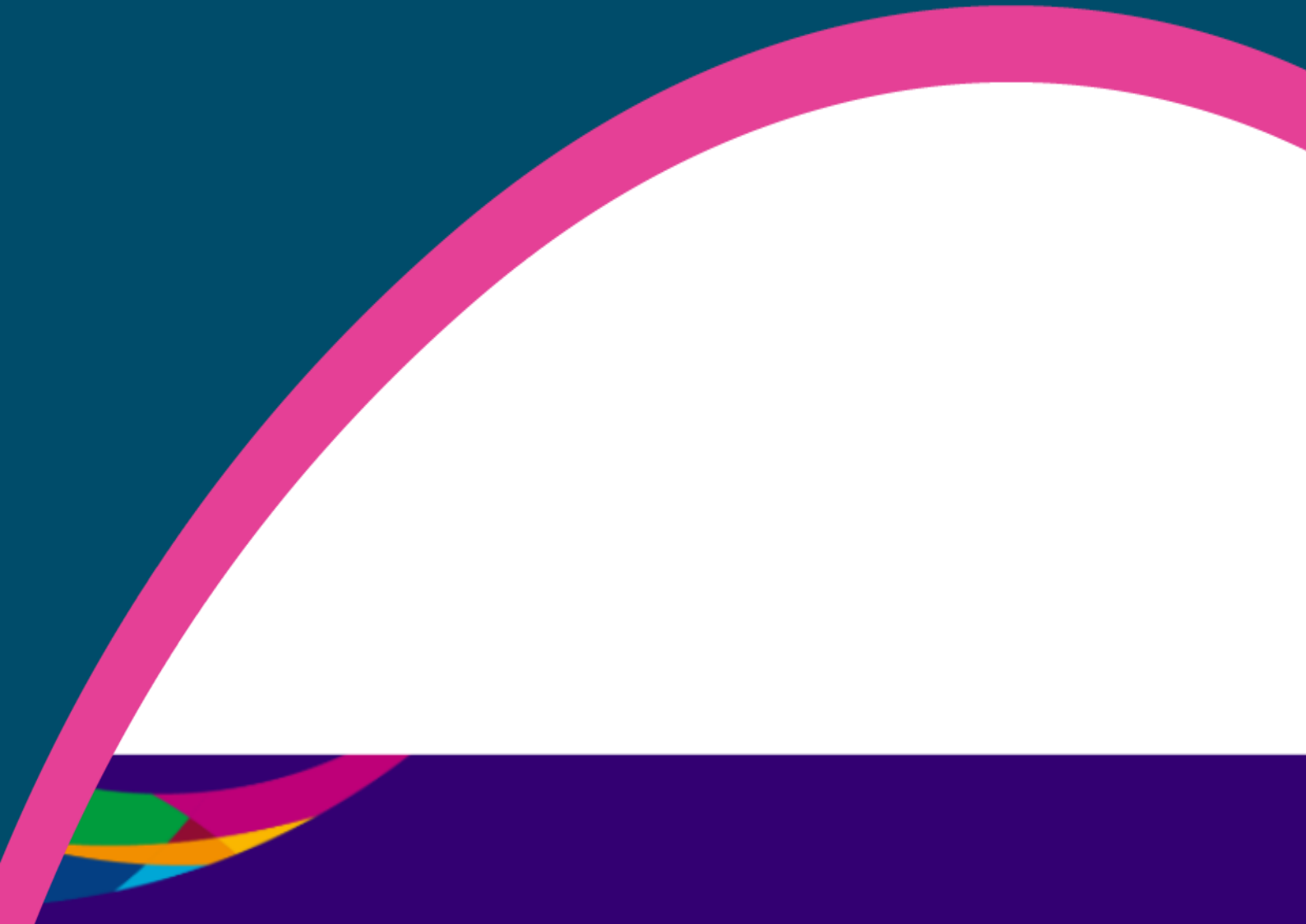


Integrated Care Systems

Bulletin, July 2022



From 1 July 2022 the way health and care works across Sussex has changed.

Contents

Contents	1
Introduction	3
Benefits to patients.....	5
The role for Healthwatch.....	6
Background	7
More information.....	9

Key points

- On 1st July 2022, 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS) were introduced across England. They serve populations of around 500,000 to 3 million people.
- ICS are part of the biggest overhaul of the NHS in a decade.
- ICS bring all health and care organisations in a particular area together to ensure better health and care for everyone, both now and in the future.
- Each ICS will consist of an **Integrated Care Partnership** and separate **Integrated Care Board**.
- For Sussex, the **Integrated Care Partnership** will be known as the “**Sussex Health and Care Assembly**”. This is a partnership between the NHS, local government, voluntary and community organisations and universities and they will agree the strategic direction for our health and care system.
- The **Integrated Care Board** is known as “**NHS Sussex**”. This new organisation is responsible for managing most health care resources in Sussex. NHS Sussex has taken on the commissioning of functions previously carried out by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- In addition, three health and care partnerships have been formed around the populations of West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex. These will involve and coordinate local partners from all sectors in delivering more joined-up services for their communities.
- Many organisations – local authorities, NHS trusts, GPs, and others, including Healthwatch and local voluntary and community groups – will be involved in local planning and decision making.
- Patients will not initially notice many changes to the services they use and can continue to access them as they do now. Going forward, the ICS will deliver services based on the specific health needs of local populations in Sussex and improve access to those services which are most needed.

The Integrated Care System aims to achieve equal access, equal experiences and equal outcomes for all. It aims to strengthen the way different health and social care services work together. It will also ensure that services deliver good value for money.

Introduction

It has taken several years of development to formally create 42 Integrated Care Systems operating across England. Their establishment is based on recommendations of [NHS England and NHS Improvement](#). The [Health and Care Act](#) (2022) gave the Systems legal status from 1st July 2022. You can read a short timeline explaining the journey to integrated care systems [here](#).

Why has this change happened now?

When the NHS was set up over 70 years ago, it focussed on treating a single condition or illness. Since then, our health needs have changed, and people want to access services in a very different way. Many of us are also living longer and will have multiple conditions that require ongoing care. However, this hasn't always been reflected in the NHS's structure which could be described as a patchwork of organisations that work independently of one another.

At times the current structure has resulted in unnecessary delays in care and treatment. It has also negatively impacted on patient experience, as well as causing inefficiencies in terms of time, energy and resource. This has created variations in care and led to health inequalities across different communities.

The changes being delivered by ICS will deliver a more joined-up way of working to improve access and the health of all our communities.

Is this a major change for Sussex?

Working in partnership is not a new idea across Sussex.

In April 2020, the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership](#) was awarded ICS status. This has meant that many health and care organisations, and Healthwatch, have already been working in this joined-up way, particularly through the coronavirus pandemic as they responded and addressed the issues and challenges facing us locally.

The formal establishment of the Sussex ICS is the next step in recognising this successful way of working.

What will the Sussex ICS do?

The ambition is for every person living in Sussex to have access to the best health and care from the moment they are born and throughout their lives. A [Sussex 2025 Vision](#) has been developed which sets out where the ICS want to be in the future:

Our goals as a health and care system

Sussex
Health&Care



Starting well



Living well



Ageing well



Waiting less

Starting well: for children to have the best starting life

Living well: for people to stay healthy for longer with a reduction in inequalities

Ageing well: for people to be supported in their homes and communities by integrated services

Waiting less: for people to wait less to access the services they need.

To achieve this, all organisations must work together to ensure that:

- People live longer in good health.
- The gap in life expectancy between people living in the most and least disadvantaged communities is reduced.
- People's experience of using services is better.
- Staff working in the various organisations feel supported and their skills, professionalism and dedication are recognised.
- The costs of care are affordable and sustainable in the long term.

A series of short, simple videos have been produced to explain the changes. You can watch them by clicking [here](#).

Benefits to patients

More joined up services

People are living longer, often with multiple health needs that require support from a variety of health and social care services. Currently, there are over 1,100 NHS organisations and locations delivering services across Sussex including GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, A&E departments, dental services, community services – and many more. This current arrangement does not always deliver the best outcomes for patients. The ICS will bring all these organisations together to work in a more joined-up way. This will help to improve access and in turn the health and wellbeing of all people across Sussex.

Tackling health inequalities

In Sussex, there are wide variations in people's health. Some people have better health and longer life expectancy than others, and often this is linked to where they live. The aim of ICS's is to reduce these health inequalities. They will achieve this by improving access to services and treatments and by focussing more on preventative actions which can address determinants of poorer health.

Greater access to the services most needed

This new way of working puts a greater focus on the specific health needs of local populations and improving access to the services that communities say they need the most. In this way, people's needs can be better addressed. It is already known that some of the biggest clinical health needs in Sussex are heart disease and stroke, respiratory disease, cancer and diabetes.

Protecting our hospitals

By improving the health of local communities, tackling inequalities that can result in some people experiencing worse health outcomes than others and focussing more on preventative actions, this will help to protect our hospitals from higher demand. At the same time, local hospitals will be given the resources and facilities they require to address local health needs.

Supporting the role your GP plays

The creation of an ICS in Sussex will not change how you see your GP. But going forward, GPs will have the opportunity to inform other organisations about the kind of services that local people say they need – this enhanced way of listening and learning from their patients lies at the heart of how organisations will work more closely together.

A partnership role for local voluntary and community groups

Partnership working between the voluntary sector, local government and the NHS is crucial to improving care for people and communities. A document called [The NHS Long Term Plan](#) and a further one called the [NHS Five Year Forward View](#) both highlight the need for closer working across these sectors.

Voluntary and community organisations often operate in neighbourhoods and have a unique ability to engage people who are most at risk or are rarely heard. They play a key role in ensuring that the NHS and other services hear from these residents and put them at the heart of their work and how they are designed. For this reason, they are recognised as full partners in the new ICS system.

The role for Healthwatch

Healthwatch has been working in partnership with our local NHS and other organisations for many years and will continue to do so under the new ICS.

Some of the ways we will strengthen our role going forward include:

- All three local Healthwatch teams in Sussex are formal members of the new Health and Care Assembly.
- Healthwatch will chair a new Patient Experience Committee (PEC). This will feed directly into NHS Sussex (the Integrated Care Board). The Committee will check and challenge the experience of people and communities and seek demonstration of how insight has influenced the planning, delivery and improvement of health and care services.
- Louise Ansari, National Director of Healthwatch and Non-Executive Director at NHS Sussex, will chair the new NHS Sussex Population Outcomes Committee.
- Healthwatch will work in closer collaboration with the new ICB and the voluntary and community sector.
- Healthwatch will continue to work with people and communities gathering your insights and experiences, with a particular focus on communities that experience health inequalities.
- Our work will support the ambitions of the ICS but we will also continue to raise areas of concern, and push for change.
- We will share our insight with partners and also access theirs to create a fuller picture of the “patient experience”.

Background

In April 2022, government passed the Health and Care Act 2022. The Act is based on the principle that collaboration between hospitals, GPs, social care, and others is needed to improve local services and make best use of public money. The Act formally created Integrated Care Systems.

Integrated Care Systems must include an Integrated Care Partnership and separate Integrated Care Board.

What is the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)?

- The Integrated Care Partnership for Sussex is known as the **Sussex Health and Care Assembly**.
- It is a joint committee between the NHS and local government.
- It will agree the strategic direction for our health and care system.
- It will facilitate joint action across various organisations to improve outcomes, access and experience of health and care services for everyone living in Sussex.
- It will develop an 'integrated care strategy' for Sussex. This will be created using the best available evidence and data covering health and social care. The strategy must address health inequalities and their causes.
- The Assembly consists of 24 members, including all three Healthwatch teams in Sussex. For the full list of members, [click here](#).

What is an integrated care board (ICB)?

- The Integrated Care Board for Sussex is known as **NHS Sussex**.
- This is a new organisation. It has taken on the commissioning functions previously carried out by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- It will agree the priorities and will allocate resources to all NHS organisations in Sussex.
- It will lead the improvement and integration of high-quality health and care services for all communities.

[Board members](#) of NHS Sussex include:

- Stephen Lightfoot, Chair
- Adam Doyle, Chief Executive Officer
- Dr Dinesh Sinha, Chief Medical Officer
- Allison Cannon, Chief Nursing Officer

- Hannah Hamilton, Chief Finance Officer
- Amy Galea, Chief Primary Care Officer
- Louise Ansari, (National Director of Healthwatch). *Louise will chair the NHS Sussex Population Outcomes Committee.*
- Susan Marshall MBE, *Sue will chair the NHS Sussex Patient Experience Committee.*
- Bola Lafe, *Bola will chair the NHS Sussex System Productivity Committee.*
- Professor Ashok Soni OBE. *Ash will chair the NHS Sussex Workforce & Remuneration Committee.*
- Paul King, *Paul will chair the NHS Sussex Audit & Risk Management Committee.*
- Faustina Bayo, *Faustina will be a member of three of the NHS Sussex Board Assurance Committees.*

The full members list can be found [here](#)

Is there support for ICSs among health and care leaders?

- Yes, there is broad support across health and care for the vision of integrated care systems.
- This is because they are partnerships that will work collectively towards achieving better health outcomes for the people of Sussex.
- These changes will remove barriers to care, enable integration and lead to better services for patients.

How will the ICSs be accountable to the public?

- The **Health and Care Act** includes a legal duty for **integrated care boards (ICB)** to involve and consult with the public on planning and delivery. They must also publish their strategy.
- ICSs will be accountable to local health and wellbeing boards. These are groups which bring together key leaders from the local health and care system.
- ICS's will also be accountable to health overview and scrutiny committees. These groups scrutinise local NHS policy and planning, and the impact that these have in meeting local needs and reducing health inequalities.
- They will also be accountable to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and in turn to parliament and the electorate.

More information

[King's Fund, short animation](#) – How does the NHS in England work and how is it changing?

[NHS England](#) – what are Integrated Care Systems?

[Sussex Health and Care website](#)

[Jargon buster](#)

[NHS Sussex ICB Constitution \(May 2022\)](#)

Draft [Constitution summary](#) – provides a concise summary of the key aspects of the NHS Sussex constitution.

[Better Health and Care for all – a summary](#)

NHS England [Key documents for Integrated Care Systems](#)



NHS England [Integrated care case studies](#)

NHS England [Integrated care podcast series](#)

[Youtube playlist for integrated care](#)



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