

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	27 November 2025			
Title of paper	Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Reports			
Presented by	Craig Harris, Chief Operating Officer			
Author	Board Secretary and Committee Officers			
Agenda item	18			
Confidential	No			
Executive summary				
This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee meeting held since the last report to the Board on 24 July 2025 to alert, advise and assure the Board. The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board. Minutes approved by the committee to date are presented to the Board to provide assurance that they have met in accordance with their terms of reference and to advise the Board of business transacted at their meetings.				
Public and Stakeholder Engagement				
N/A				
Recommendations				
The Board is asked to: • Note the Alert, Advise and Assure the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed • Note the summary of items or issues referred to other committees of the Board over the reporting period, as appropriate. • Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.				
Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:				Tick
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience			✓
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area			✓
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees			✓
SO4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity			✓
SO5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets			✓
SO6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies			✓
Implications				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications			✓	
Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				

Meeting		Date		Outcomes	
Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee		June and September 2025		To provide the Board of committee business during this period.	
Conflicts of interest associated with this report					
Not applicable.					
Impact assessments					
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments	
Quality impact assessment completed			✓		
Equality impact assessment completed			✓		
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓		
Report authorised by:		C Harris, Chief Operating Officer			

Integrated Care Board – 27 November 2025

Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Escalation and Assurance Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report highlights key matters, issues, and risks discussed at Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee held since the last report to the Board on 24 July 2025 to alert, advise and assure the Board.
- 1.2 The summary report also highlights any issues, items referred or escalated to other committees or to the Board.

2. Northwest Specialised Commissioning Committee Report and approved minutes

Key escalation and discussion points from the Committee meeting	
Date of Meeting: 5 June 2025	Chair: Ruth Hussey
Alert	
No bids were received for the Adult Critical Care Transport Service provider selection process and further work will be undertaken to consider how to secure this service. The provider of the interim service in GM and LSC has recently appointed administrators – work underway to understand the implications of this.	
Advise	
- NHS England has delayed the transfer of Specialised Commissioning staff to host ICBs in England until ICBs have merged (in other parts of England) and there is sufficient bandwidth for HR processes – anticipated towards end of 25/26. Work is being undertaken nationally to review the roadmap for integrating NHS England's Direct Commissioning functions into Integrated Care Systems in light of announcement of abolition of NHS England. - A Provider Selection process will be undertaken to secure provision in the NW for complex terminations of pregnancy. Currently patients requiring this service typically travel to Birmingham or Newcastle.	
Assure	
-	

Key escalation and discussion points from the Committee meeting	
Date of Meeting: 6 September 2025	Chair: Ruth Hussey
Alert	
- Findings of the NHS England review of roadmap for integrating Direct Commissioning functions into Integrated Care Systems has concluded the following: - No additional/new delegation to ICBs - Transfer of accountability/responsibility for the majority of Specialised Commissioning; Health & Justice commissioning; and Screening and Immunisation commissioning to ICBs on 1 April 2027	

○ Creation of an 'Office of Pan-ICB Commissioning' (ofPIC) in each region to be hosted by one of the ICBs in the region. ○ Running Cost Allowance for the OfPIC expected to be published shortly
Advise
- Joint committee made decisions relating to the successor arrangements for current contracts for Mental Health Lead Provider Collaboratives which expire in 2026 covering Adult Eating Disorders; Tier 4 CAMHS; Perinatal Mental Health; and Low and Medium Secure Mental Health. - Joint Committee endorsed revisions to the programme timeline for work to transform Neonatal Critical Care services to achieve new volume based standards. - Joint Committee agreed to initiate a provider selection process for Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation/ Osteochondral Allograft - Joint Committee noted progress on securing an interim Adult Critical Care Transport service in advance of a formally procured service from April 2027.
Assure
- Joint Committee received an update on work to investigate an unplanned market entrant into the CAMHS market and received assurance that this provider was not undertaking services that fell within scope of the Specialised Services National Definition. - Joint committee received an update on the work being undertaken to unpick the block elements of Acute Contracts that were instigated as part of the COVID interim financial regime.

- **Appendix A** – Approved minutes of the North West Specialised Services Committee meeting held on 5 June 2025: [Item 18 - Appx A - SCC June Meeting minutes approved.pdf](#)

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The committees has conducted their business in line with their terms of reference and associated business plans.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Board is requested to:
- Note the Alert, Advise and Assure within the committee report and approve any recommendations as listed.
 - Note the ratified minutes of the committee meetings.

ICB Chief Operating Officer
November 2025