

# NENC ICB

Finance Report for the period ending 31st July 2025

M4 - July 2025		YTD	Forecast
Overall ICS 2025/26 In Year Financial Position - (Surplus) / Deficit			
For the financial year 2025/26 the ICS is reporting an improvement to YTD plan of £3.20m. Based on the final	Plan	£28.19 m	£0.00
2025/26 plan submission, a breakeven overall position for the year is expected across the ICS.	Actual	£24.99 m	£0.00 i
	Variance	(£3.20) m	£0.00 i
Overall ICB 2025/26 In Year Financial Position - (Surplus) / Deficit			
The ICB is reporting a year to date surplus of £5.21m, an improvement to plan of £1.27m and a forecast outtur	n Plan	(£3.95) m	(£11.84) ı
surplus of £11.84m in line with plan.	Actual	(£5.21) m	(£11.84)
	Variance	(£1.27) m	£0.00 i
2025/26 ICB Running Costs Position			
The ICB is reporting an underspend against the running cost allowance of £2.10m year to date and a forecast	Plan	£15.86 m	£48.98 r
breakeven position.	Actual	£13.75 m	£48.98 ı
	Variance	(£2.10) m	£0.00 ı
Overall ICS 2025/26 Capital Funding			
The ICS is reporting a breakeven forecast outturn against the capital allocation with a year to date overspend o	of Allocation	£45.08 m	£205.30 r
£12.13m is due to capital projects starting earlier than planned.	Actual	£57.22 m	£205.30 r
	Variance	£12.13 m	£0.00 r
Overall ICS 2025/26 Efficiency	Plan	£176.50 m	
The ICS is reporting year to date efficiency savings of £172.1m and forecast savings of £594.7m, with the ICB	Actual	£172.10 m	£594.70 r
forecasting delivery of £126.3m, this is a £0.2m over-delivery against plan. Providers are currently forecasting	over- Variance	(£4.40) m	£0.83 r
delivery of efficiencies of £0.6m overall but a £28.3m under-delivery on recurrent efficiencies.			
Overall 2025/26 Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS)		4.94%	4.93%
The ICB is on track to achieve the MHIS target for 2025/26 (growth in spend of 4.93%).			
Cash		0.24%	<1.25
The ICB cash balance for July is 0.24% and within the target set by NHS England of <1.25% of the monthly cas	sh		
drawdown.			
BPPC		by volume	by valu
The BPPC target is for 95% of NHS and Non NHS invoices to be paid within 30 days	NHS	99.38%	99.99
	Non NHS	99.73%	99.64

## **Overview of the Financial Position**

This report provides an update on the financial performance of the ICB and wider ICS in the financial year 2025/26 for the period to 31st July 2025.

For month 4, the overall reported ICS financial position is a year to date deficit of £24.99m compared to a planned deficit of £28.19m. The favourable variance of £3.20m is a worsened position from the previous month and continues to include a one-off benefit from sale of land which was planned for later in the year.

Excluding that benefit, the ICS position would be behind plan. There are a number of pressures in provider positions, in particular under-delivery of efficiency plans with on-going work across all organisations to review and develop CIP plans to ensure delivery of savings are on track for the year-end.

The ICS is forecasting delivery of the planned position at the end of the year although there are a number of risks to that position.

The ICB is currently reporting a year to date surplus of £5.21m against a planned surplus of £3.95m, the improvement YTD is due to vacancy slippage across running cost and programme areas. Significant pressures are evident within mental health budgets for ADHD/ASD assessments at non-NHS providers, with a forecast overspend of £13m which is currently being managed through reserves. The ICB is on track to deliver a forecast surplus for the year of £11.84m in line

For 2025/26, there is no longer a separate IFRS 16 CDEL budget, and the overall provider operational capital budget includes CDEL cover for IFRS 16 requirements. At month 4, the ICS capital spending forecasts are currently in line with planned allocation, forecasts now include costs associated with additional funding for operational UEC prior year performance now that plans for utilisation have been agreed by the system.

The ICB is on track to deliver the Mental Health Investment Standard, with growth in relevant spend of 4.93% and has been increased to include the pay award.

At this stage of the year there is always very limited data available for the majority of commissioned services, with a time lag of two months in respect of prescribing data and other activity based contract information. This adds a level of risk and uncertainty to the position.

The financial plan for 2025/26 included overall financial risks of £437m across the ICS. Mitigations identified totalled £193m leaving a net risk position of £244m within the financial plan. At month 4, gross risks have reduced to £288m and total net risk has reduced to £169.2m. This includes a net risk for the ICB of £20m at month 4 which reflects potential pressures around prescribing and continuing healthcare costs, as well as delivery of challenging efficiency targets.

Work is continuing across the system to review the position, seek to identify mitigations and collectively work to manage potential risks. Work continues on the medium term financial plan across the ICS and delivery of related financial recovery plans via the System Recovery Board. A review of position with Chairs, CEOs, COOs and CFOs across the system to take place early in October to agree any additional actions necessary to deliver plan.

Table 1: Overall ICS (Surplus	s) / Deficit					
Month 4 - July 2025	YTD Plan (Surplus) / Deficit	YTD Actual (Surplus) / Deficit	YTD Variance (Surplus) / Deficit	Annual Plan (Surplus) / Deficit	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit	Forecast Variance (Surplus) / Deficit
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
NENC Commissioner (ICB)  Total In Year ICB Position	(3,947)	(5,214)	(1,267)	(11,841)	(11,841)	0
Total in Year ICB Position	(3,947)	(5,214)	(1,267)	(11,841)	(11,841)	U
NENC Providers	32,139	30,208	(1,931)	11,841	11,841	0
Total Provider Position	32,139	30,208	(1,931)	11,841	11,841	0
Total ICS Financial Position 2025/26	28,192	24,994	(3,198)	0	0	0

Table 2: ICB Financial Position	1					
Month 4 - July 2025	YTD Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	2025/26 Annual Plan	2025/26 Forecast Outturn	2025/26 Forecast Variance
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
<u>Programme</u>						
Acute Services	1,381,817	1,381,030	(788)	4,066,916	4,067,118	202
Mental Health Services	330,292	334,536	4,244	990,754	1,003,374	12,620
Community Health Services	247,747	248,612	864	751,340	753,918	2,578
Continuing Care	159,666	165,114	5,447	525,149	527,052	1,902
Prescribing	197,973	197,973	(0)	620,233	620,233	(0)
Primary Care	41,762	38,827	(2,934)	124,045	116,022	(8,023)
Primary Care Co-Commissioning	240,086	242,138	2,052	718,096	724,140	6,044
Delegated – Pharmacy, Ophthalmic and Dental	132,527	130,948	(1,579)	397,581	397,581	0
Specialised Commissioning	256,117	256,117	0	785,279	785,279	0
Other Programme Services	13,547	13,981	434	61,553	61,464	(89)
Other Commissioned Services	10,704	10,072	(632)	32,126	30,650	(1,476)
Programme Reserves	22,611	16,340	(6,272)	62,778	49,020	(13,758)
Total ICB Programme Costs	3,034,849	3,035,686	837	9,135,851	9,135,851	0
<u>Admin</u>						
Running Costs	15,856	13,752	(2,104)	48,983	48,983	0
Total ICB Admin Costs	15,856	13,752	(2,104)	48,983	48,983	0
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Total ICB Expenditure	3,050,705	3,049,438	(1,267)	9,184,834	9,184,834	0
Revenue Resource Limit	(3,054,652)	(3,054,652)	0	(9,196,675)	(9,196,675)	0
(Surplus) / Deficit	(3,947)	(5,214)	(1,267)	(11,841)	(11,841)	0

Month 4 - July 2025	YTD Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	2025/26 Annual Plan	2025/26 Forecast Outturn	2025/20 Forecas Varianc
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
1) Prescribing & MO Efficiencies	6,256	7,689	1,433	18,765	19,206	44
Continuing Healthcare & Packages of Care	10,296	8,861	(1,435)	30,886	30,886	(
3) Running Costs and Infrastructure	4,273	4,273	0	4,273	4,273	(
4) Estates	0	337	337	1,000	1,169	169
5) Service Reform Programmes	9,022	10,460	1,438	37,200	37,005	(195
6) Internal Flexibilities - Stretch	26,023	24,300	(1,723)	33,990	33,765	(225
Total ICB Efficiencies	55,870	55,920	50	126,114	126,303	189
Of Which:						
Recurrent	23,431	25,990	2,559	64,412	72,423	8,012
Non Recurrent	32,439	29,930	(2,509)	61,702	53,879	(7,823)
Total ICB Efficiencies	55,870	55,920	50	126,114	126,303	189
Providers within system	120,632	116,180	(4,452)	467,756	468,401	645
Total Provider Efficiencies (within system)	120,632	116,180	(4,452)	467,756	468,401	645
Of Which:						
Recurrent	74,273	54,616	(19,658)	320,427	292,173	(28,254)
Non Recurrent	46,358	61,564	15,206	147,329	176,228	28,899
Total Provider Efficiencies (within system)	120,632	116,180	(4,452)	467,756	468,401	645
Total ICS Efficiencies	176,502	172,100	(4,402)	593,870	594,703	833
Of Which:						
Recurrent	97,704	80,605	(17,099)	384,839	364,596	(20,242)
Non Recurrent	78,797	91,494	12,697	209,031	230,107	21,076
Total ICS Efficiencies	176,502	172,100	(4,402)	593,870	594,703	833

### ICS Efficiencies key points

The table above shows the efficiency targets set out in the ICS financial plan and forecast delivery against those targets.

For the ICB, the overall efficiency forecast shows a slight improvement to plan with a forecast over-delivery of £0.2m and year to date on track. Internal flexibilities will be monitored and full delivery of the plan is expected.

For providers within the system there is a year to date under-delivery to plan of £4.5m, and shows an under-delivery of recurrent schemes of £19.7m partly offset by over-delivery of non recurrent schemes of £15.2m. At Month 04, the providers are forecasting a slight over-delivery of £0.6m against plan. As with the ICB, this represents a significant challenge given the increased efficiency targets in plan for 2025/26, and this is reflected within ICS risks.

Risks and Mitigations	ICB 2025/26	Provider Trusts 2025/26	Tota ICS 2025/26
	£000s	£000s	£000s
(Risks) / (Offsets to benefits):			
Additional cost risk (capacity, pressures, winter)	(13,886)	(81,883)	(95,769
Additional cost risk (inflation)	0	(28,317)	(28,317
Efficiency risk	(19,983)	(104,574)	(124,557)
Prescribing / CHC	(16,442)		(16,442)
Income risk (excl. ERF)	0	(23,000)	(23,000)
Total Risks	(50,311)	(237,774)	(288,085)
Mitigations / benefits:			
Additional cost control or income (excl. ERF)	21,347	80,646	101,993
Efficiency mitigation	9,000	5,900	14,900
Non-recurrent mitigations	0	2,000	2,000
Mitigations not yet identified	19,964	149,228	169,192
Total Mitigations	50,311	237,774	288,085
Total Net Risk (excluding ERF)	0	0	0
Total Unmitigated Net Risk	(19,964)	(149,228)	(169,192)

				2025/26	2025/26	2025/26
Month 4 - July 2025	YTD	YTD	YTD	Annual	Forecast	Forecas
Month 4 - July 2023	Plan	Actual	Variance	Plan	Outturn	Variance
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
	45.500	10.000	4.00	40.050		
Total NENC Providers Agency Spend	17,589	18,926	1,337	43,858	50,753	6,895
System level agency ceiling					48,120	
Forecast agency spend as % of agency ceiling					105.5%	
Total NENC Providers Bank Spend	53,021	59,260	6,239	147,913	165,242	17,329
System level bank ceiling					163,841	
Forecast bank spend as % of bank ceiling					100.9%	

#### ICS Agency and Bank Spend key points

Agency and bank spending limits have been set for 2025/26, with a system level agency ceiling for NENC ICS of £48,120k and bank ceiling of £163,841k for 2025/26. As part of the final agreed plan for 2025/26 there is a commitment across the ICS to reduce agency spending by 30% and bank spending by 10% from current spending based on 2024/25 M08 forecast.

At month 4, forecast agency spend is £6.9m above plan which is slightly higher than the system level agency ceiling by £2.6m. Similarly, for the forecast bank spend this is slightly higher than the ceiling of system level bank by £1.4m.

Work is continuing across the system to manage agency spend as far as possible, in a safe and effective manner. Controls around agency spending forms part of the ongoing independent review of financial control measures across the system.

Month 4 - July 2025	YTD Plan	YTD Actual	YTD Variance	2025/26 Capital Allocation	2025/26 Forecast Outturn	2025/26 Forecast Variance
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital position including IFRS 16:  Provider Capital						
2025/26 Provider Capital Position including IFRS16	45,084	57,218	12,134	197,114	197,114	C
ICB Capital (held by NHSE):						
GPIT	0	0	0	6,253	6,253	C
Primary Care Estates Schemes	0	0	0	1,477	1,477	C
Total ICB Capital (held by NHSE)	0	0	0	7,730	7,730	0
Provider capital shown as ICB within plan	0	0	0	461	461	C
Total Charge Against Capital Allocation including IFRS 16	45,084	57,218	12,134	205,305	205,305	0
ICB Primary Care Utilisation Fund	0	0	0	0	5,789	5,789

### ICS Capital Spend key points

The confirmed ICS system capital allocation for 2025/26 (including IFRS16) stands at £205.3m. This includes additional allocations of £15.9m for high performing providers and £15.0m for operational UEC prior year performance.

£0.5m of the capital allocation was transferred to the ICB during planning to protect the allocations whilst the split between providers was agreed.

At Month 4, forecasts include costs for operational UEC prior year performance in line with the confirmation letters received and a breakeven position reported. The year to date overspend is due to capital projects starting earlier than planned for.

In addition to the expenditure against the allocation there is £5.8m forecast expenditure aginst the Primary Care Utilisation Fund.

Month 4 - July 2025	2025/26 ICB Allocation	2025/26 Forecast Outturn	2025/26 Surplus / (deficit) Forecast
	£000s	£000s	£000s
2025/26 Forecast	(9,196,675)	9,184,834	11,841
Remove Non-recurrent items:			
Remove forecast non-recurring efficiencies	0	53,880	(53,880)
Remove forecast deficit support funding (non-recurrent funding)	33,314	(33,314)	0
Non-recurring redundancy costs (estimated costs to be funded from in-year savings)		(6,000)	6,000
Full year effects (FYE):			
FYE of recurring efficiencies - cash out		(1,000)	1,000
FYE of planned investments (ARI hubs)		300	(300)
Other impacts:			
Non-recurring support with NHS Intra system providers (agreed non-recurrently in 25/26 plan)		(49,000)	49,000
Non-recurring management of in-year pressures including ADHD & ASD assessments, CHC			
activity and fee setting pressures and prescribing (weight loss drugs)		38,261	(38,261)
2025/26 ICB Underlying Position	(9,163,361)	9,187,961	(24,600)

#### ICB Underlying Position

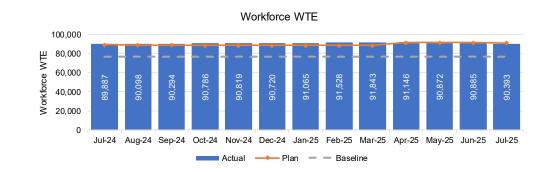
Although the ICB is forecasting an overall surplus of £11.8m for 2025/26, the estimated underlying position as at month 4 is a deficit of £24.6m. Within the 25/26 financial plan the ICB underlying position was estimated as £23.1m.

The underlying position is a measure of the true recurring financial performance excluding one-off or non-recurrent items that can distort the reported inyear position. The overall forecast position has been adjusted to remove the impact of non-recurrent items and reflect full year effect of recurrent efficiencies and other expenditure. Adjustments include:

- Remove total forecast non-recurrent efficiencies (£53.9m) and remove estimated non-recurrent redundancy costs which were expected to be funded from in-year savings
- Adjust for full year effect of recurrent efficiencies and planned investments
- As part of the final 25/26 plan a total of £49m of non-recurring funding was agreed to support providers, as this was agreed on a non-recurrent basis this
  would improve the ICB underlying position (although it would not improve the system position).
- Conversely, a number of recurrent cost pressures including ADHD/ASD assessments and CHC costs, totalling £38.3m, are currently being offset by oneoff technical benefits which therefore worsens the underlying position.

# **Table 8: NENC Workforce WTE - July 2025**





#### Workforce Spend Summary: July 2025

	Latest data	12 Month	s Previous	Bas	Baseline		Plan	
Workforce Spend Jul-25		Jul-24		Dec	c-19	Flaii		
(000's)	Jui-23	Value	% Diff	Value	% Diff	Value	% Diff	
Agency	4,999	5,843	-14.5%	6,446	-22.5%	4,289	16.5%	
Bank	14,793	15,700	-5.8%	10,433	41.8%	13,114	12.8%	
Bank & Agency	19,791	21,543	-8.1%	16,879	17.3%	17,403	13.7%	

Substantive	438,373	374,929	16.9%	267,722	63.7%	433,780	1.1%
Other	-209	2,586	-108.1%	39	-630.6%	-489	-57.2%
Total	457,955	399,058	14.8%	284,641	60.9%	450,694	1.6%

 $\label{thm:continuous} Total\ Workforce\ Spend\ is\ 1.6\%\ (£7261)\ above\ plan,\ total\ Workforce\ WTE\ is\ 0.7\%\ below\ plan.$ 

B&A Spend is 13.7% (£2388) above plan, B&A Workforce WTE is 9.8% above plan.

B&A accounts for 4.3% of all workforce spend and 4.1% of all workforce WTE.

#### Workforce WTE Summary: July 2025

	Latest data		12 Months Previous Jul-24		eline c-19	Plan		
Workforce WTE	Jul-25	Value % Diff		Value	% Diff	Value	% Diff	
Agency	478	645	-26.0%	754	-36.7%	446	7.2%	
Bank	3,225	3,388	-4.8%	2,878	12.1%	2,927	10.2%	
Bank & Agency	3,702	4,033	-8.2%	3,632	1.9%	3,373	9.8%	

Substantive	86,690	85,854	1.0%	72,975	18.8%	87,621	-1.1%
Total	90,393	89,887	0.6%	76,607	18.0%	90,994	-0.7%

Substantive WTE is -1.1% (930) below plan.

Bank WTE is 10.2% (297) above plan.

Agency WTE is 7.2% (32) above plan.