



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB\ FOI ICB190

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
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18 January 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 11 January 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This 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.

Request

I am writing to you to ask some questions pertaining to the ring-fenced budget that has been allocated to 2023/24 for investing in Mental Health Services. I would like to know how much of the £2.3 billion mental health investment fund the Northeast and Cumbria ICS has received.

In addition, would you please tell me how this has been allocated and which individual / individuals are responsible for this from a commissioning perspective. If you would be able to give me the names and contact details of the commissioners responsible for managing the ring-fenced mental health investment that would be helpful.

My reason for this enquiry is that I wish to speak to someone at the ICS about a potential pilot involving a digital therapy for depression.

Please would you let me know what the process is at the ICS for commissioning pilots for primary care. The product I wish to discuss has shown a considerable release of workload

and I would be interested to know who if anyone at the ICS is responsible for increasing capacity by releasing workload, again their contact details would be much appreciated.

Response

Budget allocations for 2023/24 are yet to be approved by the ICB Board but will be aligned and prioritised to the priorities of the mental health long term plan and local needs.

Mental Health Services queries should be directed to Kate O'Brien, Director of Transformation Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System. Her email is k.obrien1@nhs.net.

There is no formal process for commissioning primary care pilots at present and no individual within the ICS responsible for increasing capacity by releasing workload as each primary care contractor is an independent business and responsible for managing their own capacity and workload.

NENC ICB has a primary care transformation team that would consider commissioning pilots should funding be available. Correspondence to the team should be directed to nencicb-sun.reception@nhs.net or the corporate address nencicb-sun.icbcorporateoffice@nhs.net

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by The North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.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 sincerely

Sarah Davies
Information Governance Officer