

Health and Wellbeing Boards - Guidance 22 November 2022

Health and wellbeing boards (HWBs) have been a key mechanism for driving joined up working at a local level since they were established in 2013.

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced new architecture to the health and care system, specifically the establishment of integrated care boards (ICBs) and integrated care partnerships (ICPs).

This non-statutory guidance sets out the roles and duties of HWBs and clarifies their purpose within the new system architecture. It accompanies previously published [statutory guidance](#) on joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) and joint local health and wellbeing strategies (JLHWSs). Statutory guidance on JSNAs and JLHWSs currently remains unchanged.

The Health and Care Act 2022 did not change the statutory duties of HWBs as set out by the 2012 Act but established new NHS bodies known as ICBs and required the creation of ICPs in each local system area. ICBs replaced CCGs. The aim is to empower local health and care leaders to join up planning and provision of services, both within the NHS and with local authorities, and help deliver more person-centred and preventative care. This new guidance therefore provides guidance on HWBs to align with the Health and Care Act 2022 and wider place-based strategy.

Changes to previous arrangements

This section sets out the changes that apply to both ICPs and ICBs together in relation to their relationship with HWBs and also sets out the changes that impact each separately.

The Health and Care Act 2022 did not change the statutory duties of HWBs as set out by the 2012 Act but established new NHS bodies known as ICBs and required the creation of ICPs in each local system area.

The core statutory membership of HWBs is unchanged other than requiring a representative from ICBs, rather than CCGs. HWBs can continue, at their discretion, to invite other organisations to join the HWB.

As a statutory committee, ICPs will:

- a) be required to be established in every system;
- b) have a minimum membership required in law (the ICB and local authorities); and
- c) will be tasked with producing an integrated care strategy for their areas.

HWBs (and other place-based partnerships) will work with ICPs and ICBs to determine the integrated approach that will best deliver holistic care and prevention activities, including action on wider determinants in their communities.

HWBs and ICBs

HWB will continue the relationship they had with the CCG with ICBs. Every ICB which is within the HWB's footprint will be represented on the HWB. It is important that the previous local knowledge, strategies and relationships developed by HWBs and CCGs are built upon in the new system. ICBs will need to ensure that there is the right balance between system-level and place-level working.

ICBs will be responsible for:

- **Forward plans (replacing commissioning plans)**

Before the start of each financial year, an ICB, with its partner NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts, must prepare a 5-year joint forward plan, to be refreshed each year. The ICB needs to have regards to the JLHWS and involve the HWB.

- **Annual reports**

ICBs are required as part of their annual reports to review any steps they have taken to implement any JLHWS to which they are required to have regard. In preparing this review, the ICB must consult each relevant HWB.

- **Performance assessments**

In undertaking its annual performance assessment of an ICB, NHS England must include an assessment of how well the ICB has met the duty to have regard to the relevant JSNAs and JLHWSs within its area. In conducting the performance assessment, NHS England must consult each relevant HWB for their views on the ICB's contribution to the delivery of any JLHWS to which it was required to have regard.

Joint capital resource use plans

ICBs and their partner NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts are required to share their joint capital resource use plan and any revisions with each relevant HWB.

This is a new duty on an ICB not previously required of a CCG.

It is intended that in sharing these with HWBs, there will be opportunity to align local priorities and provide consistency with strategic aims and plans.

HWBs and ICPs

Each ICP will, as a minimum, be a statutory joint committee of an ICB and each responsible local authority within the ICB's area. The ICP can appoint any other members as it sees fit. It is expected that for ICPs to be effective, they will need to have a broad membership. These should build on existing partnership arrangements.

As outlined previously, where the HWB and ICP are coterminous (cover the same geographical boundaries), it may be appropriate to bring the HWB and ICP together, although each will need to fulfil its own statutory functions. The relationship between an ICP and HWBs will vary depending on the number of HWBs in the system, their maturity, and the existing partnership arrangements.

ICPs should use the insight and data held by HWBs in developing the integrated care strategy. JSNAs will be used by ICPs to develop the integrated care strategy, identifying where the assessed needs within the JSNA can be met by local authorities, ICBs or NHS England in exercising their functions. The 5-year joint forward plan, produced by the ICB and its partner NHS trusts or NHS foundation trusts, must set out any steps on how the ICB proposes to implement any JLHWS that relates to the ICB area, and the ICB must have regard to the integrated care strategy when exercising any of its functions.

The government expects that HWBs and ICPs to work collaboratively and iteratively in the preparation of the system-wide integrated care strategy that will tackle those challenges that are best dealt with at a system level (for example, workforce planning, or data and intelligence sharing). The expectation is that all HWBs in an ICB area will be involved in the preparation of the integrated care strategy. There is flexibility in how this will happen in different areas. ICPs will need to ensure that there are mechanisms within their system to ensure collective input to their strategic priorities, and that sufficient time is provided for this.

Action points for HWB

1. Send this summary note with guidance to HWB members
2. Invite ICB to nominate member to HWB. No other change required to membership of HWB.
3. Find out if ICP formed in area.
4. Send JSNA to ICP and inform them about programme for revision if the current JSNA. Consult with ICP on revised JSNA.
5. Plan for collaboration with ICP. Use next calendar year to bed in collaboration under new system.

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