider ICS financial plan for 2025/26, building upon the medium term financial plan and the 2025/26 planning guidance which was published in January 2025. As previously highlighted, 2025/26 is expected to be a hugely challenging year financially.

The high level of non-recurrent benefits which are being used to support the ICS financial position in 2024/25, combined with lower than average net growth (after convergence adjustment) and low levels of recurrent Cost Improvement Programme in previous years for NENC in 2025/26, mean it will be extremely difficult to deliver a balanced financial plan without taking very difficult decisions. At present the ICS is £179m away from a balanced plan and the Chief Finance Officer is aiming to work with Foundation Trusts to reduce this to below £100m for March submission of plan.

The Chair enquired what number of difficult decisions does that include and where are the opportunities in 2025/26. The Chief Delivery Officer assured the Committee the list is prepared and will be shared at the next Executive Team meeting.

The Chief Medical Officer noted that a review of the internal resource will need to be considered to support this work.

The Committee recognised the financial risks and the ongoing work to mitigate the risks.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee NOTED the latest year to date and forecast financial position for 2024/25,
- 2) The Committee NOTED there are a number of financial risks across the system still to be managed
- 3) The Committee NOTED the position on additional dental fundings and funding previously agreed for North Cumbria Integrated Care, and AGREED authority for the Chief Finance Officer to approve the transaction of surge pass through funding from NHSE and Elective Recovery Fund over-performance funding
- 4) The Committee APPROVED the delegation of authority for the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive to approve any further non-recurring funding within available resources for 2024/25 where timescales require urgent action

EC/2024-25/357 Agenda Item 12 - Integrated Performance and Quality

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/358 Agenda Item 13 – Commissioning

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/359 Agenda Item 14 – Strategic Plans and Partnerships

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/360 Agenda Item 15 – Policy Management

No update for this item.

EC/2024-25/361 Agenda Item 16.1 – Any Other Business

The Chief Executive, Health Innovation NENC informed the Committee that Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust acquired Healthcall as of this morning.

There were no further items of any other business for consideration.

EC/2024-25/362 Agenda Item 16.2 - New Risks to add to the Risk Register

The Chair requested a risk be developed to add to the risk register regarding the delivery resource required to implement and transact the difficult decisions focussed piece of work.

ACTION:

The Strategic Head of Corporate Governance to link with the Chief Strategy Officer to develop the risk regarding the delivery resource required to implement and transact the difficult decisions focussed piece of work.

No further risks were identified.

EC/2024-25/363 Agenda Item 17 - CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 11.05hrs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 8 April 10:30am.



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