

Appendix A - GUIDANCE OVERVIEW

JOINT FORWARD PLAN GUIDANCE

NHS England has published [guidance on developing the Joint Forward Plan](#) (JFP) designed to support Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to develop their first 5-year joint forward plans (JFPs) in conjunction with system partners. From 2023/24 onwards, JFPs must be reviewed and where appropriate updated before the start of each financial year.

For this first year, however, NHS England has requested ICBs to publish and share the final plan with NHS England, their Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) by 30 June 2023.

The guidance sets out a flexible framework for JFPs, building on existing system and place strategies and plans, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. It also states specific statutory requirements that plans must meet.

As a minimum, the JFP should describe how the ICB, and its partner trusts intend to arrange and/or provide NHS services to meet their population's physical and mental health needs. This should include the delivery of universal NHS commitments, address ICSs' four core purposes and meet legal requirements.

Systems are encouraged to use the JFP to develop a shared delivery plan for the integrated care strategy that is supported by the whole system, including local authorities and voluntary, community and social enterprise partners. Previous local patient and public engagement exercises and subsequent action should inform the JFP.

NHS OPERATIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE 2023/24

This [NHS Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance for 2023/24](#) was published alongside the Joint Forward Plan guidance and outlines three key tasks for 2023/24: to recover core services and productivity; progress the aspirations in the Long Term plan; and continue transforming the health and care system for the future.

The guidance outlines the most critical, evidence-based actions that will support delivery, based on what systems and providers have already demonstrated makes the most difference to patient outcomes, experience, access and safety.

Our plans will need to set out how –we will achieve a set of 31 objectives that sit within the three priority areas of recovery, restoration, and increased productivity across:

- Urgent and Emergency care
- Community care
- Primary care
- Elective care
- Cancer care
- Diagnostics

- Maternity care
- Mental Health care
- Care of people with Learning disabilities and autism
- Prevention and health inequalities

The guidance is notably shorter with fewer targets and promotes genuine partnership, supporting local decision making and empowering local leaders to make the best decisions for their local populations.

The associated system plans need to be triangulated across activity, workforce, and finance, and signed off by ICB and NHS partner trust boards before the end of March 2023.