

ICSs and the impact on the VCSE sector in Greater Manchester

This document explains in more detail what Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are and how the introduction of them will affect voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations.

ICS – what does it mean?

ICS is short for Integrated Care System. ICSs are partnerships that bring together providers and commissioners of NHS services across a geographical area with local authorities and other local partners to collectively plan health and care services to meet the needs of their population. The central aim of ICSs is to integrate care across different organisations and settings, joining up hospital and community-based services, physical and mental health, and health and social care. The Government's proposals will establish ICSs in statute and include the requirement to set up an ICS NHS body, with a board comprising NHS and local authority members, and an ICS Health and Care Partnership Board, comprising ICS Board members and wider membership.

Greater Manchester has been working as an ICS for the last five years – with strong working partnerships between health and social care and the voluntary sector. The creation of a statutory health and care board and an ICS NHS Body will **formalise the arrangements** already in place.

We don't yet know all of the details as it is still being discussed and decided upon but we do know that from April 2022 (subject to national legislative approval) the commissioning duties of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), including their functions and roles, will transfer to be delivered as part of the new Greater Manchester ICS NHS Body. This will mean that functions and roles may be delivered differently in the future, with place based and Greater Manchester-level teams working alongside each other.

Work is currently underway looking at what is done together as a health and care system, and what is done at local and community level. This work will help to identify what functions and statutory activities will be carried out by the new GM ICS NHS organisation and what will be delivered locally. There is still a need for strong place-based work within an ICS NHS body and therefore, functions may not necessarily move from where they are currently based.

How does it affect VCSE organisations?

Understanding the changes happening to commissioning and health and social care where your organisation operates will help you to anticipate what might happen under the new arrangements.

If the projects or services you deliver are currently commissioned by one of the CCGs or other health and social care related bodies there is a possibility that these arrangements will change once the GM ICS is formally set up. This doesn't necessarily mean your funding will be lost but it is likely that funding pots and contracts will change as new people and groups take control of making decisions about what things receive funding in the future.

This is also relevant if you deliver any health and wellbeing related activities as in order to understand where funding might be available but also to effectively support those people that you work with the access the right services in the right places.

How can we influence the development of the ICS in Greater Manchester?

Several people from VCSE organisations (via the [GM VCSE Leadership Group](#)) have been involved in the ongoing design workshops and we have held 2 VCSE Assembly events in 2021 to ensure that the voice of the VCSE is part of the discussions.

We need to ensure there are places on the various governance groups at both GM and locality level for VCSE organisations. Try to find out who those people are in the areas you operate. If you need support with this let us know and we will connect you into the right people.

Where to find out more:

[Kings Fund explainer](#)

[Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership – Health and Care Board Papers](#)

[VCSE Assembly Event resources](#)

To stay up to date with developments in Greater Manchester, do subscribe to the [Health and Social Care VCSE Engagement eBulletin](#).