

## Glossary of terms

**Integrated care systems** bring together local organisations to redesign care and improve population health, creating shared leadership and action. The NHS Long Term Plan requires integrated care systems to be created everywhere by April 2021, building on the progress already made by the NHS and partners.

The key elements of an **integrated care system** (ICS) are:

- GP practices working together in networks – called ‘primary care networks’
- ‘integrated care partnerships’ drawing together all the NHS organisations in a given area and working more closely with health improvement services, social care, district councils, and community and voluntary services
- strategic streamlined commissioning, taking a single set of commissioning decisions at system level. This will typically be undertaken by a single CCG for each ICS area (as is proposed in Kent and Medway).

**Primary care networks** (PCNs) are groups of practices working together and as part of wider multi-professional teams to deliver proactive, personalised, co-ordinated, integrated health and social care for local neighbourhoods: typically 30,000 to 50,000 registered patients. They have their own funding and will employ people working in new roles (such as physiotherapists, clinical pharmacists and social prescribing link workers) and provide some services for everyone in their area.

They will assess unwarranted variations in the health of their local populations and feed their knowledge, expertise and insight into the emerging local Integrated Care Partnerships. They have been live in Kent and Medway since 1 July 2019.

**Integrated care partnerships** (ICPs) will consist of primary care networks, and hospital, community and mental health NHS providers. While each organisation will hold a budget, they will agree together how funding is spent locally. They will free up staff to work in teams based on skills and patient needs, regardless of which NHS organisation employs them. They will work closely with local authority services and community and voluntary services.

The leadership of the **Kent and Medway Integrated Care System** is expected to consist, by April 2021, of:

- a **system commissioner** (the proposed single CCG) with statutory authority to commission health services in Kent and Medway, in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2012
- a **partnership board**, representing commissioners and providers from across health and care, as well as local government, the community and voluntary sector and other stakeholders. It will include representatives from integrated care partnerships and PCNs and will advise the system commissioner
- a **clinical and professional board** to provide clinical and managerial steer
- a **health and wellbeing board**.