

Hospice UK briefing on the Health and Social Care NI Reset Plan

On 9th July 2025, the Department of Health NI released their [Health and Social Care NI Reset Plan](#). This builds on the [3 Year Strategic Plan for the Health and Social Care System](#), published in December 2024. It also starts to shift the overall approach for health and social care in Northern Ireland towards a Neighbourhood approach similar to that set out in the UK Government's [10 Year Health Plan for England](#).

The 2024 plan was based around three pillars of Stabilisation, Reform and Delivery. The reset plan highlights: a greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention; a refocused community and neighbourhood approach to health and social care; a high quality, safe and efficient acute hospital network delivering the highly specialised services for those who need them.

The reset plan is a much briefer document than the English 10 year plan but it is nevertheless disappointing that there are no references at all to hospices, palliative care, end of life or death and dying. This is in contrast to the detail included within the English plan where hospices do feature, as highlighted in [our briefing](#).

Key actions set out within the document include:

- By March 2026, develop a new neighbourhood model for primary, community and social care, which will deliver greater levels of care in local communities, alongside a funding plan to support delivery from April 2026. This model will see Community Pharmacy, GPs and their Federations, Voluntary and Community organisations, Trusts, independent providers, other statutory bodies and Local Government working closely together in formal partnership to provide integrated care
- Establishing a new governance approach to enable the five Trusts to take shared decisions that will enable them to work together as one system whilst avoiding the distraction of structural change
- Increasing the efficiency of the system by working to drive out unwarranted clinical variation
- By March 2026, re-design and re-orient the Area Integrated Partnership Boards to support local care planning
- Maximise the impact of the investment in encompass to help deliver priorities (referencing that this is an area where NI is ahead of the rest of the UK)

There are also commitments to

- Introduce a safe and effective staffing bill to the Assembly during 2025/2026
- Publish an update in September 2025 on what has been achieved in the detailed 2024/25 Implementation Plan, set out the quantum of savings to be delivered in 2025/26 and 2026/27, and provide details on how the impact of the wider reset plan objectives will be measured over the next three years
- Deliver £300m savings by March 2026, in addition to the £200m delivered in 2024/25

It is notable that there is an explicit commitment that, by March 2026, the community and voluntary sector will be more fully and meaningfully integrated as key partners in the planning and delivery of social care and mental health services. Given the scale of service delivery by hospices in NI it is disappointing that a similar commitment hasn't been made in relation to the voluntary hospice sector.

Finally, in relation to new ways of working the reset plan states that the DoH and HSC will "operate as one system, with one vision, one mission and one version of the truth based on accurate shared data and insights".

For further information please contact: a.morton@hospiceuk.org