



**North East and
North Cumbria**

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

GOVERNANCE HANDBOOK

Issue 12-0
Approved – 16 April 2026

**Better health
and wellbeing for all...**



Introduction

Who are we?

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NE & NC ICB) is a statutory health body established to arrange for the provision of health services within the North East and North Cumbria.

What is the Governance Handbook?

The North East and North Cumbria ICB must publish its constitution. The constitution sets out the duties of the ICB, the makeup of its board and the overarching rules by which it operates. The constitution is available here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/>

The governance handbook is supplementary to the constitution and sets out how the ICB makes its decisions. This is captured in several documents which make up this handbook.

Scheme of Reservation & Delegation

This document sets out those decisions reserved to the ICB board and those decisions which are delegated to others. Delegations may be made to individuals, committees, or other organisations.

Committee Terms of Reference

The ICB has established five committees of the board. Each of these has a term of reference which sets out their remit and the decisions that each committee may make.

Financial Documents

The ICB has three key financial documents which set out the rules for making decisions, who decisions are delegated to, and the financial limits applicable to ICB staff.

Standards of Business Conduct Policy/Conflicts of interest policy and procedures

The ICB must maintain registers of the interests of members of the ICB Board, members of its committees or sub-committees, and its employees. These registers are included in this governance handbook.

Members of the board, committees, sub committees, and all staff must comply with the ICB's Standards of Business Conduct Policy/Conflicts of interest policy. This is also included in this governance handbook.

How you can inform decision making

Communities and People Involvement and Engagement Strategy for the North East and North Cumbria

No decision will be made about **substantial** changes to health and care services that people receive without talking and listening to people receiving those services or who may do in the future, about it first. It is important that people have their say to shape and improve local services.

The ICB's Communities and People Involvement and Engagement Strategy sets out how the ICB will engage and involve people and is available here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/get-involved/>

Healthwatch

There is a local Healthwatch in every area of England which acts as the independent champion for people who use health and care services. Healthwatch find out what people like about services, and what could be improved, and share these views with those with the authority to make change happen.

Healthwatch also help people find the information they need about services in their area, and we help make sure their views shape the support they need. Healthwatch will be an important critical friend to the ICB.

ICB Board Meetings

ICB board meetings are held in public. The ICB will hold its board meetings throughout the North East & North Cumbria and all members of the public are welcome to attend. The dates of the board meetings, agendas and papers are posted on the ICB's website here [Meetings and agendas | North East and North Cumbria \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk)

Version Control (see appendix 2 for version control history)

Issue 12	<p>Following the national announcement of the expectation that ICBs will reduce their running costs during 2025/26 and transition their operating models to focus on strategic commissioning, the ICB established a Strategic Commissioning Transition Programme to manage this programme of work.</p> <p>Through this work programme, a new operating model and governance framework has been developed and as such the Governance Handbook updated to reflect these changes.</p> <p><u>Material changes requiring Board approval:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOC 1 – Scheme of Reservation and Delegation - The amendments to the SoRD reflect the realignment of delegations attributed to the former governance framework and align these delegations to the new committee structure which has been reviewed previously by the Board.• DOC 2 - Standing Financial Instructions - The SFIs are based on the standard NHS England template which has not been changed since 2023 but small changes to remove references to system finance. <p><u>The below new Terms of Reference are included in Issue 12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOC 3 - Quality and Safety Committee Terms of Reference• DOC 5 - ICB Leadership Committee Terms of Reference• DOC 6 - Strategic Commissioning Assurance Committee Terms of Reference• DOC 12 – Neighbourhood Health subcommittee Terms of Reference• DOC 13 – Integrated Mental Health and Complex Care subcommittee Terms of Reference• DOC 14 – Acute subcommittee Terms of Reference• DOC 16 - Safe and Effective Care Group Terms of Reference• DOC 17 – Value Based Clinical Commissioning Subgroup Terms of Reference• DOC 22 - Patient Engagement Assurance Group Terms of Reference <p><u>Minor updates to be noted to the following documents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOC 4 - Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference• DOC 7 - Audit Committee Terms of Reference• DOC 15 – Specialised Commissioning subcommittee Terms of Reference	16 April 2026
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOC 18 - Pharmaceutical Services Regulations subgroup Terms of Reference• DOC 19 - SEND assurance subgroup Terms of Reference• DOC 20 - Safeguarding assurance subgroup Terms of Reference• DOC 21 - Antimicrobial and Healthcare Associated Infection assurance subgroup Terms of Reference• DOC 25 – Committee Structure	
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