

# London Health and Care Devolution

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London is on a journey to become the healthiest city in the world. Over the past few years, our health and care system has made significant strides to organise services around the changing needs of our city's growing and diverse population. In support of this progress, the Government recently invited London to explore whether devolution could make these improvements go further and faster.

In December 2015, all 32 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), London Councils on behalf of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, the Mayor of London, NHS England and Public Health England came together as 'London Partners', and signed the [London Health and Care Collaboration Agreement](#). Through this, the Partners committed to work more closely together to support those who live and work in London to lead healthier independent lives, prevent ill-health, and to make the best use of health and care assets.

Central government and national bodies backed this vision through the [London Health Devolution Agreement](#), and invited London to explore devolution – the transfer of powers, decision-making and resources closer to local populations – as an important tool to accelerate transformation plans and respond to the needs of Londoners more quickly.

Many decisions about health service planning and budgets are taken at national level. This can sometimes create unintended barriers to delivering the connected and tailored local services that Londoners want. London has already made significant progress in integration and collaboration within the current system through: co-commissioning in almost all CCGs; cross-borough Strategic Planning Groups; pooling budgets through the Better Care Fund; joint decision-making by health and wellbeing boards; and innovative transformation through NHS vanguards and integration pioneers.

Devolution aims to allow us to go even further by enabling health and care decisions to be made for London, in London.

Through the devolution agreements, London Partners aim to minimise unnecessary bureaucracy, and provide new opportunities for CCGs and boroughs to support Londoners to be as healthy as possible and to ensure that the health and care system is on a sustainable footing.

London's health and care landscape contributes significantly to the rest of the UK: a quarter of NHS doctors and more than half of England's nurses are trained in the capital, and London is a centre of excellence for health training, education and specialist care. London's health and care system is also very large, with hundreds of organisations and a considerable proportion of the NHS budget. Given this size and complexity, we will first explore how devolution could work in practice through [five pilots](#). These pilots will focus on our three priorities - prevention, health and care integration and making best use of health and care buildings and land - and will test decision-making at the most appropriate and local level.

Five devolution pilots:

1. **Prevention in Haringey:** exploring the licensing and planning powers needed to shape healthy environments; and support for people with mental health conditions who are on sickness absence but not yet unemployed.
2. **Integration in Hackney:** bringing together health and social care to fully integrate both budgets and joint provision services, with a particular emphasis on prevention.
3. **Integration in Lewisham:** creating “One Lewisham Health and Social Care system” by combining mental and physical health services and social care.
4. **Integration across Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge:** delivering a personalised health and care service focusing on self-care, prevention and local services that enable the sustainability of the health and care system.
5. **Estates in North Central London (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington):** making better use of health and care buildings and land.

These five pilots are developing business cases to explore how devolution may support their work to go further and faster. As part of this process, they will be working to embed their proposals within the [Sustainability and Transformation Plans](#). In doing so, they will help implement the [NHS Five Year Forward View](#) and [Better Health for London: Next Steps](#). Throughout this process, London is committed to uphold [NHS Standards](#) and the [NHS Constitution](#).

The London Health and Care Devolution Programme aims to support the pilots deliver their plans faster by unlocking barriers as much as possible, and working with national bodies to co-develop devolution proposals. We aim to support pilots to secure devolved powers this year with shadow operation by next year. The programme will work to share learning from the pilots as quickly as possible, so that other parts of London – and the wider country – can benefit from these experiences.

The [London Health and Care Devolution Programme Board](#) will oversee the direction and delivery of the programme, with the [London Health Board](#), chaired by the Mayor of London, providing political oversight.

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