

# Neighbourhood Health Framework

NHS England has published the Neighbourhood Health Framework, building on the 10 Year Health Plan's vision for **proactive, community-first model of care**, moving activity **out of hospitals and into neighbourhood settings**. This new guidance outlines a range of specific delivery targets, timelines, clear governance structures and introduces three new types of provider organisations.

## The Neighbourhood Model of Care

### Key goals

-  **Improve services and population health outcomes** and reduce health inequalities
-  **Improve the cost effectiveness of services**, including a significant reduction in demand for acute services
-  **Improve the service user experience**, through faster, accessible and more coordinated care delivery
-  **Empower people** to manage their own health and care and stay well closer to home
-  **Improve outcomes for high-priority groups** through earlier interventions and reduced hospital admissions

### How this is achieved

-  Renew the emphasis on primary, secondary and tertiary **preventative care**
-  **Expand neighbourhood-based alternatives to hospital care** (MDTs, virtual wards, intermediate care, urgent response, specialist GP support, diagnostics, etc.)
-  **Use digital tools and integrated data**, to improve access to care, responsiveness and coordination across services
-  **Deliver proactive community-based care** through Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
-  **Focus proactively on high-need populations**, reducing acute demand

Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs), ICBs, and local authorities will set **local goals** to improve care, reduce inequalities, support home-based care, and align with local reforms and community initiatives.

## Some Key Areas of Focus for Neighbourhood Health



**Strengthen neighbourhood health and GP services:** Enhance GP access (90% urgent patients seen same day by March 2027), cut bureaucracy, expand digital tools, reform out-of-hours services, and use pharmacies as first points of contact to **improve efficiency, patient experience, and outcomes**



**Reduce hospital demand:** e.g. 25% outpatient diversion through single points of access for 10 specialities by March 2027. Redesign services to prevent deterioration, providing seamless care through locally defined **INTs**. **Deliver better alternatives** e.g. local 24/7 mental health centres.



**More granular priority cohorts:** the 10YP notes priority cohorts for neighbourhood care, but this guidance raises specific conditions (CVD, diabetes, COPD and dementia) and adds cancer as a distinct INT priority. All children needing access to an INT will have it by 2028/29.

The framework outlines **3 new types of Neighbourhood organisations:**

#### Single Neighbourhood Provider

Deliver services within a defined area (**pop. ~50k**), working alongside local GPs

#### Multi-Neighbourhood Provider

Coordinate services across a larger geography (**pop. 250k+**) to deliver population-focused care

#### Integrated Health Organisation

Manage whole-population budgets for defined areas and lead commissioning decisions

## Enablers for Delivering the Vision

- Estates:** Care will be delivered locally, digitally, or at home, with **Neighbourhood Health Centres** integrating healthcare and community services – targeting 250 NHCs by 2035, of which 120 by 2030
- Workforce:** **Multidisciplinary teams will work across settings**, supported by new roles, skills, and career pathways – details to be included in 10-Year Workforce Plan.
- Finances:** ICBs will lead commissioning and funding, shifting resources from acute care and using flexible, outcome-based contracts to support **proactive, population-focused care**. The financial framework will be amended from 2026/27.

## Next Steps

- Next commissioning cycle for 2026/27:** ICBs and HWBs should implement **immediate priorities** – reducing admissions, improving GP access, establishing INTs, and eliminating 52 week waits
- Longer term neighbourhood health strategies for 2027/28:** Commissioners should align national objectives with local priorities, setting clear geographies, responsibilities, and integrated plans, then incorporating this locally owned plan into their refreshed 5-year Strategic Commissioning plan