

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 26-024

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

28 April 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 21 April 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**

I am writing to request information from your Integrated Care Board under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following:

1. Equity Policy for CHC Funding
  - a. Does your ICB have a formal equity policy, framework, or guidance document relating specifically to equity, equality, or reducing unwarranted variation in NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding decisions?
  - b. If yes, please provide a copy of the policy or a link to where it is publicly available.
2. Implementation and Use of the Equity Policy
  - a. Can you indicate where and how this equity policy has been implemented within CHC processes (e.g., eligibility assessments, decision making panels, resource allocation, personalised care planning, or appeals)?
  - b. Please describe any specific pathways, procedures, or tools used to ensure equitable CHC decision making.
3. Impact on Commissioned Care Packages
  - a. Has the equity policy influenced changes to commissioned care packages, particularly decisions where:

- an individual's care package has been changed from home-based care to nursing home care, or
  - funding decisions have been reviewed due to equity considerations.
- b. If so, please provide any documentation, reports, or summaries covering 2025 and 2026 outlining these changes (with any necessary redactions to protect personal data).

#### 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a. Does the ICB collect or review data on equity in CHC outcomes, such as demographic variation, location-based differences, or differences between home care vs. nursing home placements?
- b. If available, please provide the most recent evaluation, dataset, or summary report.

I would prefer the information to be provided in electronic format. If any part of this request is unclear or would exceed the cost limit, please advise me as soon as possible so I can refine the request.

### **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

#### 1. Equity Policy for CHC Funding

- a. NENC ICB does have a formal policy relating to equity, equality, or reducing unwarranted variation in NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding decisions.
- b. The links below show policies available on the ICB's website:

Choice and Equity Policy: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/wtyh1xct/choice-and-equity-policy.pdf>

Access and Choice Policy: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/am1p2u2d/icbp001-access-and-choice-policy-3.pdf>

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.

#### 2. Implementation and Use of the Equity Policy

- a. The ICB's policies, and the principles set out within those policies (including the Choice and Equity Policy), are embedded within CHC decision-making across the ICB, including within locality teams and relevant decision-making forums. These principles inform practice across the CHC pathway, including assessment, recommendations, panel decision-making, care planning and review processes, and the consideration of appeals where applicable.
- b. Quality assurance arrangements are in place to provide oversight of the assessment and decision-making process and to identify any unwarranted variation. This includes routine quality checks and review activity, with assurance reporting and wider indicators considered through the ICB's established assurance governance structures.

#### 3. Impact on Commissioned Care Packages

- a. The ICB's Choice and Equity Policy underpins the overall decision-making process for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) commissioned care packages. However, each individual case is considered on its own merits and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the person's assessed needs, clinical evidence and relevant guidance.

When making recommendations and decisions, clinicians and decision-making forums are expected to be mindful of the principles set out in the ICB's policies (including the Choice and Equity Policy). These principles inform the approach to decision-making, but they would not typically be recorded as a specific, stand-alone statement within individual requests for funding or within the narrative of individual care package decisions.

The ICB does not produce separate documentation, reports or summaries that attribute changes to individual commissioned care packages (including any change from home-based care to nursing home care, or reviews of funding decisions) specifically to "equity considerations".

Any consideration of equity would be embedded within the application of relevant policies and guidance as part of the normal decision-making process, rather than captured as a discrete category for reporting.

b. Please refer to the response to question 3a.

#### 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a. The most recent information held is contained within the NHSE reporting returns/assurance information. The ICB does collect/review data for NHSE reporting, including high-level conversion rates by area. The ICB does not hold a separate standalone evaluation, dataset or summary report that provides package-level equity analysis of CHC outcomes beyond this high-level reporting.
- b. NENC ICB provides data for NHS England and this is publicly available. The link to NHS assurance statistics is [Statistics » Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)

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.

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](http://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](http://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**