



**25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022 \* FOR INFORMATION AND/OR IMMEDIATE USE:**

**HEALTH DEVOLUTION COMMISSION WILL PROMOTE**

**THE BEST INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM POSSIBLE**

A revamped and relaunched Health Devolution Commission has announced a year-long series of meetings focussed on promoting emerging best practice amongst Integrated Care Systems and bringing together some of the health sector’s best brains to resolve a number of complex or “wicked” ICS issues such as pooling sovereignty, getting financial flows right and integrated workforce reform.

The first meeting in April will hear from Integrated Care Board Designate Chairs, Sir Richard Leese (Greater Manchester), Cathy Elliot West Yorkshire), Richard Douglas (South East London) and Naomi Eisenstadt (Northamptonshire). It will also be addressed by NHS England’s Chief Delivery Officer, Mark Cubbon.

A meeting in June will look at “wicked” issues such as the pooling of sovereignty required by a genuine partnership of equals; workforce reform at both the ICS and place based level; how to get the financial flows right, and sustain a broad financial narrative; and how to deliver parity between NHS and social care services and between physical and mental health services.

The meeting in September will focus on the role of ICSs in providing integrated care to children and families; and to people with learning disabilities and those with autism. In December a final report setting out best practice in seven key issues - see below - will be launched in Parliament.

The five former Health Ministers who lead the Commission – Andy Burnham, Norman Lamb, Stephen Dorrell, Alistair Burt and Phil Hope – plus Dr Linda Patterson and Peter Hay are being joined in 2022 by six new Commissioners:

- Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Wellbeing Portfolio Holder at WMCA,
- Nadra Ahmed, Executive Chair of the National Care Association,
- Imelda Redmond, formerly Chair of HealthWatch,
- Suzi Leather former Devon ICS Chair,
- Naomi Eisenstadt, ICB Chair Northamptonshire, and
- Cedi Frederick, ICB Chair Kent and Medway.

Rt Hon Sir Norman Lamb, Co-chair of the Commission, said:

“The Health and Care Bill, and the Integration White Paper, reflect a potential paradigm shift in the nations’ health services – one that the [Health Devolution Commission](#) has long called for. With this legislation there is the opportunity for the NHS to move towards a fundamentally new purpose focussed on reducing health inequalities and towards a genuinely new partnership with Local Government, including social care and wider public services, plus, finally, parity between physical and mental health services. ICSs will play a key role in levelling up health.”

Steve Barwick, Director of the Health Devolution Commission, added:

“It will be extremely difficult for Integrated Care Systems to meet the ambitions that the Commission, the wider health sector and indeed ICSs’ themselves have for them. There remain huge pressures on both NHS and social care services from Covid, an exhausted workforce and now acute cost of living issues. But in time Integrated Care Systems can put health inequalities and public health first, finally join up NHS and social care, and help our health services become more democratic and locally accountable. The Commission seeks to help ICSs achieve these outcomes by promoting best practice.”

**ENDS**

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**Please click here <https://anchor.fm/steve-barwick/episodes/Episode-One-e1g1pf8> for a podcast in which Co-Chair Rt Hon Sir Norman Lamb discusses the opportunities, challenges and priorities for ICSs with Cllr Izzi Seccombe, WMCA Wellbeing Portfolio Holder and Phil Hope, former Care Minister**

#### **THE SEVEN HEALTH DEVOLUTION COMMISSION THEMES FOR 2022**

- 1. Health inequalities and population health:** How can an ICS ensure that it has a primary focus on reducing health inequalities, particularly racial inequalities, and improving public health as well as delivering better and more integrated NHS and social care services?
- 2. System leadership and accountability:** How can an ICS ‘pool sovereignty’ creating a genuine partnership of equals between the NHS and Local Government - how will IC Board decisions have due regard/align with the IC Partnership’s health and wellbeing strategy?
- 3. Place-based partnerships:** How should these building blocks be developed to deliver system-wide goals of integrated care systems including pooled budgets, provider collaboratives and neighbourhood networks, as well as enhanced links to the clinical and science/research communities?

4. **Workforce planning and development:** In what practical ways can ICSs move towards greater alignment, joint working and potentially integration of the social care and NHS workforces?
5. **Community partnerships and citizen engagement:** What are the most effective arrangements for governance, membership and engagement of others such as the VCSE sector, patients and communities in the IC Board, the IC Partnership and place-based partnerships?
6. **Mental health and learning disabilities:** What does it mean to deliver parity of esteem for mental health and how in practice can this be taken forward, including support for people with learning disabilities/autism
7. **Children and young people:** How can ICSs best improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people whose needs and circumstances may have been previously overlooked (please also see the Phil Hope's article on shared CYP outcomes on P24 of MJ – [here](#))?

The partners of the Health Devolution Commission are NHS Confederation, Local Government Association, London Councils, British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership, West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, Mencap and Barnardo's.

