



**North East and
North Cumbria**

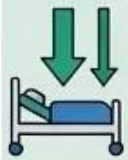
Neighbourhood Health

**ICB Board Meeting
The Durham Centre, 29 July 2026**

NHS Neighbourhood Framework – Two stages

STAGE 1: IMMEDIATE FOUNDATIONAL ACTIONS (2026-27)

ICBs Ensure Delivery of Basic Foundations & Begin Joint Planning with HWBs and Partners



REDUCING HOSPITAL DEMAND

- Develop initial plan: non-elective admissions & bed days
- Expanded urgent care, rehab, reablement (neighbourhood level)
- Informed by risk register analysis



IMPROVING GENERAL PRACTICE ACCESS

- Agree plans to tackle unwarranted variation & improve access
- Ensure GP practices meet core hours & new urgent requirements (GMS contract)



ELECTIVE CARE REFORM

- Begin planning neighbourhood-based elective pathway
- Support RTT standards & use devolved commissioning budgets



FUNDING & PARTNERSHIP

- Confirm pooled Better Care Fund (BCF) use
- Improve primary-secondary interface (Red Tape Challenge)
- Confirm organisational ownership of deliverables



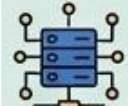
OVERSIGHT

- Regional NHS teams work with ICBs to monitor implementation



REDUCING COMMUNITY HEALTH WAITING TIMES

- Confirm plans to meet 18-week waits & eliminate 52-week waits



DATA & EVALUATION

- Robust data-sharing for patient ID, monitoring & evaluation

STAGE 2: LONGER-TERM REFORM (APRIL 2027 – MARCH 2029)

ICBs, HWBs and Local Partners Develop locally owned Neighbourhood Health Plan for fundamental reform and delivering national objectives

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH PLAN

(A) THE THREE NATIONAL REFORM AGENDAS



- Reform agenda 1: improve services for people who need routine healthcare, so neighbourhood health benefits everyone



- Reform Agenda 2: Proactive care for people with complex needs



- Reform Agenda 3: Deliver better alternatives to hospital care

(B) WIDER LOCAL GOALS & INEQUALITIES



- Describe local delivery of the three agendas
- Support wider goals, reduce health inequalities, contribute to broader reform

(C) INFORMED BY ASSESSMENTS



- Local objectives informed by JSNA & other assessments

(C) INFORMED BY ASSESSMENTS

Local objectives informed by JSNA & other assessments



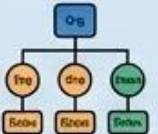
(D) CONFIRM GEOGRAPHIES

Confirm final neighbourhood geographies for delivery



(E) ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Set out responsibilities: who delivers what



(F) GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIP

Define governance & operational arrangements



(G) ALIGN WITH LOCAL INITIATIVES

Align with Best Start Family Hubs, mental health hubs, housing, Pride in Place, employment support



Readiness

Leadership and governance
Financial flows and agreements
Footprints

Population health insight

Data sharing for comprehensive local pictures
Case finding and management tools
1%, Frailty and long-term condition
dashboards

NENC Neighbourhood Health Strategic Framework

Clarity of strategic commissioning intention
Core priority cohorts for across NENC
'What will be different' for key patient groups
Strategic plan and alignment

Estate and digital enabling
Advanced care plans
At scale commissioning for key health provision
Strategic Enablers

Readiness survey and plan..

	Northumberland	North Cumbria	North Tyneside
Governance in place	Complete	In Progress	Complete
Nominated Chair agreed	In Progress	Complete	In Progress
Agreed system 'host'	Complete	Early Stage	Complete
Plans progressing via HWB	Complete	In Progress	Complete
NbH footprints formally agreed	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
Footprints: 100% place coverage	Complete	In Progress	Complete
Active INTs in place	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress



Workforce and programme resource are the most consistent risks



Limited funding flexibility, double-running requirements and weak alignment of financial flows



Gaps in data sharing, digital infrastructure and interoperability are slowing cohort identification



Immature governance in several places, with unclear roles and weak decision-making routes



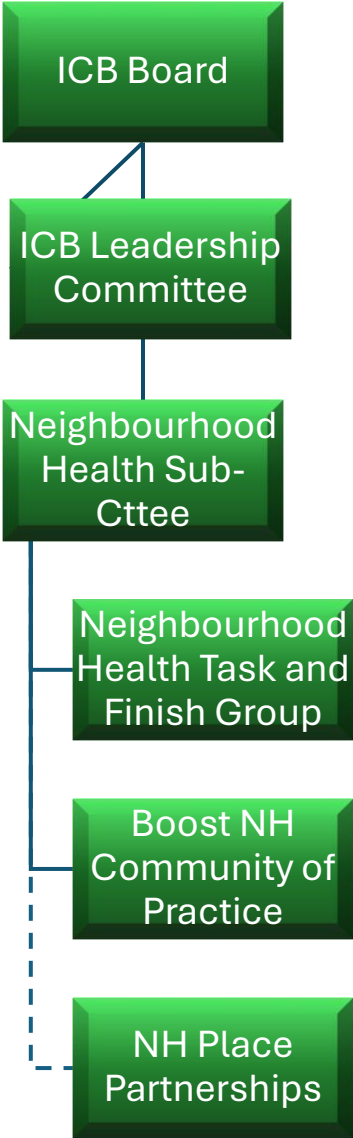
Fragmented programmes, competing priorities and mixed messages reducing pace and focus



Uneven estates readiness, representation gaps, enabling support running ahead of strategy

Readiness detailed baseline survey completed for all 13 places and their neighbourhoods – example North places

NENC NH leadership and governance..



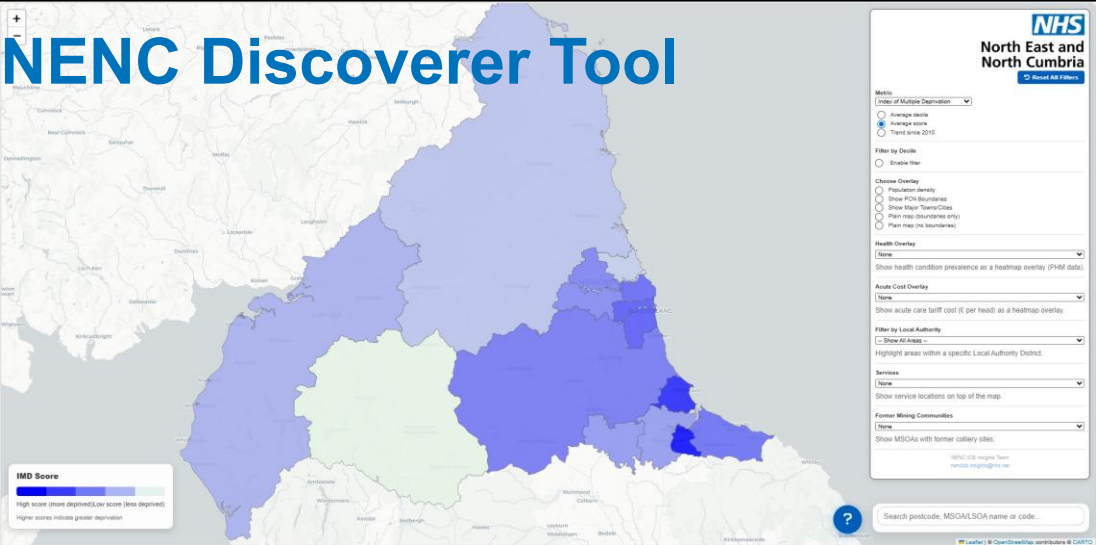
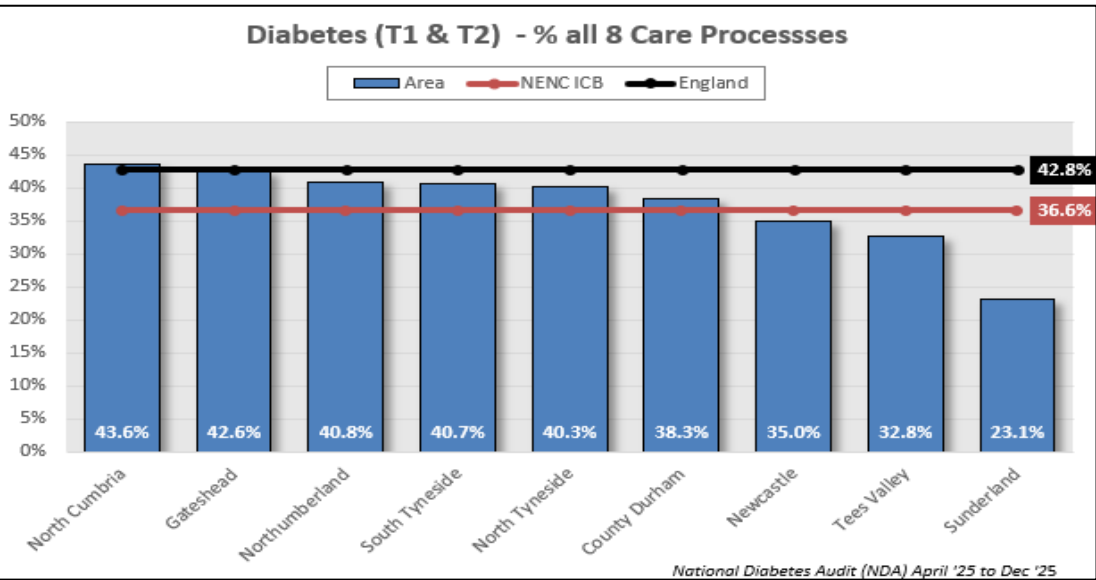
Boost Neighbourhood health community of practice launched at learning conference in June 2026..



Neighbourhood Health Learning Conference: from insight to action

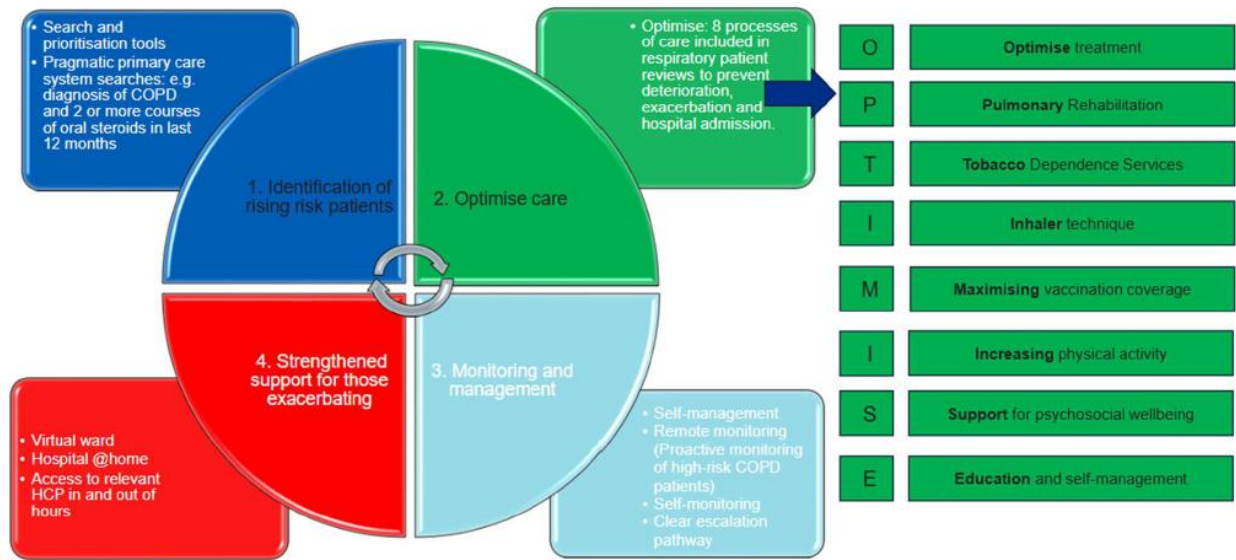
On 18 June, colleagues and partners from across North East and North Cumbria came together at St James' Park for the Neighbourhood Health Learning Conference – a day focused on learning, collaboration and practical action to improve health and wellbeing closer to home. Coordinated by Boost, the event brought together partners from across health and care, local government, the voluntary and community sector, and local communities to strengthen connections and build a shared ambition for neighbourhood health. “There’s a diverse range of partners here today... talking about how we can make a real difference for our population.” Exploring what enables neighbourhood health The day focused on key enablers including [...]

A population health led approach..

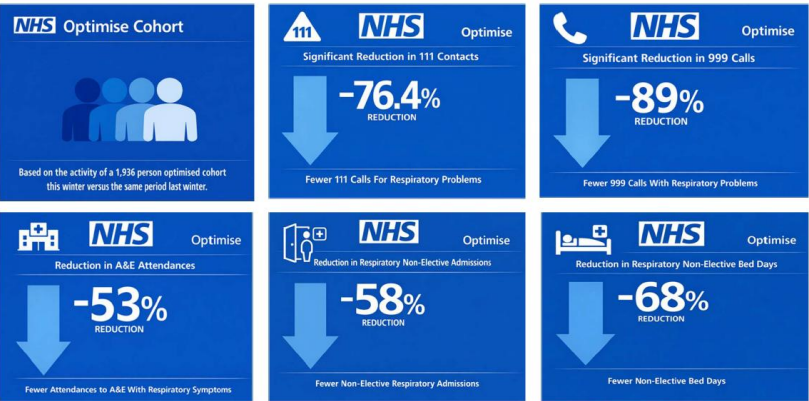


OPTIMISE Framework

COPD patient identification and management pathway



Optimise Cohort: UEC Contacts This Winter vs Last Winter



Approach to NH Centres...

- The ICB Strategic Estates and Neighbourhood Health Teams are working together with partners across the system to align service and estate plans and funding opportunities
- We have a longlist pipeline of 59 potential sites – with identified priorities in development - we expect national approach to develop to include a designation process



Big questions.....

- The NHS has sought to move more services into the community and people's homes for decades – can this latest push be the one that delivers a big shift in how we deliver care and support?
- Healthy life expectancy is static or deteriorating and health inequalities remain stark – can large scale development of neighbourhood health services change this?