

Policy Briefing: Integrated Care and Support: Our Shared Commitment

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-care>

Purpose of document

In May 2013, the Department of Health released a series of shared commitments for integrated care and support at national and local level. The document is a framework that sets out a clear vision to make person-centred, coordinated care and support the norm across England within the coming years. It is backed by 12 national leaders including the Care Quality Commission and NHS England who have signed up to the commitments on how they will help integrate services. The report was prepared in association with National Voices.

Summary of contents

The report describes the five shared commitments and expected actions such as 'pursuing a common goal', to help local areas to integrate services. There is a focus on creating and supporting new pioneer areas to lead the way in providing integrated care at scale and at pace. The authors considers all those who play a part in the health and social care system and discuss how local areas can use Health and Wellbeing boards to bring the health and care sector together, to make further steps towards achieving integration. The report explains what good person-centred, coordinated care is from an individuals point of view, and gives examples using 'I statements'. This will be used to assess people's experiences of integrated care and support, and to make further steps towards integration.

Summary of outcomes

The plans for integration will be carried out by national leaders and local areas working closely together. Success of the plans will be judged on whether local areas in England have introduced models for integrated care and support within the next 2 years. The report recognises that there are barriers such as some aspects of existing policy and regulation which are preventing integrated care from happening. However, there also needs to be effective working relationships between health, social care, public health and local services, with the support of new technology and shared information, if the ambition is to be achieved.

Summary of recommendations

- Make joined-up and coordinated health and care standard practice within 5 years, with support for person-centred services.
- National Voices are to decide on the first ever agreed definition of what people say good integrated care and support looks and feels like.
- Have new pioneer areas around the country.
- Develop new measures of people's experiences of joined-up care and support.
- Introduce joint funding or 'aligned budgets' between health and social care, with integrated personal budgets for both.

Further information and resources

National Voices <http://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/>

Integrated Care and Support Pioneer Programme

http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/6932744/ARTICLE

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