

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 May 2025, 11:00hrs in the
Joseph Swan Suite, Pemberton House, Colima Avenue, Sunderland**

- Present:** Kelly Angus, Interim Chief People Officer
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 (Chair)
- In attendance:** Rebecca Herron, Corporate Committees Manager (Committee Secretary)
Neil Hawkins, Strategic Head of Corporate Governance
Sir Liam Donaldson, Chair
- EC/2025-26/30 Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and introductions**
- The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.
- EC/2025-26/31 Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for absence**
- Apologies for absence were received from Sam Allen, Chief Executive, Deb Cornell, Director of Corporate Governance and Board Secretary, Nicola Hutchinson, Chief Executive, Health Innovation North East and North Cumbria (NENC).
- No further apologies for absence were received.
- EC/2025-26/32 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/2025-26/33 Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 April 2025**
- RESOLVED:**

The Executive Committee AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025, were a true and accurate record

EC/2025-26/34 Agenda Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes and action log

The Chair informed the Committee that the action log is currently being consolidated.

EC/2025-26/35 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/2025-26/36 Agenda Item 7.1 – Annual Committee Effectiveness Survey and Report

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with outcome of annual committee effectiveness survey and annual report.

The Chair informed the Committee this report is in line with our annual governance review process it gives a summary of the answers to the annual effectiveness survey and outlines the achievements and assurances the Committee has gained throughout the year to demonstrate its roles and responsibilities.

The annual review of the Committee will inform the ICB Annual Report 2024/25 and be include within he Committee highlight report to the next Board meeting.

The Chief Delivery Officer noted question five responses identified that papers are very long and detailed, with a reduced executive function in the future consideration will need to be given to information flows alongside the new structures.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee NOTED the results and findings from the Committee effectiveness survey**
- 2) The Committee APPROVED the review to be submitted to the Board for assurance and for inclusion in the ICB Annual Report 2024/25 as required**

EC/2025-26/37 Agenda Item 7.2 – Winter Delivery and Assurance Group Terms of Reference

The Chief Medical Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the proposal to establish a Winter Delivery and Assurance Group.

The Chief Medical Officer informed the Committee the Winter Delivery and Assurance Group is proposed as a sub-group of the ICB Executive Committee. The group will be chaired by the ICB Chief Medical Officer and will be directly accountable to the ICB Executive Committee with monthly reporting into the Urgent and Emergency Care Network and the Living and Ageing Well Partnership on their areas of the winter plan.

The Group will coordinate the development, monitoring and oversight of the system's winter priorities across health and care partners, focusing on time-bound delivery, risk management and evaluation. Membership includes key leaders from across the system.

The Interim Chief People Officer requested that a member of the HR/People Team be included within the membership of the group.

ACTION:

The Interim Chief People Officer to nominate a team member to join the Winter Delivery and Assurance Group

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee APPROVED the establishment of a Winter Delivery and Assurance Group**
- 2) The Committee NOTED the system-wide approach to planning, monitoring and post-winter evaluation**
- 3) The Committee APPROVED the Terms of Reference for the Winter Delivery and Assurance Group**

EC/2025-26/38

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.
Gateshead - noted for information and assurance only.
Newcastle - noted for information and assurance only.
Northumberland - noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

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

EC/2025-26/39

Agenda Item 8.2 – 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/2025-26/40

Agenda Item 8.3 – Primary Care Subcommittee Minutes

Noted for information and assurance only.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECEIVED the Primary Care Subcommittee minutes for assurance

EC/2025-26/41

Agenda Item 9 – Place Based Delivery

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/42

Agenda Item 10.1 – Healthcare Inequalities Annual Report

The Chief Strategy Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on progress against the health and healthcare inequality metrics.

The report provides an understanding of current outputs and outcomes specific to the CORE20Plus5 for Adults and Children and Young People included within the Integrated Delivery Report and provides an update and assurance on the measures of inequality. This includes an update on work being undertaken to close the identified inequality gap for each clinical area. This report also provides intelligence on the healthcare challenges for the population within the most deprived communities of NENC and potential future challenges to the system.

The Chief Medical Officer noted that it was difficult to pick out key points of improvement as the work is very broad.

The Chair of the ICB noted that the simplest possible intervention in health and healthcare is a vaccination. With regards to the measles, mumps and rubella vaccination the inequalities have widened over the last two years both nationally and in NENC. This will need to be considered as the ICB will now have responsibility for vaccinations.

Statistics at the first Board meeting showed the inequalities across NENC and there is still no improvement. The ICB may need to change the approach and start looking at specific and enduring inequalities and look at how we can use the strategic commissioning process to really make an impact.

The Chair noted that there are some relevant pieces of information within the report which should be communicated to staff and wider partners.

ACTION:

The Chair to review the report to identify relevant communications for staff and wider partners

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee **NOTED** the content of the report
- 2) The Committee **APPROVED** the inclusion of the report in the ICB Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25

EC/2025-26/43 Agenda Item 11 - Finance

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/44 Agenda Item 12.1 - 2025/26 Financial and Operational Plans

The Chief Strategy Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the final financial and operational plan for both the ICB and wider ICS for 2025/26.

The Chief Strategy Officer informed the Committee that the ICBs financial plan has been received and accepted at national level. A letter is expected to deescalate NENC ICB from any national concerns in terms of our plan. It was noted the plan is very challenging from a delivery point of view.

The Chief Finance Officer noted the following points:

- There is no clarity at present around the £18.76 per head and 2025/26 is the year transitioning towards that
- It is good practice for the Committee to recommend the plans to board
- There will be a process in place to agree activity plans
- Cost improvements – NHSE have sent draft letter which is quite favourable compared to others in terms of the conditions being placed on ICBs.

It was noted in terms of financial planning for 2025/26 NHSE with ICB support are reviewing the Cost Improvement Plans of three organisations. There is a clear expectation from NHSE to de-risk and deliver financial plans.

The Chief Strategy Officer assured the Committee the Equality, Quality Impact Assessments are in progress and will be completed prior to submission to Board.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Board the approval of the final ICB and ICS financial and operational plan submissions
- 2) The Committee **NOTED** requirement for robust EQIAs to be carried out for key efficiency and difficult decision schemes in-line with the approved ICB policy ahead of the June 2025 ICB board
- 3) The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Board the approval of the updated ICB revenue budgets for 2025/26 (as per Part A table 2) including those contracts which are above £30m

4) The Committee RECOMMENDED to Board the approval of the ICS capital plan figures

EC/2025-26/45 Agenda Item 13 – Commissioning

No update for this item.

EC/2025-26/46 Agenda Item 14.1 – Digital Inclusion Strategy

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with the NENC ICS Digital Inclusion Strategy.

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer noted that the strategy had previously been presented to the Executive Team on 18 February 2025 where feedback from colleagues had been requested.

The Committee were assured the NENC ICS Digital Inclusion Strategy has been developed in partnership with the NENC ICS Digital Inclusion Steering Group members and aligns with the corporate plan.

NENC ICS Digital Inclusion Strategy focusses on five key inter-linked themes, based on the national domains for action on digital inclusion. The Strategy underpins the NENC ICS Digital, Data and Technology Strategy and supports the 'left shift' in health and care.

The Chair of the ICB enquired how the North East and North Cumbria compares to other areas with WIFI access. The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer confirmed this is mentioned in our digital data and technology strategies, it is one of the basic and essential things that we need to get right if we are to provide digital innovation. We are highlighting that those things need to be in place in order to provide digital innovation and looking at alternatives such as satellite connection rather than broadband connection.

The Committee supported the Digital Inclusion Strategy.

RESOLVED:

The Committee RECOMMENDED to Board the approval of the NENC ICS Digital Inclusion Strategy

EC/2025-26/47 Agenda Item 15.1 – ICBP055 - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and approval Policy

The Committee is asked to approve the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and approval Policy.

It was noted that as the ICB progress and implement AI, we will refine and iterate this policy.

The Interim Chief People Officer noted this policy will be required to be intertwined with employment policies.

RESOLVED:

The Committee APPROVED the ICBP055 - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and approval Policy

EC/2025-26/48 Agenda Item 16.1 – Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business for consideration.

EC/2025-26/49 Agenda Item 16.2 - New Risks to add to the Risk Register

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer requested a risk be developed regarding the use of AI.

ACTION:

The Chief Digital and Infrastructure Officer to liaise with the Strategic Head of Corporate governance to develop a risk regarding the use of AI

No further risks were identified.

EC/2025-26/50 Agenda Item 17 - CLOSE

The meeting was closed at 11:00hrs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 09 June, 15:05



**Samantha Allen
Executive Committee Chair
09 June 2025**