

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–100

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

5 June 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 29 May 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

We would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your current and future respiratory service plans. Specifically, we would be grateful if you could provide information on the following in electronic format:

1. Your ICB's current and future plans or strategies relating to:
 - a. Asthma services
 - b. COPD services
 - c. Spirometry diagnostics
 - d. Sleep services
2. Any planned transformation, expansion, procurement, community diagnostic centre (CDC), or pathway redesign initiatives relating to these services over the next 12–24 months.
3. The names, job titles, and contact details (where permissible) of the current clinical, operational, innovation and digital transformation leads responsible for respiratory services and delivery of these initiatives within your ICB.
4. Details of any priority objectives, targets, or programmes linked to respiratory health improvement and diagnostics.

Our Response

1. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have requested. The below linked documents provide comprehensive information as to the intent of NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care board. The documents should provide the detail required from the questions asked, though we have attempted to provide the most relevant page numbers and sections below to assist. In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

[NHS NENC ICB 5 Year Strategic Commissioning Plan](#)

[NHS NENC ICB Clinical Conditions Strategic Plan](#)

[NHSNENC ICB Commissioning Intentions](#)

- a. Please see the NHS NENC ICB Clinical Conditions Plan specifically for further detail in respect of respiratory health, with respiratory Heath recommendations captured on pages 24 and 37 for adults and children, respectively. A summary of recommendations can be found on pages 54-55.
 - b. Please see the NHS NENC ICB Clinical Conditions Plan specifically for further detail in respect of respiratory health, with respiratory Heath recommendations captured on pages 24 and 37 for adults and children, respectively. A summary of recommendations can be found on pages 54-55.
 - c. Please see the NHS NENC ICB Clinical Conditions Plan specifically for further detail in respect of respiratory health, with respiratory Heath recommendations captured on pages 24 and 37 for adults and children, respectively. A summary of recommendations can be found on pages 54-55. Please see page 27 / Section 4.5.3 of the NENC 5 Year Commissioning Plan in respect of Diagnostics.
 - d. The ICB has just undertaken a reorganisation at the request of NHS England to reposition themselves as a strategic commissioner. The ICB does not currently have any specific commissioning plans for 2026/27 in relation to sleep services.
2. Please see page 27 / Section 4.5.3 of the NENC 5 Year Commissioning Plan in respect of Diagnostics. Page 8 of the NHS NENC ICBs Commissioning Intentions describes considerations and intent in respect of Community Diagnostic Centres.
 3. NENC ICB is not arranged in a manner that has named speciality leads for all conditions.
 4. Please see the NHS NENC ICB Clinical Conditions Plan specifically for further detail in respect of respiratory health, with respiratory Heath recommendations captured on pages 24 and 37 for adults and children, respectively. A summary of recommendations can be found on pages 54-55. Please see page 27 / Section 4.5.3 of the NENC 5 Year Commissioning Plan in respect of Diagnostics.

Further, the ICB prioritised respiratory programmes over the winter period including commissioning of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) hubs and also commissioned an approach, in which GP practices were asked to target high risk COPD patients for winter wellness checks. Early data is encouraging. ARI hubs are commissioned for the next 2yrs and the data from the targeted COPD work will be reviewed to explore the feasibility of further role out ahead of this winter.

In addition to this, the ICB have secured a pilot programme of work to deliver early and accurate diagnosis through case finding and in ex-mining communities in 4 targeted localities of the region. This work will also include further targeting of high-risk COPD populations within those communities to ensure they are optimally managed.

For children and young people: 'Tier 3' face to face training [The National Capabilities Framework for Asthma](#) is continuing to be delivered across the region to clinicians in both Primary and secondary care to ensure good asthma care and awareness of national and regional guidelines for diagnosis, chronic and acute management.

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**