

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–358

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By Email

15 January 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 16 December 2024 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to make the following request for information relating to adult autism and learning disability services for the financial year 2024/25 in your Integrated Care Board.

1. How much do you spend per annum on learning disability and autism services for the following:
 - a. Acute care (this means care provided in hospitals including Assessment and Treatment Units)
 - b. Primary care
 - c. Community care (this means packages of care and support that provided to people in homes in the community that are funded by the ICB or jointly funded with Councils)
2. For packages of care and support provided to people with a learning disability where these are jointly funded by health and social care, please tell me the uplift expressed as a percentage that you gave to providers for the 2024/25 financial year.

If this percentage is different from the percentage fee rate uplift provided by the council for the relevant package of care, please tell me:

- a. The difference
 - b. The rationale behind the difference
3. If you have learning disability and autism strategy, please provide a link.
4. The Health Secretary Wes Streeting has outlined three key shifts for the NHS. How do the fee rate uplifts you have offered to providers align with and support each of the following three shifts that are applicable:
- a. Moving care from hospitals to communities
 - b. Transitioning from analogue to digital healthcare
 - c. Shifting focus from treating illness to preventing it.
5. Which of your services do you consider to be offering preventative interventions for people with a learning disability and autistic people perhaps generating savings elsewhere for the ICB and what is your brief rationale for thinking this?

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. Details of spend on learning disability and autism services for County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria and Tees Valley places are listed below.
 - a. The costs of acute care form part of a wider block contract and are not broken down to individual services.
 - b. Primary care areas of spend are not broken down by individual LDA services and form part of wider primary care schemes. LDA spend within primary care is not available in this way.
 - c. In relation to adult packages of care relating to domiciliary care and supported living for client groups of Learning Disability and Autism, the total annual cost is £88m. This includes package costs for CHC, joint funding and s117 except for North Cumbria which is CHC and joint funded only.

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information for Northumberland and North Tyneside and Sunderland and South Tyneside ICB places. 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 any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the local authorities within those North East and North Cumbria ICB places.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those local authorities (within the responses to question 2) to make your request.

2. Local authorities are the lead commissioner for joint funded packages of care and as such would agree annual uplifts with providers. The ICB pay a contribution towards the agreed package. There is no variation to uplifts for joint funded packages.

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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 any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the Local Authorities within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those Local Authorities to make your request.

NENC Local Authorities	Email
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

3. The North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network is part of the NENC ICB. We do not have a Learning Disability Strategy but a vision and set of values [About Us « Learning Disability Network](#). We align to the broader ICB strategies including Integrated care strategy and Clinical conditions strategy.

The ICB Learning Disability and Autism team equally have a set of priorities [Learning disabilities and autism | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#). But do not have a standalone strategy.

4. Please find details on fee lift updates:
 - a. This year's fee setting was set in the last financial year.
 - b. NHS England's digital strategy is in place.
 - c. Most uplifts within Complex Care relate to care home and domiciliary care fees. These do not relate to prevention. There are some provisions which are rehab facilities which does aim to support prevention. Fee setting is based on allocation from NHSE's Foundation Trust set strategy. Acute care uplifts are set by NHS England.
5. Key working services for children and young people with autism and/or learning disabilities aim to prevent unnecessary admissions to mental health hospitals by providing tailored, coordinated support for those with the most complex needs. This initiative, introduced under the NHS Long Term Plan, ensures that children and young people at risk of admission or already in inpatient settings have a designated keyworker.

Keyworkers play a crucial role in supporting children, young people, and their families by ensuring that local systems respond effectively and collaboratively to their needs. They help families navigate services, secure appropriate community-based care, and reduce reliance on hospital admissions. By working in partnership with families and professionals, keyworkers ensure that care plans are personalised, accessible, and aligned with the young person's needs, fostering stability, and reducing stress and uncertainty for families.

In the North East and North Cumbria, these services are hosted within the voluntary sector organisations and are funded by the ICB. Key working services are offered to those identified on an ICB's dynamic support register, providing proactive, community-based support to avoid inpatient care wherever possible. This approach improves outcomes by keeping children and young people in their communities with the right support at the right time, ultimately creating a more person-centred, effective, and compassionate care system.

Use of a dynamic support register and care treatment reviews used as a preventative approach to minimising admissions to Mental Health Hospitals and ensuring individuals are supported effectively within the community. This approach is across health and social care and includes support from third sector.

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