



The commissioning and funding landscape is changing.

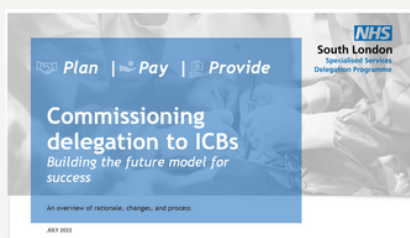
South London ICSs and tertiary providers have taken the opportunity to work collaboratively to integrate specialised services and deliver an end to end pathway approach for patients.

Specialised services delegation: What, why, and how

The national delegation of specialised services is complex.

We've created an overview to explain what is changing, the rationale, our approach in South London, issues for consideration, and a high level timeline.

[Download the overview.](#)



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Want to know more?

Would you like more information on specialised services delegation?

We would be happy to speak with you and your colleagues to answer any questions you may have.

[Contact the team.](#)

National update

NHS England has released the [portfolio of specialised services for delegation](#).

Using a two step process to determine suitability and readiness, 65 services have been deemed **suitable and ready** for delegation from April 2023.

Factors of consideration included:

Step 1: Suitable?

- Patient / clinical benefit
- Co dependent services
- Financial risk and volatility
- Number of providers

Step 2: Ready for 2023?

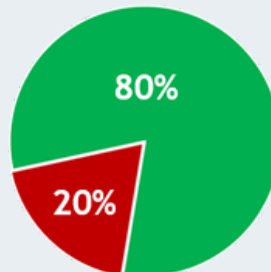
- Future technologies / innovations
- Provider landscape (patient flows, network arrangements)
- Commissioning infrastructure – governance, information sharing)

As a result...

Suitable AND ready	65 services
Suitable NOT YET ready	27 services
Neither suitable nor ready	81 services

Services that are neither suitable nor ready will be retained as Highly Specialised Services and continue to be commissioned by NHS England through a central team and a centralised process.

The majority of the spend -- 80% -- of specialised care is due to be delegated.



National timeline

May 2022	Publication of Specialised Strategic Roadmap and potential services for delegation
June 2022	National baselining of allocations to ICBs
July 2022	ICBs become statutory bodies; further guidance released on delegation model and ICB pre delegation assessment
September 2022	Initial readiness assessment of ICBs
December 2022	Formal system readiness assessment of ICBs. ICBs not ready will enter joint commissioning arrangements with NHSE London region
February 2023	NHSE board decision on ICS readiness
1 April 2023	Delegation agreements come into effect

Finance update

There are three key updates:

1 The national rebasing exercise to review activity and associated costs has been released, and trusts are working through their submissions.

The exercise aims to more closely align income for specialised services and income for CCG / ICS services with each provider spend. The exercise is intended to be net zero impact overall (ie there will be no increase in income to providers, but there may be a change to the allocation to ICSs to reflect the spend on the relevant services).

Separately, the national body responsible for setting the allocation for ICSs has been engaging on the methodology for the distribution of specialised spend to ICSs.

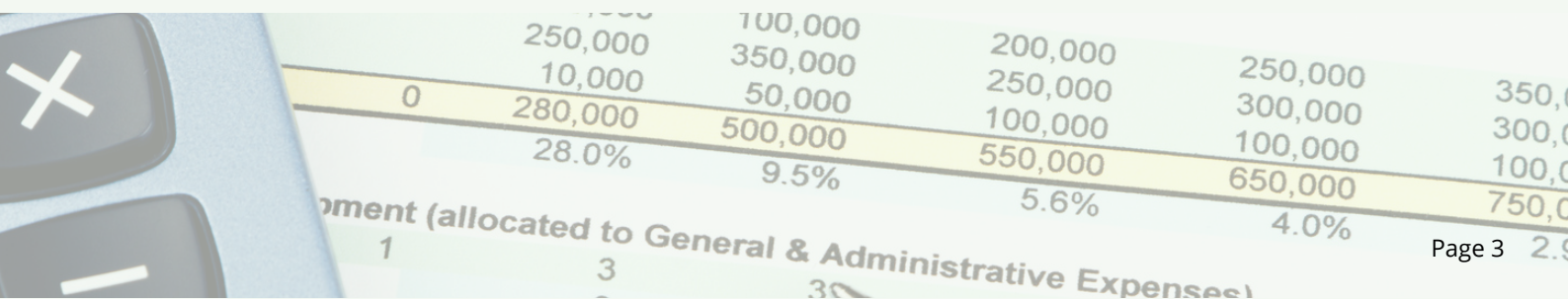
2 The South London specialised programme submitted a response to the ACRA consultation on the proposed needs based formula, reflecting our concerns that the proposed methodology would lead to less funding for London over time. In addition, South London contributed to a London response and some trusts responded individually.

The South London response has been shared with trusts and other London ICS.s Our response reflected:

- Our view that the methodology for the needs based formula doesn't accurately reflect need, as it fails to account for deprivation, is based on historic utilisation (so doesn't capture unmet need), and as only 50% of specialised service utilisation drivers have been identified, half of the factors driving demand have not been accounted. In addition, due to the methodology's reliance on age, the proposal as it stands indicates that funding would shift away from the most deprived populations (who are younger) to the least deprived populations (that are older).
- Concerns that the implications of implementing the policy change have not been adequately considered. This includes the risks associated with proliferation of specialised services (including quality, workforce and financial sustainability), and the lack of assurance that the re-allocated money will be ring fenced for investment into specialised services and not used to cover existing funding gaps.

3 ICSs were provided with NHSE data on specialised services spend (provider income) for 19/20, 20/21, and 21/22. A first cut of this data was presented to the Programme Board. To assess financial volatility, years prior to 19/20 will need to be provided as recent years are distorted due to the COVID pandemic. ICSs will continue to explore this data through a comparative analysis.

Looking forward to the next stages of the delegation process, it has been proposed that the current Finance Working Group will evolve into a System Analytics and Finance Group. The group's membership will be refreshed, and its remit will expand to include business intelligence, contracting, and performance.



Programme Board

The Programme Board was held on 27 July.

Agenda items included:

- The South London Neurosurgery Network workplan 2022/23, presented by Niran Nirmalanathan, Consultant Neurologist at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Ranj Bhangoo, Consultant Neurosurgeon at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The Board supported the network work plan.
- An item on the London Partnership Board. This new forum brings together all the ICSs across London to consider how best to organise the planning, payment and delivery of all specialised services from April 2023. The Board noted the update.
- Analysis of specialised services spend in 2019/20. The Board noted the update.
- New operating model for South London specialised services for April 2023. The Board noted progress made in developing a partnership approach to the delegation of specialised services across South East London and South West London ICSs, and asked for more work to be done to ensure the governance is as streamlined as possible.

The next Programme Board is scheduled for 31 August.



The South London programme is a collaboration between:

- South East London ICS
- South West London ICS
- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

South London pilot updates

Cardiac

Network overview

Developing an OPAT service

Treating appropriate patients in the community through an outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) service for care closer to home with realised operational efficiencies

- Clinical, operational, communications, and contracting working groups are preparing for a September go-live for an OPAT service at King's College Hospital for a number of priority pathways, including spine, brain abscess, diabetic foot, infective endocarditis, and bone and joint.
- Joint clinical leads have been appointed:
 - Gurj Sandhu, Consultant in Infectious Diseases at King's College Hospital ([email](#))
 - Aileen Boyd, Doctor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, King's College Hospital ([email](#))
- OPAT clinical champions are being identified.
- Recruitment for nursing and administrative roles is underway.

Addressing ethnic inequalities in treatment of aortic stenosis

Reducing variances in access and treatment for diverse populations plus increased public education and awareness

- Heart Valve Voice, the national charity will be taking a bus around the country to promote understanding and awareness of heart valve conditions. Their only London stop will be in Lewisham on 13 September.
- We will be offering heart checks, facilitating conversations about heart valve disease and will use this opportunity to launch the community mobile valve clinics we are delivering through this pilot.

Now recruiting: MDT Coordinator

Recruitment is now open for applicants who wish to play a pivotal role in coordinating the inter hospital referrals for cardiac surgery and intervention across South London.

The post holder will work collaboratively with the cardiac surgical and interventional teams at Brompton and Harefield, King's College, St George's, and St Thomas' hospitals to clinically review the referrals received and coordinate daily MDTs.

Extensive cardiovascular knowledge, experience and clinical skills are essential to proficiently screen the referrals and ensure patients are expertly prepared for their cardiac procedure.

Closing date: 15 August 2022

[Details on NHS Jobs](#)

South London pilot updates



Neurology

Network overview

Managing chronic conditions – Improving case management across care settings for the four most common neurological conditions – epilepsy, Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis and neuromuscular disorder – for care closer to home with seamless patient navigation.

- **Neurosciences Collaboration Manager** – The network has successfully appointed a Neurosciences Collaboration Manager who will start in the role on 8 August.
- **Networks established** in MS, Parkinson’s, epilepsy and FND and baseline data packs have been developed (epilepsy, Parkinson’s, headache and MS), for network review.
- **A patient and public involvement (PPI) strategy** has been drafted, and an aligned communications plan is in development.

HIV

*HIV testing in Emergency Departments (EDs)
Opt out testing in high prevalence areas for patients already having blood tests.*

*Hepatitis B/C testing in EDs
Extending testing to detect, diagnose, treat, and manage patients earlier.*

- In the first three months of the pilot, 24 people with HIV were newly identified.
- Testing uptake is reaching phenomenal levels – increasing nearly 40 per cent between April and June for South London sites (19,639 tests in April to 27,361 tests in June).
- Additional funding has been provided by the national hepatitis C elimination programme to extend testing to Hepatitis C and B to form a blood-borne-virus (BBV) screening programme. With pathway implementation led by the Hepatitis C ODNs, Hepatitis C and B testing is anticipated to start from September.

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