

Hospice UK update on the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme in England – 21 July 2025

On 9 July, the Department of Health and Social Care [wrote to system leaders](#) to invite applications to the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme.

This programme provides a significant opportunity for hospices to contribute to the evolution of neighbourhood health and demonstrate their value to government and local systems. We encourage you to explore whether your hospice can join an application locally and are happy to support hospices with this.

Please find details of what we know about the programme so far below. For more information or any questions reach out to Hospice UK at policy@hospiceuk.org or DHSC at england.neighbourhoodhealthserviceteam@nhs.net.

Background:

Neighbourhood health is central to the plans set out in the Government's [10 Year Plan for Health in England](#). This is not a model but a way of working, focused on:

- multidisciplinary working around patients
- integration and mobilisation of statutory and non-statutory assets in the community
- reactive and proactive coordinated and holistic care
- allowing patients to co-manage health
- empowering communities and designing services around them

DHSC has recognised that neighbourhood working will look different in different places but the outcomes and mission should be the same.

The department has been clear about the importance of social care, care in people's homes and the voluntary sector in neighbourhood working. Hospices were specifically referred to in the 10 year plan as having a role in integrated neighbourhood services.

In a recent webinar, Sir John Oldham, Chair of the Neighbourhood Health Taskforce said *"no single agency can deal with the complexity"* of rising demand and multiple and complex conditions and that *"neighbourhood health is more than the NHS"*.

More detail on the vision for Neighbourhood Health can be found in the 10 Year Plan and [NHSE's neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/6](#).

Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme:

The Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme is a large scale change programme, which aims to build capacity for systems to scale up and further develop neighbourhood services. We expect these services to be made up of multiple providers.

Phase 1:

The first phase will include **42 place-level neighbourhood health services** (with at least one from each region in England). This phase will focus on developing neighbourhood health approaches to better support adults with **multiple-long term conditions and rising risk**.

The application process to be one of these 42 place-level services is now open. Once selected, these services will join a national coaching programme over the summer.

The full change programme, including outcome measures and principles, is being co-designed with partners over the Summer but it will include:

- regional learning workshops to share practical ideas from the participants.
- 'action periods' where participants are supported to implement ideas from these workshops and track outcomes metrics on a month-to-month basis with the support of a national coach.
- a knowledge management centre to share learning from this process.

Application process for Phase 1:

The deadline for applications is 8 August. Applications are to be made by email to england.neighbourhoodhealthserviceteam@nhs.net. Successful service sites will be notified by 5 September and the programme will begin on 8 September.

Any application will need:

- co-sponsorship from the CEOs of the ICB, local authority and key providers.
- buy in/a combined application from all local organisations working across the footprint, including acute trusts.
- places to commit to a full-time place-based coach, programme management and analytical support.
- neighbourhoods to have a clinical lead, managerial and administrative support.
- to focus on better supporting adults with multiple-long term conditions and rising risk.

Systems will be expected to fund what it takes to deliver this programme and make it a priority.