

Neighbourhood Health

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The framework outlines five main aims of neighbourhood health:

- Improving people's health and care outcomes, reduce health inequalities and help them stay well at home.
- Organising services around the person, with more convenient, personalised and joined-up care.
- Reduce avoidable demand on acute services – including hospitals and care homes.
- Cut waste and duplication – integrating services across health, local government and wider partners.
- Helping the NHS deliver against core targets.

The framework outlines national minimum goals and objectives:

- Goal 1: Improve health outcomes: focus on high-priority cohorts (frailty, care homes, housebound, end of life, long-term conditions, mental health, dementia, children and young people) and other cohorts identified by local areas.
- Goal 2: Improve access to general practice
- Goal 3: Improve experience of planned care
- Goal 4: Improve urgent and emergency care performance
- Goal 5: Improve patient and staff satisfaction

- Through HWBs, ICBs and local authorities will: agree further local benefits and outcomes for neighbourhood health and tackle local priorities and health inequalities identified in joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs)

Working in partnership through Health and Wellbeing Boards, in **2026/2027**, we are asking ICBs and local authorities to:

- Develop an initial plan to reduce **non-elective admissions and bed days** through expanded urgent care, rehabilitation and reablement at neighbourhood level, informed by risk register analysis.
- Agree plans to tackle **unwarranted variation** and improve GP access.
- Ensure GP practices meet **core hours** and new urgent access requirements set out in the GMS contract.
- Agree **neighbourhood footprints around natural communities** for the future development of integrated neighbourhood teams (INTs).
- Agree plans to **establish INTs focussed on high priority cohorts**, including how devolving care budgets could work in their area.
- Confirm plans to meet **18-week community waits** and eliminate 52-week waits.
- Confirm intentions to use **pooled funding under the Better Care Fund (BCF)** in line with national guidance
- Continue improving the primary–secondary care interface using the **Red Tape Challenge**.
- Confirm **organisational ownership of planned deliverables**.
- Confirm plans for having the appropriate **data-sharing arrangements** in place to do robust patient identification and evaluation.

From **2027/28**, ICBs and local government, working through Health and Wellbeing Boards, must develop a local Neighbourhood Health Plan. The plan will need to:

- Set out how neighbourhood health will **support wider local goals for improving health outcomes, reducing health inequalities and delivering on any locally agreed wider public service reform agendas.**
- Provide a broad overview of **how the national NHS objectives will begin to be delivered through the 3 reform agendas.** The 3 reform agendas are:
 - a. To improve services for people who need routine health and care, so neighbourhood health benefits everyone.
 - b. To improve proactive care for people.
 - c. To deliver better alternatives to hospital care
- Set out how **local objectives are informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**, and any other assessments by ICBs or local authorities, as deemed necessary by them and the health and wellbeing board.
- Confirm **final geographies** that partners will work within.
- Confirm which **organisations are responsible for different elements of delivery.**
- Confirm the arrangements which will be in place to deliver the local Neighbourhood Health Plan, including **governance and operational partnership arrangements**
- Confirm how any **other relevant initiatives align** with the strategy (such as family hubs, housing, mental health hubs, Pride in Place and employment support).