



HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS within Somerset



Published: January 2025

NHS England (NHSE)

NHS England provides national leadership for the NHS. Through seven integrated regional teams, NHS England supports local Integrated Care Systems (ICS) to improve the health of the population, improve the quality of care, tackle inequalities and deliver care more efficiently.



Somerset Integrated care Board (ICB)

Integrated Care Boards (ICB's) have been established as the new statutory organisations to lead integration within the NHS and are responsible for planning and delivering local health and care services. This includes representatives from local councils, the NHS and partners including the voluntary sector. The new NHS Somerset ICB takes on the legal duties of Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group in the planning, performance, financial management and transformation of the local NHS.



Primary care Networks (PCN)

GP Practices are working together with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services in their local areas in groups of practices known as Primary Care Networks (PCN's). 13 PCN's have been established in Somerset and each has a Clinical Director who is either a GP or a Nurse Practitioner working in the locality.

Public Health Nursing (PHN)

Public Health Nursing (PHN) is commissioned by the Director of Public Health in Somerset Council to deliver the Healthy Child Programme from age 0-19 for babies, children, and young people in Somerset. Specialist PHN teams in Health Visiting and School Nursing work directly alongside babies, children, young people, their families and communities. Providing a universal service to every family in Somerset for children under 5 and more targeted health improvement and protection work for children 5-19, the service strives to identify individual needs at the earliest opportunity, providing supportive interventions and helping families to navigate the health and support system to improve their health and wellbeing outcomes into adulthood.

Somerset Integrated Care System (ICS)

An Integrated Care System (ICS) brings together NHS organisations, local councils, and wider partners in a defined geographical area to deliver more joined up approaches to improving health and care outcomes. The ICS is made up of two key bodies: the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The Partner organisations in Somerset's ICP include:

- Somerset Integrated Care Board (NHS Somerset)
- Somerset Council
- Somerset GP Provider Board
- Somerset Healthwatch
- Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (SFT)

The organisation is responsible for running Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, community hospitals and services, mental health services and a quarter of GP practices in Somerset.



NHS-Led Provider Collaboratives:

Specialised mental health, learning disability and autism services

NHS-Led Provider Collaboratives work to ensure that people with specialist mental health, learning disability and autism needs experience high quality, specialist care, as close to home as appropriately possible, which is connected with local teams and support networks. Specialist care is provided in the community to prevent people being in hospital if they do not need to be and to enable people to leave hospital when they are ready.