

South London Pathfinder

NHS England will devolve the commissioning of specialised services to ICBs in 2024/25. Delegation of these services will encourage an integrated view of end-to-end services that will benefit patients and the system as a whole.

The South London Pathfinder programme was established to test the delegation processes and national products in a safe and managed way to support the design of the delegation model and safe transition of this £20B responsibility to ICBs in England in April 2024.

1. The Pathfinder programme focusses on three key workstreams:

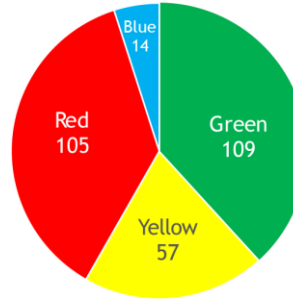
Finance - Best practice to provide local financial stability, manage financial risk, maximise opportunities and share learning



Contracting - Contract design, schedules and the legal framework of assignment; testing and phasing approach within national and local guidance



Transactional BI - Develop ICB expertise in specialised data, integrated into reporting, contract monitoring and scenario modelling; support finance and contracting workstreams with timely access to accurate data and insight



5. There are 157 prescribed specialised services in NHS England manual. Many of these services have multiple service lines within them, for a total of 285.

NHSE have chosen to classify service lines into:

- red (not for delegation) – 105 services
- yellow (not yet for delegation) – 57 services
- green (for delegation) – 109 services
- blue (hosted/networks) – 14 services

2. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will outline the functions under the Joint Working Arrangement (JWA) which are being assigned to the two South London ICBs for management of data, finance and contracting. The MoU will pass through NHSE formal governance as the accountable organisation and holder of any residual risk.

That is, the Pathfinder does not seek to take on delegation, but rather take on delegation functions on behalf of the London Joint Committee.



3. What is in scope

- Finance, BI and contracting (activity and spend)
- Testing of budgets for “green” service lines
- ICB commissioned services from NHS providers
- Elective recover fund (ERF, on host provider basis)

Low value allowance (LVA) status to be retained.

4. What is out of scope

- Quality and performance
- High cost drugs and devices
- Independent sector providers
- Procurement / service level commissioning
- Mental health services
- Clinical networks

Quality contingency – In the event of a performance issue, teams will work together jointly on required contractual escalation and management processes.



Further details are available on the Specialised Services Future Commissioning Model workspace within FutureNHS (login required).

Partners

- NHS South East London ICB
- NHS South West London ICB
- NHS England national and regional teams
- Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
- King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust