June 2025

Briefing

Purpose

The purpose of this tool is to support your System level self-assessment of your current level of maturity with regards to Neighbourhood Health. It will also be used to support dialogue between yourselves and the Regional Programme in terms of joint actions and support, alongside learning from across the Midlands Region where there is identified good practice.

Scope

The self-assessment should be carried out at System Level, focusing at either Place and/or Neighbourhood level, and INT/MDT and Service coverage in relation to the total population of the System. For this baseline assessment your responses should focus on the 2 to 4 % of Complex Patients (Adult and CYP) that are at risk of long-term admissions to either Hospital or Care Homes.

Timeline Checkpoints

Systems are asked to complete a baseline self-assessment, using the criteria set out in this document to determine the current level of maturity, by end-of June 2025 and return via the Midlands Regional ROC by 12:00, on the 24th July 2025.

The Self-assessment will be re-run, late Q3/early Q4.

Measuring outcome

The baseline assessments will be used to agree a programme of support with the Regional Hospital to Community (H2C) Programme, and to assess progress at year-end.

Briefing continued

2025/26 Delivery Requirements, as set out in the National Neighbourhood Health Guidelines

- Standardisation and scaling of the initial 6 components
- Agree locally what specific impacts systems will seek to achieve during 2025/26, including as a minimum:
 - improving timely access to general practice and urgent and emergency care
 - preventing long and costly admissions to hospital
 - preventing avoidable long-term admissions to residential or nursing care homes
- Supporting adults, children and young people with complex health and social care needs who require support from multiple services and organisations
- NHS England » Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26
- NHS England » Guidance on neighbourhood multidisciplinary teams for children and young people
- NHS England » Standardising community health services

Briefing continued

Points to note in completing this tool

- 1. The Maturity Framework is structured to follow the Core Components and Enablers of the Neighbourhood Health Guidance. It is recognised that there maybe some overlap between the statements within the core components and Enablers that have been developed. This is inevitable when viewed via an implementation perspective and should be used to reinforce the co-dependencies between components and outcomes
- 2. Selection of the self-assessed level of maturity is a judgement, not an absolute decision. Systems will find that they have many elements across the maturity continuum, supported by local evidence. What is important, is that in completing the assessment, systems have a clear view on the actions they need to take to progress implementation, alongside the support that would be beneficial from the Regional Programme. Whilst helpful for your system to acknowledge maturity across the continuum, the focus of year 1 is to fully meet the 'starting' maturity for the identified population of 2-4% implementing INT/MDTs
- 3. Your final 'judgement' of maturity in this baseline assessment should be determined in relation to the 2025/26 specific requirements,. The framework will facilitate a wider assessment in future years, following publication of the '10 Year Plan for Health'
- 4. When completing the assessment, please outline the local evidence you have used to determine your judgement in relation to Maturity.
- 5. Prior to submitting your completed assessment, please ensure that it has been moderated across the organisations and functions involved in implementing Neighbourhood Health

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Population health management	 Have one consistent PHM approach and analytical tools in place. Have information governance, data sharing and processing arrangements in place to ensure that data is shared safely, securely and legally. Able to segment and risk stratify population data. All available data can be broken down into neighbourhood and place level 	<u>-</u>	All the preceding characteristics plus: Use advanced analytical tools (including segmentation to identify inequalities) and approaches to improve care Have a cross-system intelligence function providing support to all levels of the system.	All the preceding characteristics plus: • Apply a single consistent systemwide PHM method to ICB analytics platforms to segment and risk stratify populations, based on complexity and forecasted resource use. • Dataset to have broadened to include data components from: Local or central government including employment, education, safeguarding, voluntary services and housing status • Developed multi-disciplinary analytical and improvement teams to ensure a data driven approach to development on interventions, focussing on prevention and reducing health inequalities. • Dataset to have broadened to include data components from: • Local or central government including employment, education, safeguarding and housing status	Standard word regarding the position of the Systemwide PHM tool needs to be supplied by System Primary Care for inclusion in all place selfassessments. We can include local workarounds which we are using to get us started whilst awaiting the release of the System PHM tool. This is further supplemented by information tools and dashboards being developed by individual organisations e.g. SWBH Town Dashboard, where we are able to utilise acute information looking at the following data by town: Demographic profile, community contacts, emergency care, elective, outpatients and diagnostics with information about type of patient accessing service and also top intervention or complaint for each area.

	Neighbourhood Health Maturity Sen-assessment					
Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence	
Modern general practice	ICB has established a Primary/Secondary Care interface group with a named SRO ICB supporting practices to participate in local and national services to redirect avoidable secondary care patient contact to general practice/community providers All practices have all 3 (Online consultation, Cloud based telephony and walk in) channels available to patients to access general practice and patients are informed of how their enquiry will be managed at the first point of contact ICB has identified practices to participate in the national Practice Level Support programme to implement modern general practice ICB starting developing approaches to reducing unwanted variation across their practices		 Primary/secondary care interface progress resulting in patients being seen in an appropriate setting by primary/secondary care clinicians. Increase in the number of patients using self-referral services, an increase in the use of advice and guidance service by general practice and delivery of EHCH DES specification. All practices working towards modern general practice and have OC open during core hours for both admin and clinical requests. Mature care navigation and triage processes are in place and being maximised for Pharmacy First pathways and digital self service. Continuity of care is a consideration for all appointments GP Dashboard metrics indicate MGP model in place and show improvements over time. HIS patient satisfaction and continuity of care metrics show improvement over time. Peer Ambassadors providing targeted support locally to practices to 	 Cultural shift within acute trusts where primary/secondary care protocols adopted across acute trusts Reducing demand through developing models ICB capturing qualitative information highlighting benefit to patients and primary/secondary care. All practices have implemented all elements of modern general practice as indicated by GP Dashboard metrics. All practices have OC open during core hours for both clinical and admin requests and capture structured 		

Neigl	Neighbourhood Health Maturity Self-assessment					
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Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence	
Standardising community health services	 Local needs, priorities & inequities for Community Health Services for children & adults (CHS) are starting to be identified and understood The provision of core CHS services across Neighbourhood footprints has been mapped and discussions are taking place regarding commissioning of services to ensure equity of access, and appropriate service provision for the identified demand Commissioning intentions for Neighbourhood Health services integrates both NHS and Local Authority provision, wider system partners and providers, and the voluntary and third sector Work is beginning on improving collaboration & joint decision-making to improve outcomes, patient experience & to support the shift of activity from hospital to community Current commissioning arrangements including contract management frameworks, alongside service provision, is being reviewed to deliver management of patients outside of the acute setting where appropriate, including those with escalating care needs in line with the Neighbourhood Health guidance The Neighbourhood Health commissioning strategy is in development with the involvement of all system partners The system is aligning the workforce & financial data against its draft Neighbourhood Health strategy 	 Population health management analysis is being used to identify demand at a Neighbourhood level alongside opportunities for shifting care to a community setting where appropriate New outcomes-based service specifications that align with the agreed system strategy are in development Through the established Neighbourhood based working and integration, improvements in services are being identified and implemented Work is progressing across health & local authority strategic 	 Commissioned services, at Neighbourhood level, are designed meet the locally identified priorities & Health inequities for those populations Standardised, equitable & accessible integrated community health services (including all documented elements of planned care) are designed, commissioned & delivered effectively, with patients, carers and families, to meet the needs & priorities of their population. Services at a Neighbourhood level have been integrated across Health and Local Authorities, focused on outcomes, including patient experience, that achieve the shift from Hospital to Community A cohesive and effective neighbourhood health commissioning strategy is in place, integrating relevant elements across 111, UEC and UCR and recognising the need for services 24/7. Ongoing Contract Management, underpins provider accountability and shared resources aligned with the agreed outcomes within each defined Neighbourhood 	All the preceding characteristics plus: An exemplary neighbourhood health commissioning approach, developed and driven by all strategic partners Excellent collaborative leadership across health & local authority partners Effective co-production & proactive work to anticipate & understand the current & future needs of children & adults. Innovative use of funding Community health services are seamless & are used as exemplars for other areas, demonstrating clear improvements in outcomes Community health services provide excellent patient, family/carer & staff experience & outcomes Core service provision is understood & described in detail, enabling flexibility & innovation.	There are established MDT town teams meeting monthly in all 6 towns working well together. This is enhanced by embedded voluntary sector partnership working as part of the MDT We have a robust home first approach and support people to not be conveyed. The PHM data will enable us to develop our approach and we have plans to develop this.	

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Neighbour-hood multidisciplinary teams (MDTs)	 You have developed a model, which has been piloted in at least 1 neighbourhood The approach has been evaluated following dynamic implementation on a specific cohort of patients based upon Population Health analysis The INT/MDT includes Local Authority Colleagues, alongside Acute, MH and Primary Care Colleagues, and Third Sector The holistic care plans are developed to take account of the patient voice, with patients participating in the plan development 	 There is an agreed, system level expansion plan to achieve 100% of the same INT/MDT approach across the system for the initial cohort The capability to access the Shared Care Record is in place across the system and all INT/MDT Participants can access this Plans have been developed to modify the approach for different cohorts, as identified by Neighbourhood Level PHM analysis Workforce plans to enable staff to 	plus:	 plus: There is a reduction in the utilisation of unscheduled care / A&E Attendances for the target cohorts of patients There is an increase in the use of Community/Primary Care based Urgent Care The system has local mechanisms for monitoring achievement of outcomes The workforce has the capability to utilise remote technologies to support patients in their own home 	We have pilots planned to develop

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Integrated intermediate care with a 'Home First' approach	 MDT discharge planning including rehabilitation requirements starts on day of admission Joint decision-making between Health and Social Care at point of discharge Clear information across the whole system on commissioned bedded capacity for Pathway 2 (Community-based rehab) System level criteria is established for discharge Pathway 2 (community-based rehab) Criteria is established at system level for discharge Pathway 2 beds aligned to national policy and rehab complexity scores (2a, 2b, 2c,2d). Clear roles and responsibilities established between CTHs and INTs Evidence of Therapy led provision in intermediate care Identification of gaps / opportunities for step-up care (based on 'avoidable hospital admission information') 	Hub (CTH) and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) Clear information across the whole system on commissioned P1 services, that enable a Home First / Intermediate Care approach Home first approach embedded across acute and community inpatient discharge teams System level performance	plus: Accurate integrated reporting of intermediate care System level performance framework that identifies all instances where Home First was not achieved (at point of admission or discharge) Case management approach in some areas e.g. complex discharge patient Evidence of increase in step-up activity (with corresponding decrease in acute / step-down provision)	 approach across integrated teams (including IDTs). INTs safely 'pulling' patients home Ability to evidence and celebrate how the Home First approach is embedded as business as usual (shift from hospital to community) Evidence showing avoidance of long-term admissions jointly between health & social care Evidenced adequate community/Step Up provision commissioned in line with PHM analysis re: demand People discharged to appropriate setting on Discharge Ready Date (through effective discharge planning) Monitoring of outcomes including patient experience (intermediate care) embedded at Neighbourhood, Provider, Commissioner levels 	PROGRESSING We have a mature Integrated Discharge Hub of Health and Social Care workforce. We have an integrated reablement facility (Harvest View) to enable step up and step down. We have daily capacity meetings informed by data. We have a bed matrix across our place with details of bed provision. We have therapy led provision across all P1 and P2 pathways. We have accessible step-up provision available for health and social care teams. We have a range of improvement activity underway including the need to embed automatic and systematic capture of patient experience.

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Urgent neighbour- hood services	SPoA are in place but require further work to optimise the opportunity and meet minimum specifications including: • one SPoA number for each ICB • Ambulance 'stack' is visible and reviewed (hear and treat) • Call Before Convey in place (see and treat) • UCR provision is aligned with existing demand at a rate of 180 per 100k pop • Step-Down and step-up VW provision meets national minimum standards • Step-up VW provision is being explored and enhanced to facilitate ED avoidance for identified cohorts of patients (frailty) • SPoA can facilitate referrals from GP, NHS111, care Homes and Ambulance Service as a minimum • SPoA should operate for a minimum 12hrs per day (working towards 24hrs)	All the preceding characteristics plus: Data capture to improve understanding of potential demand across urgent services and how this aligns with existing workforce/skills/capabilities/capacity Provision of community step-up VW in place, and ED attendance is avoided Digital enablement is commencing Communication across all services exploring opportunities to collaborate and integrate Majority of the minimum requirements for SPoA are being met. Pathways are being explored through the lens of Frailty to ensure all service provision required is in place, optimised and adds value to the patient. Reduce the various referral points to streamline access to the most appropriate service at the earliest part of the patient journey including alternatives to ED	All the preceding characteristics plus: Collaboration between the CTH and SPA to align accessible services and streamline access and data collection. Progressing towards working 24/7 Wide range of health and social care professionals can access the SPoA where triage, streaming, referral is required SPoA can directly book patients into appropriate services in a timescale that meets their presenting need (same day/next day) Digital enablement is progressing at pace, with access to SCR, Care Plans, Respect forms, recent clinical records etc, that will aid clinical decision making Care Homes (with/without nursing) will have streamlined access into SPoA to provide clinical advice and facilitated response from suitable services so that staff avoid calling 999 where not clinically appropriate	All the preceding characteristics plus: Mature (potentially combined/integrated) SPA/CTH operating 24/7, and at scale across defined geography with a single access route/number Access to SPA/CTH available to any health and social care professional, and selected patients, where clinically beneficial Ability to triage, coordinate and access all urgent care services to avoid ED attendances or readmissions where clinically safe to do so – regardless of where the patient resides (own home/care home) Aligned D&C across all urgent pathways (acute and community) including as a minimum, UCR, step up/down VW, Medical & Frailty SDEC, UTCs, diagnostics, falls – supported by access to social care, pharmacy, voluntary sector etc The use of robust accurate data to closely monitor service provision, utilisation and access	PROGRESSING/ACHIEVING We have one SPA for Sandwell where UCR and visible ambulance stack and call before convey is in place. Step-down and step-up is in place with virtual wards and can support referrals from multiple partners. We have demand and capacity modelling for UCR and Virtual Wards to develop proposed workforce models. Community step-up is in place with digital tools and we are developing this further. We communicate and work together across our services to develop integration including a frailty focus with some specific workshops. We have some frailty pilots planned with consultant attending our care navigation centre, piloting a GP person in the hub and developing proactive work in care homes.

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
System Architecture and model of Care	 System has defined and agreed its Neighbourhoods System partners have been identified There is a developed shared vision and outcomes There are agreed accountability arrangements There is clear leadership, organisational and clinical, setting the direction 	 plus: Roles and responsibilities across partners has been identified There is clear governance arrangements and lines of accountability between 	 Plus: All ICB geography (100%) is operating with a Neighbourhood Health model The system has established collaboration between providers both NHS and non-NHS. There is an embedded improvement approach where learning is being shared and acted upon 	 plus: There are full integration both horizontally and vertically at their Neighbourhoods. There is a clear delivery programme for each Neighbourhood. INTs are in operation for PHM analysis identified demand / 	 Within Sandwell the 6 Towns are recognised by all partners including the residents as the neighbourhoods for the development of INT. All partners are part of the Sandwell Health & Care Partnership (SHCP) which has clear governance and has set out its vision and priorities which has identified key transformation priorities of Connected Communities and Home First. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital (SWBH) acts as the host for the SHCP. A draft INT specification is being developed by the ICB system in conjunction with all relevant parties which will support and set out agreed outcomes. We are continuing to develop our neighbourhood model and have some pilots currently being mobilised to test out our new model

Neighbourhood Health Maturity Self-assessment

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
	■ There is an established shared vision with			All the preceding characteristics	STARTING
			•	plus:	
	neighbourhood teams, shared with ICBs,	 Staff involved in pilots are 	There is an established shared	 Ways of working and integrated 	All partners are part of the
	Local Authority and local providers	engaged and are actively	culture and set of values that	processes support learning and	Sandwell Health & Care
	The system has built early engagement	involved in building the local	support collaboration and patient-	continuous improvement.	Partnership (SHCP) which has
	and buy-in from all professionals across	neighbourhood service model	centred care across all stakeholders		clear governance and has set out
	specialties and services	to optimise the use of	and participants in Neighbourhood	and plan that articulates the future	its vision and priorities which has
	Work is progressing on developing a	services, including wider	MDTs/INTs	activity shift from hospital and	identified key transformation
	shared culture and set of values that	primary care, general	Workforce leaders across arganizations have an agreed joint.	community that fully takes account	priorities of Connected Communities and Home First
	support collaboration and patient-centred	practice, mental health, community health services,	organisations have an agreed joint expansion plan linked to the agreed	of population health needs and requirements.	Our town team MDTs have been
	careA focused workforce mapping exercise	neighbourhood MDTs and	service delivery model	There is future years plan for joint	effective in building relationships
	has been started to map existing	social care services.	understanding future supply and	training and staff rotation across all	to develop shared ways of
	workforce capacity, skills and capabilities		technology requirements	services	working.
	across all partners and providers in a	identified to inform roll-out of	 Staff are enabled to utilise skills and 		Due to current system financial
	bottom-up approach.	other MDTs from service	tools to safely work across	opportunities to better enable	pressures, it is challenging to
	 Distributed leadership capability is starting 		organisational boundaries in each	productive integrated working with a	
	to be built across neighbourhood teams	■ There is a broader	neighbourhood	supply training and education plan	future.
	There is an agreed approach to ensuring	organisational development	■ There is joint training and staff	in development to support delivery	The pilots we have planned for
	skills and tools are in place for staff to	plan with identified metrics	rotation for neighbourhood teams in		INTs will develop how we work
Workforce	safely work across organisational	and deliverables	operation		together across organisations
	boundaries in a pilot area.	 Workforce leadership across 			with shared tools and processes
	 There is multi-professional working with 	organisations have a shared			 We have established feedback
	clearly defined roles and shared	vision to inform future			loops in services and
	accountability	expansion plans			organisations, but we are
	 There is an outline organisation 				developing how this is
	development plan which describes how to				integrated.
	bring teams together ahead of service				We have explored other local
	delivery.				models to understand their
	Establish feedback loops and support				learning to build into our model
	continuous learning				and how we roll-out this model.

Through our Black Country

		Neighbourhood Health Maturit	ty Self-assessment		
Six core componen ts and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Clinical and professiona I Leadership					 Unable to assess without criteria. Strong clinical and professional leadership within the Sandwell Health & Care Partnership from all partners. Strong Primary Care Collaborative of all the PCN CD's that are actively part of the governance of the SHCP and are part of the leadership and development of all plans. Sandwell clinical leads also are key leaders of the Black Country Integrated Care Board and Black Country Primary Care Collaborative

Six core components and enablers	Starting	Progressing	Achieving	Excelling	Local/System Evidence
Digital	 Integrated neighbourhood teams (INT) to have agreed data sharing agreement that enables shared care planning Members of the integrated Neighbourhood teams (INTs) to have digitalised records Robust digital maturity mapping across integrated Neighbourhood teams (INT) to ensure an adequate or minimum level of infrastructure is in place to support cross setting working The INT/MDT is using minimal data from all participants including primary, community and acute providers as part of care planning There is retrospective reporting reservice utilisation and performance The INT is using manual processes, e.g. paperwork, phone calls etc in their delivery of services to patients Patient self-management through assistive technologies is limited, e.g. passive patient portals Limited/pilot programmes utilising remote monitoring and online consultations for patients 	 providers; beginning to include social determinants data Basic digital referral systems; limited communication between teams Self-management, patients receive digital reminders, educational content Online consultations available as part of INT/MDT support, but not embedded in care pathways 	 All the preceding characteristics plus: Integrated Shared care record accessible across settings (primary, acute, community); includes behavioural and social data Predictive models identify patients at risk of admission; alerts for care teams Shared digital care plans with coordinated task management across teams Interactive tools for selfmanagement; remote monitoring/communication with care teams Remote monitoring for high-risk cohorts with guidelines for follow-up Dashboards showing KPIs: admission rates, response times, care plan adherence Live Data reporting across MDT within INT Regular Data validation process in place Joint model of care implemented across INT that is supported by Digital 	 All the preceding characteristics plus: All members of the INT reporting via Federated Data Platform (FDP) Information regarding care provided by all members of the INT available via NHS APP Digital infrastructure interoperable and accessible across a patient's pathway within an INT provider Real-time data exchange; predictive dashboards; full interoperability with regional/national systems Al-driven dynamic risk scoring; integration of unstructured data (e.g. notes, wearables); outcomes inform prevention strategies Real-time shared workflows; automatic triggers for care team intervention; performance tracking Personalised engagement (PEPs, full access to NHS App functionalities, chatbots, virtual care); real-time feedback from patients; equity-aware engagement analytics Proactive intervention based on continuous data streams (e.g. wearables, home devices); virtual ward Real-time dashboards with drill-down capabilities; predictive and prescriptive analytics on system-level and patient-level metrics 	We are developing agreed data sharing agreements across all partners. We do not yet have digitised records or an assessment of our digital maturity and are currently using manual processes. Patients are directed to self-help tools and information electronically by general practice partners, eg, lifestyle changes. We have digital tool in place for Virtual Words (Docobo) and are reviewing the system.

System Level Actions and Opportunities

Actions	
Opportunities	