

Integrated Care System

Shaping the Integrated Care System Northern Ireland

Factsheet 01

January 2022

This Integrated Care System Factsheet is the first of a series of updates that will be published to provide you with information on important changes taking place in health and social care services across Northern Ireland.

Introduction

We all know our health and social care services in Northern Ireland are under immense pressure. The Covid-19 pandemic has created many challenges for our patients, service users and staff. We have had to change how we deliver many of our services and we must build upon these changes to ensure our services are fit for the future.

A new Integrated Care System (ICS) is currently being developed for Northern Ireland. This system signals a new way of planning, managing and delivering our health and social care services based on the specific needs of the population.

The ICS approach brings many partners together, building on the excellent partnership working encountered during the pandemic. Reaching out beyond traditional boundaries, the ICS will harness the strengths in our existing partnerships. The key focus of the ICS is to address the wider determinants of health and wellbeing through a population health approach. This will address the whole life course from prevention, early intervention through to treatment and end of life care. Health and social care professionals, the voluntary and community sectors and local councils will work more closely together in the future. They will develop population health plans, and manage and deliver services.

What will the new ICS model do?

- increase autonomy and accountability at local decision-making levels;
- delegate decision-making and funding to local levels, with the exception of regional and specialised services;
- allow for planning, management and delivery of specialised services at a regional level; and
- be supported and underpinned by an outcomes-based approach.

As the new ICS model and partnerships mature, local groups will take more control over planning and funding for services delivered within their areas in order to deliver the most appropriate services to meet the needs of their population in line with agreed strategic objectives.

Involving Our Public

Initial work undertaken to produce a draft Framework for the ICS gives an overview of the proposed system and guidance on the policies and structures required to establish the ICS in NI.

The draft Framework was subject to a targeted consultation over the summer of 2021 with over 120 responses received.

[The report on the analysis of the responses to the targeted consultation on the draft Framework](#), facilitated by DoH during 2021, indicates significant support for the proposed direction of travel. The draft Framework will be revised to reflect the findings of the consultation process.



Developing the Strategic Outcomes Framework

The Strategic Outcomes Framework will inform and underpin the model and enable the provision of strategic direction to the ICS. It will identify high-level, wide ranging population outcomes and accompanying indicators and will be the driver for the planning, management and delivery of services at all levels of the system.

The identification of population outcomes requires understanding the health and wellbeing needs and priorities of people in NI. Official data and statistics will inform the development of a profile of our population; qualitative intelligence, based on perceived and lived experience, will be equally important. Engagement events were held during October and November 2021 to gather the views of the public on what matters to them in terms of health and wellbeing. Follow-up sessions, running until January 2022, focus on the production of draft strategic outcomes reflecting the insight and intelligence gathered, and emerging themes and priorities.

Design and Delivery

A project has been formally initiated to take forward the design and delivery of an Integrated Care System with a Project Board ensuring the timely development of all required policies, frameworks and guidance.

The Project Board, co-chaired by Martina Moore (Director of Organisational Change, Department of Health) and Paul Cavanagh (Director of Planning and Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board), will assess the needs of specific areas and the following workstreams are being established:

- **Framework and Local ICS Implementation Workstream** - to support and deliver the draft framework which underpins the establishment of the ICS model in NI and support the implementation of the model at local levels.
- **Strategic Outcomes Framework Workstream** - to develop a new process for setting strategic priorities and outcomes at Ministerial/Departmental level to inform the work of the ICS model and Regional Group.

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- **Regional Group Workstream** - To develop the regional working arrangements, and ensure the new ICS is coherent, with clear roles and responsibilities between local and regional strands.
 - **Review of Planning Processes Workstream** - to identify improvements needed to the planning cycle to support the new integrated care model and the population health approach.
 - **Regional Planning of Services Workstream** - to consider regional planning of services within the new ICS model.
 - **Funding Workstream** - to initiate research and analysis of key learning from other jurisdictions in order to define the most appropriate and fit-for-purpose funding model.
 - **Data and Health Intelligence Workstream** - to assess the data and intelligence requirements of the future planning model and define the data provision and analytical specifications.
 - **Communication and Engagement Workstream** - to lead on co-designing and delivering a regional Communications and Engagement plan to support ICS implementation.

What happens next

The Bill to close the Health and Social Care Board has now passed the final stage in the Assembly. This places a duty on the Department of Health to bring forward regulations on the local area bodies (Area Integrated Partnership Boards) which will be central to the development of local aspects of the ICS model. Work on these regulations will commence in early 2022.

Further detail will be developed over the coming months regarding the implementation and operation of the ICS as the various project workstreams progress their work.

This will include the production of the draft Strategic Outcomes Framework which is expected in early 2022 which will provide further detail on the regional aspects of the model and proposals relating to a new funding model by Spring 2022.

A series of webinars on the plans to establish the ICS will run from early February 2022. The first will take place on 10 February and will be relevant to anyone working in health and social care, in local councils and community planning, the voluntary and community sector and to personal and public involvement groups and the general public. [Register your interest here.](#)

Got a question?

We are happy to take questions on the development of the Integrated Care System NI. Frequently Asked Questions and more information on ICS are available on the [HSCB website](#). If you have a question not included email: HSCBcommunications@hscni.net