

## **NCL ICS – response to questions from Cllr Connor, chair of NCL JHOSC 17.03.2022**

The questions received are in bold, with responses after each.

The outline responsibilities of the ICB are on slide 9 in the main pack, along with the membership of the emerging forums supporting the development on slides 11-13. The key financial principles are on slide 17 and these are guiding the development of a finance strategy of the ICS.

It is important to note, final financial guidance for 2022/23 is not yet published and allocations are draft – and subject to further changes. The CCG remains the statutory body planning for 2022/23 as the date

- **The current financial situation for each of the main Hospitals trusts within NCL CCG**

The planning process for 2022/23 is currently underway so it is not possible to share figures for the upcoming financial year yet.

A summary of the 2021/22 figures are being prepared and will be shared with the committee.

N.B. All NHS trusts will continue to make their annual accounts publicly available on their websites:

- <https://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information-and-accountability/annual-reports/>
- <https://www.whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=1030>
- <https://www.northmid.nhs.uk/corporate-documents/>
- <https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-performance/annual-report-annual-plan-and-quality-account>
- **An explanation on how any debt or financial surplus will be managed across all Trusts.**

NHS Trusts will be required to manage their financial plans in line with the current financial regulations. Organisations have agreed financial principles to help ensure that there is alignment between organisation and system financial sustainability. The NCL financial principles are on slide 17 and these are guiding the development of a finance strategy of the ICS.

- **Who has responsibility for individual financial overspend once the NCL ICS board is officially formed?**

NHS Trust boards will continue to be responsible for the financial position of their own individual organisations.

The ICB will be responsible for the annual allocation process, including determining what resources should be available to meet the needs of the population in each place and setting principles for how they should be allocated across services and providers (both revenue and capital). The ICB will be regulated by NHS England in a similar way to the CCG is now.

- **How will each Trusts AGM report their finances both to their own board and the NCL ICS board. Which board will have final decision making in terms of any new proposals with a substantial financial tag.**

NHS Trusts will continue to report their finances to their boards and publish annual accounts, and will be responsible for making decisions within the agreed financial architecture and funding envelopes. The ICB will work closely with providers to determine where new investments are made.

Trusts will continue to approve spend relating to their own organisations.

- **Details of any extra money that the government will be giving to newly established ICS's and whether these are one off or ongoing**

There hasn't been any additional funding given to ICSs specifically. There will be additional investment to support the elective recovery in 2022/23, as part of the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is linked to the activity that trusts complete. The final guidance on how the detail will work is still awaited.

- **How the NCL ICS will be structured in terms of financial governance, who will be on the main board?**

The Integrated Care Board will take on the current statutory responsibilities of the CCG. On this board there will be:

- Chair
- Two Independent Non-Executive Members
- Two Partner Members- NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts
- Two Partner Members- Providers of Primary Medical Services
- One Partner Member- Local Authorities
- One Partner Member- UCL Provider Alliance
- Chief Executive
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Nurse
- Chief Medical Officer.

The detail of the proposed governance is on slide 10. This is still subject to change, subject to the legislative process.

- **How will the NCL ICS be scrutinised in terms of financial spend? Where will minutes be published from the finance board?**

The ICB will be regulated by NHS England in a similar way to the CCG is now. The ICB will hold meetings in public and publish papers on its website. We expect local scrutiny arrangements to continue through HOSCs and NCL's JHOSC.

- **What role will the government play in any financial oversight?**

The ICB will be regulated by NHS England in a similar way to the CCG is now. NHS England in turn has a relationship with The Department of Health and Social Care.

- **How will the NCL ICS finance board interact with the 5 local boroughs?**

The ICB will have statutory responsibility for the NHS budget and spend as the CCG currently does now.

There will be continued work with partners to develop how this works at place or borough level, but there will be no changes to financial arrangements on the 1 July in the creation of the ICB as a statutory body.

- **How will any council representative on any board be supported in both understanding and challenging any future initiatives?**

The Local Authority partner member will have officer support to work as part of a unitary board.

- **How will the public have any awareness of decisions taken at board level?**

ICB will hold meetings in public and publish papers on its website, as the CCG does currently. There will also be continued engagement through current borough engagement forums and mechanisms.

We are also continuing to develop a strategic engagement forum, with members of healthwatch, Voluntary sector groups and lay members. This is described on slide 11.

We are also learning and building on work like the orthopaedic review to build up improved engagement and involvement processes.

Last week we advertised two important roles in our new NCL ICB Executive Management structure – for [Independent Non-Executive Members](#). These roles bring independent oversight and constructive challenge to the priorities, plans and performance of the ICB and decision making. They are similar to the Lay members of the current CCG Governing Body.

- **Who will chair any future NCL ICS finance board?**

For the ICB, this will depend on the final constitution, in addition to the Chief Financial Officer (yet to be appointed) a finance committee will need to have non-exec/lay members and may include the chair.

- **Who will oversee any joint NCL ICS and Council funded projects?**

This will depend on the project. There are already joint arrangements called section 75 agreements for jointly managed budgets. These have joint NHS and Local Authority officer leads.

- **If the NCL ICS overspend or are in debt at the end of the financial year what powers do any external authority such as NHSE or the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

The ICB will have statutory responsibility for the NHS budget and spend as the CCG does now.

The ICB will be regulated by NHS England in a similar way to the CCG is now. NHS England in turn has a relationship with The Department of Health and Social Care.

- **What is the role of the Health and Wellbeing boards in relation for any initiatives undertaken by the NCL ICS in terms of the financial commitment and oversight of outcomes?**

The Health and Care Bill does not change the roles or remits of the Health and Wellbeing boards, they remain statutory committees of the Local Authority.

- **How will the JHOSC be aware of any new proposals with a significant financial impact or significant impact on local services for residents so they can scrutinise any decisions?**

The ICB will continue to work closely with the JHOSC, and local HOSCs, as the CCG does now.

- **Currently, are all trusts within the NCL CCG's financially stable? Are any trusts in deficit and if so will taking this deficit into a new single NCL ICS finance board incur any financial penalties from the government?**

As per the finance information shared above, there are some financial challenges across North Central London. The ICB will be regulated by NHS England, not the government.

- **What plans do each of the trusts have in place to keep their books balanced? Will this include the sale of Estates?**

As part of the move to the ICB, a financial strategy is being developed. We are happy to share this once more developed. This will align with the NCL estates strategy to ensure that we have a fit-for-purpose estate to meet the needs of local people and the health and care system