



HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS within Somerset

NHS England (NHSE)

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

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (SFT)

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (SFT) is an integrated organisation serving Somerset and neighbouring areas, providing acute, community, primary care, mental health, learning disability, specialist dental and maternity services. It delivers services from Yeovil District Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, 13 community hospitals, 7 urgent treatment centres, and supports a quarter of Somerset's GP practices. Its aim is to improve health outcomes, reduce inequalities, and meet complex needs through coordinated and personalised care.

Public Health

Since 2013 local authorities have taken on responsibility for public health from the NHS. In Somerset public health objectives are to reduce health inequalities and increase life expectancy, through a wide range of targeted public health programmes to promote better health.

Specialist Community Public Health Nursing [School Nurses](#) and [Health Visitors](#) are employed by Somerset Council and work directly alongside families, children and communities to identify needs early, provide supportive interventions and sign post to the right help in order to improve outcomes for children.

Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are statutory NHS organisations in England, established in July 2022, that are responsible for planning, commissioning, and delivering health services for their local populations within an Integrated Care System (ICS).

In April 2025, it was announced that ICB's need to move towards leaner ways of working as part of National Reforms to the NHS. As part of these reforms, NHS Somerset is part of a cluster arrangement with Dorset ICB and Bath, North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) ICB ahead of a formal merger in (2027) an aim to improve efficiency and reduce running costs.

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 Integrated Care Partnership](#) include:

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