

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–160

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

8 August 2025

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received on 22 July 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Please consider the following as a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking information relating to the commissioning and provision of dementia assessment and support services for individuals under the age of 60/65 years across the North East region, specifically including the areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Cumbria, Teesside, and County Durham. I would be grateful for an email response to my inquiry.

1. Commissioned Services for Under 60/65s with Suspected Dementia
 - a. Which NHS Trusts, Foundation Trusts, or independent providers are currently commissioned to assess individuals under 60 or 65 years of age with suspected dementia in each of the areas listed above?
 - b. Please provide the name of each commissioned provider and the geographical area they cover.
 - c. Are these services separate from those commissioned for older adults, or do they form part of an integrated age-inclusive pathway?
2. Changes to Assessment Pathways or Service Funding
 - a. Are there any Trusts or Memory Assessment Services within the listed areas where individuals under 60/65 with suspected dementia are no longer assessed under the

commissioned dementia pathway? If yes, please specify the service(s), the reason for the change, and the date of decommissioning or restriction.

- b. Has funding been withdrawn or altered for services specifically assessing younger people with suspected dementia in the last five years? If so, please provide details of these changes.
3. Commissioning for Post-Diagnostic Support
 - a. Which services across the region are commissioned for diagnostic assessment only, and which are commissioned to provide post-diagnostic support (e.g., care coordination, psychological support, education, support groups)?
 - b. Are there age-specific differences in the commissioning of post-diagnostic support services (i.e., under 65 vs. over 65)?
4. Involvement of Acute Hospitals
 - a. Are any acute hospitals or hospital-based memory clinics/assessment services in the North East region part of the commissioned diagnostic pathway for dementia (specifically for those under 60/65)?
 - b. If so, please list the acute hospitals involved and detail the nature of their commissioned role (e.g., diagnostic testing, specialist clinics, multidisciplinary assessments).
 - c. Are any of these hospital services receiving specific funding for this commissioned role?
5. Pathway Governance and Monitoring
 - a. Is there a regional or ICS-level dementia pathway governance or oversight group that includes a focus on younger-onset dementia? If so, please share the name and remit of the group.
 - b. How is service delivery and access for people under 60/65 monitored, and are any performance indicators or outcome measures specific to this age group?
6. Any Additional Information
 - a. Please include any policy documents, pathway specifications, or commissioning guidance relevant to younger people with suspected dementia in the North East ICS.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

1. Commissioned Services for Under 60/65s with Suspected Dementia
 - a. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and Cumbria, North Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW) are currently commissioned to assess individuals under 60 or 65 years of age with suspected dementia.
 - b. TEWV covers County Durham and Tees Valley areas. CNTW provides the main assessment and diagnosis service in Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Northumberland and North Cumbria. Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT) provides memory clinics in North Tyneside and Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust (GHFT) provides a Specialist Memory Hub for Gateshead residents.
 - c. In the TEWV area, the service is all part of the same dementia pathway, however older person service clinicians would ask that reversible causes of cognitive issues are considered first e.g. depression/anxiety etc, so there may be a need to consult GP Aligned or adult mental health teams as well (which TEWV older persons services would be able to help navigate). In the CNTW area, services are part of the same dementia pathway.

2. Changes to Assessment Pathways or Service Funding
 - a. There are no Trusts or Memory Assessment Services within the listed areas where individuals under 60/65 with suspected dementia are no longer assessed under the commissioned dementia pathway.
 - b. No, funding has not been withdrawn or altered for services specifically assessing younger people with suspected dementia in the last five years?
3. Commissioning for Post-Diagnostic Support
 - a. TEWV is commissioned to provide both of these services.
 - b. No, plans are tailored to the individual's needs post diagnosis rather than based on age.
4. Involvement of Acute Hospitals
 - a. In the Durham and Tees Valley patch, these services are managed by TEWV (both community and inpatient settings) and via primary care for initial assessment. Please refer to the responses for questions 1 and 3 for North Tyneside and Gateshead.
 - b. Please refer to the responses for questions 1 and 3 for North Tyneside and Gateshead. Additional information can be found at:

[Dementia: Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)
[Younger Persons Memory Service – Gateshead Health](#)
 - c. No, the services are commissioned and paid as part of a wider block contract.
5. Pathway Governance and Monitoring
 - a. We don't currently have an ICB-wide pathway governance or oversight group focussed specifically on dementia. Dementia diagnosis rates and wider pathway delivery are managed at Place Delivery Team level, reflecting the need to meet local population needs.

 There is a NHS England Regional Dementia Group, although this is primarily focused on developments around disease-modifying drugs. There is no existing ICS-level group with a specific focus on younger-onset dementia.
 - b. There are no specific waiting times/performance indicators specifically for memory assessment services in TEWV FT. There are waiting times for older person services from referral to assessment, all under 6 months. Dementia diagnosis rates are also measured region wide.
 There are no specific waiting times/performance indicators specifically for memory assessment services in CNTW, NHCFT or GHFT. Dementia diagnosis rates are measured region wide.
6. On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or www.ico.org.uk.

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk. This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**