

Template ICP/Local Authority Integration Agreement – FAQs

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Template ICP/Local Authority Integration Agreement – FAQs

Publishing approval number: **000502**

Version number: 1

First published: August 2019

Updated:

Prepared by: Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts

Classification: Official

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1. Introduction to the Template ICP/Local Authority Integration Agreement

What is the purpose of an ICP/Local Authority Integration Agreement?

NHS England's Template [ICP/Local Authority Integration Agreement \(IA\)](#) sets out a framework for Integrated Care Providers (ICPs) and Local Authorities to work collaboratively to deliver the health and/or care services provided by each organisation in an integrated way, to enable an ICP to better carry out its obligations under the ICP contract model and to enable the Local Authority to better carry out its statutory duties relating to improving the health of the people in its area.

Why would an area choose to use a Local Authority IA and how does it further the integration narrative between the NHS and local government?

The Local Authority IA may be a useful tool to enable a Local Authority and ICP to work in a more integrated way, where the ICP is not commissioned by the Local Authority to deliver Local Authority-funded services but the Local Authority, ICP and NHS commissioners agree that the services which the ICP is commissioned to provide should be closely integrated with services provided by the Local Authority. Its purpose is to define the integrated working arrangements of the parties to the agreement.

2. Essential content of a Local Authority IA

What should the Local Authority IA set out?

It is for the ICP and the Local Authority in a particular area to agree what is included in the Local Authority IA. The template, however, provides useful guidance for reference. It sets out:

- objectives that can be agreed between the ICP and the Local Authority relating to the delivery of the relevant health and/or care services;
- activities that the organisations agree to carry out in seeking to achieve the objectives;
- a set of integration principles to be followed by the organisation when carrying out the activities; and
- a framework for shared governance and decision making.

Must sites follow the template Local Authority IA to the letter?

Use of the template Local Authority IA and the provisions contained within it are not mandatory.

If used, the template Local Authority IA must be tailored locally but the template is an indication of the level of commitment likely to be required for effective collaboration between the organisations.

When adapting the template locally, the parties may make changes to the tone and language if required to reflect locally-understood terminology and sensitivities.

What initial matters should the ICP and the Local Authority consider and agree when tailoring the template Local Authority IA?

The ICP and the Local Authority (parties) will need to agree the following points:

- **Existing arrangements** – what arrangements already exist between the parties and do those arrangements affect the provisions of the Local Authority IA? For example, NHS organisations and local authorities are able to integrate service provision through a section 75 agreement;
- **Term** – what is the term of the Local Authority IA and can it be extended;
- **Integration objectives** – the template Local Authority IA sets out example objectives. The parties will need to agree what objectives are relevant and amend/delete/add to the examples. The purpose of the Local Authority IA is for the parties to achieve the objectives, so these need careful consideration. Prior to setting and agreeing the objectives, it is very important to understand the purpose of the collaboration and what the parties are aiming to achieve. This is essential for an effective Local Authority IA. Consideration should be given, when setting objectives, to the ICP care model and the obligations of the ICP as set out in the ICP contract;
- **Integration principles** – consider how the parties will behave whilst working together to achieve the integration objectives. The template Local Authority IA includes example principles which can be amended/deleted/added to;
- **Scope of Services** – the Local Authority IA recognises the separate of the ICP services and the Local Authority services. The parties need to agree what ICP services and what Local Authority services are within scope of the Local Authority IA and set these out in Schedule 6.

How will decisions be taken, and effective governance ensured to aid the effective and timely achievement of the integration objectives?

The template Local Authority IA establishes an Integration Board to govern the operation of the Local Authority IA. The Integration Board is essentially a forum in which the organisations discuss and agree actions to achieve the integration objectives.

The template Local Authority IA sets out terms of reference for the Integration Board. Sites may amend the governance arrangements as they see fit but any local arrangements for decision making should be set out in a similar way to the terms of reference in Schedule 3. Sites should also consider whether other stakeholders should be part of the forum in some way, e.g. in the context of a partially integrated ICP, sites may want primary care representatives observing discussions between the ICP and the Local Authority to ensure greater integrated service provision across the whole health and social care system.

Similarly, in relation to the Local Authority services within scope of the Local Authority IA, sites may want to consider if it is beneficial to have representation at discussions from care home providers and/or social care providers. Such representation could be restricted to discussion only rather than being full members of the Integration Board.

Should the Local Authority IA include local details other than the main terms of the agreement?

The template Local Authority IA contains schedules in which local detail should be added relating to local systems, processes and protocols. The wording of the schedules should dovetail with the wording of the main body of the Local Authority IA. Care should be taken to ensure that any pre-existing documentation that is added to the Local Authority IA does not create conflicts or inconsistencies with other provisions of the Local Authority IA. It should be made clear which wording takes precedence in the case of any conflict.

3. Local Authority IAs in practice

How can the parties monitor achievement of the integration objectives?

The template Local Authority IA enables the parties to set out Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as a way of monitoring progress towards the achievement of the integration objectives. KPIs are for local agreement and, if they are to be included, should be set out in Schedule 4.

4. Local Authority IAs in relation to other agreements

What is the difference between a Local Authority IA and a section 75 agreement?

A Local Authority IA is designed to provide a framework for collaboration between an ICP and a Local Authority to achieve objectives relating to integration of health and/or care services.

Section 75 agreements are made pursuant to statutory regulations and can enable certain NHS organisations and local authorities to pool funds and delegate the exercise of certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to each other if it would lead to an improvement in the way those functions are exercised.

The Local Authority IA is not a s75 agreement. The template Local Authority IA does not enable one party to delegate the exercise of any statutory functions to the other party. Care must be taken to ensure the activities undertaken by the organisations in the Local Authority IA are not the types of activities that are only allowed under a s75 agreement. The organisations under a Local Authority IA could be challenged if they

seek to use the Local Authority IA to carry out the types of activity reserved to a section 75 agreement.

If the arrangements in a local area require one organisation to exercise the statutory functions of the other, e.g. the ICP is required to provide health related Local Authority services, then a section 75 agreement is likely to be needed. In such cases, a Local Authority IA may not also be required. In certain circumstances a Local Authority IA could be used alongside a section 75 arrangement, e.g. where the local arrangements required both delegation of the exercise of statutory functions and a lesser type of collaboration on other services.

How does the Local Authority IA relate to a GP Integration Agreement (GP IA)?

A GP IA is intended to be used to secure the participation and contribution of GP practices in an ICP care model (see the [GP IA FAQs](#) for more details). Depending on the particular ICP care model, an ICP could be party to both a Local Authority IA and a GP IA.

In such circumstances, local sites may want to include wording in the Local Authority IA stating the intent for the Local Authority to work closer with GPs and in the GP IA stating the intent for the GPs to work closer with the Local Authority. The agreements could also set out how this intent will be actioned. An example is for any meeting under the agreements to include observers – i.e. GP representatives attend Integration Board meetings held under the Local Authority IA, and Local Authority representatives attend the Integration Leadership Team meetings held under the GP IA.