



What is an Integrated Care System (ICS)?

Integrated Care Systems are partnerships that bring together organisations who plan and deliver health and care services. The aim of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) is to improve services together around people and communities. This means addressing the fragmentation of services and lack of co-ordination that people often experience and for people and their families only having to tell their story once.

ICS development aligns with the NHS Long Term Plan and the Care Act principles. In addition, the Health and Social Care Act 2022 provided the legislative framework for ICSs.



The ICB is responsible for planning NHS services, including ambulances, primary care, mental healthcare, hospital (acute), community and specialist care. They have both a chief executive and chair accountable to NHS England for spending and performance within their boundaries.

The ICP has a broader focus, covering public health, social care and wider issues impacting the health and wellbeing of their local populations. It operates as a statutory committee between the ICB and each of the local authorities across the ICS footprint, as well as voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, care providers and other key partners.
