

## Health Devolution

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

### Summary

This report provides background to the LGA's work around health and devolution including an update on the working group established by NHS Confederation and co-sponsored by the LGA. The report suggests actions around how the Board might like to engage with the health and devolution work over the 2023/24 cycle.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Supporting local people and places

### Recommendation(s)

**That Members note the LGA's health and devolution work to date including the health and devolution working group.**

**That Members provide a steer about whether they are happy to proceed with the proposed next steps as outlined in paragraph 8.**

### Contact details

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## Health Devolution

### Background

1. The City Regions Board has a longstanding interest in strengthening the alignment between NHS reform and local authority devolution to improve health outcomes and economic and social development.
2. The Board works closely with the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board as they lead the LGA's policy development relating to the integration of health and care, the transformation of the health and care landscape, and the rollout of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and health devolution. Previous City Regions Board meetings have been attended by officers from the Community Wellbeing Board providing updates on their work and priorities.
3. A key organisation to engage with as part of this work is the NHS Confederation. As the NHS membership organisation, it brings together, supports, and speaks for healthcare bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and leads on how ICSs and the NHS can support economic growth.

### Health and devolution working group

4. In March 2023 the NHS Confederation established a time-limited health and devolution working group, in partnership with the LGA. The aim of the group is to understand the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for ICS leaders, how this intersects with English devolution to date and the emerging devolution deals to create a system that allows for devolution deal areas and ICSs to build a partnership together. The three LGA policy boards with an interest in this work – the People and Places Board, City Regions Board, and the Community Wellbeing Board are all represented on the working group. The LGA's Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, sits on it too.
5. The group is co-chaired by Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Dr Kathy McLean, Chair of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Its membership comprises organisations including NHS Confederation, LGA, combined authorities, public health leaders in councils, representatives from DLUHC and DHSC.

6. To date the group has met four times and considered the following areas:
  - Place – How combined authorities and ICPs can support and enhance subsidiarity, integration and population health approaches at place level
  - Paraphernalia – The tools, resources and approaches that local partners can use to unlock greater system working
  - Practice – Highlighting where local partners are successfully collaborating to support their communities
  - Partnerships – How ICSs should engage locally and nationally
  - Policy – How to highlight devolution policy areas that directly and indirectly intersect with ICS roles and responsibilities
  - Process – How combined authorities and ICSs can jointly develop or align more closely their governance and accountability arrangements.
7. Officers are now drafting a report highlighting emerging best practice and learning from the working group discussions. They will also develop a set of recommendations for politicians and officials to consider how to drive shared outcomes for places at a local level and the powers and resources required. Officers will bring a draft version of the report to the November meeting for discussion with City Regions Board Members.

## Proposals

8. Members are asked to give a steer on the proposed actions:
  - Michael Wood, Head of Health Economic Partnerships at NHS Confederation attends the November City Regions Board meeting for a discussion with Members about the progress of the health and devolution working group and emerging recommendations.
  - Officers develop and bring a plan to the November Board meeting around the publication and launch of the final report and recommendations. This might involve organising a launch event in collaboration with NHS Confederation and developing a stakeholder engagement plan that identifies key politicians, officials and wider organisations whom the Board might like to engage with to land the recommendations.
  - The recommendations are used to shape a panel session at the City Regions Board 2024 Urban Summit event. This will be an opportunity for the Board to influence key policymakers ahead of the next general election.

## Implications for Wales

9. Health is a devolved function and ICSs have only been introduced in England.

## Financial Implications

10. Any financial commitments made as part of the actions identified in this report will be met from the Board's existing policy budget.

## Equalities implications

11. The implementation of ICSs provides an opportunity for to local government to work in partnership with health service providers to address health inequalities. Democratically elected local leaders understand the needs of their communities best and are best placed to tackle health inequalities. Where local government has been given the powers to address population health, outcomes have improved.

## Next steps

12. Members are asked to note background to the LGA's health and devolution work, the work of the joint health and devolution working group, its engagement to date and planned next steps.
13. Following a steer from Members around whether they are happy with the proposed health and devolution work, officers will take forward the work stream. Once the health and devolution working group has concluded its work and launched its final report there will be an opportunity for the Board to consider further activity in this area.