

Background to ICB's, ICS's and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP)'s:

The NHS was primarily set up to treat single conditions or illnesses, but since then the health and care needs of the population have changed. People are living longer with multiple, complex, long term conditions and increasingly require long term support from many different services and professionals. As a consequence, people too often receive fragmented care from services that are not effectively coordinated around their needs. This can negatively impact upon their experiences and create duplication and inefficiency. To deliver joined-up support that better meets the needs of the population, different parts of the NHS (including hospitals, primary care and community and mental health services) and health and social care need to work in a much more joined up way. Therefore the 2022 National Health and Care Act created 42 ICS's across England, on a statutory basis from 1 July 2022. ICS's are the latest in a long line of initiatives aimed to integrate care. Included within ICS's there are Integrated Clinical Partnerships (ICP)'s. ICP's are statutory committees jointly formed between the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB)'s, which replaced the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)'s, and all upper tier local authorities that fall within the ICS area. The ICP will bring together a broad alliance of partners concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population, with membership determined locally. ICP's include representatives from local authorities, local councils, NHS providers, primary care networks (PCN)'s, public health, social care, housing services, pharmaceutical and dental services and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. ICP's are responsible for producing an integrated care strategy by March 2023 on how to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the population in the ICS area. Also within each ICS are place-based partnerships which will lead to detailed design and delivery of integrated services across their localities and neighbourhoods. As well as the NHS, local councils and community and voluntary organisations, the police, local residents, people who use services, their carers and representatives and other community partners with a role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the population will be involved.

ICB's are statutory NHS organisations responsible for developing a plan in collaboration with ICP's for meeting the needs of their local population, managing the budget and arranging for the provision of health and care services. As the Somerset ICB works with the Somerset County Council, within the same geographical footprint they meet together on the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board. Further details of these meetings can be found on the Council's website.

References:

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications>

<https://england.nhs.uk/integratedcare/what-it-is>

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/about-us/integrated-care-systems>