

The commitment was given to Parliament, during consideration of the Health and Care Act 2022, that every Integrated Care Board (ICB) would identify executive members of the board with explicit responsibility for the population groups and functions set out below.

The [guidance](#) to CCGs on preparing the ICB constitution stated: “The government and NHS England agreed that ICBs will be required to identify named executive board member leads for safeguarding and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and for children and young people’s services. These are not new statutory duties or additional board posts, but rather intended to secure visible board-level leadership of these issues.” In addition, commitments have been made on board level executive leadership on learning disability and autism, and on Down’s syndrome.

ICBs must ensure that they have plans in place to assign these responsibilities to a suitable executive board member to each of the five roles. We would not expect all of the roles to be performed by the same person but there may be a strong rationale to combine some of the roles.

Due to the span of these roles, ICBs will need to consider the appropriate wider governance needed to ensure executives have oversight of their responsibilities will have effectively ways to work together and to link to other executive roles. For example, the Learning Disability and Autism lead needs to work with Children and Young People and SEND leads to ensure that there is planned transition for people between children and adult services and to support a cross system response (health, education and social care).

An executive lead for children and young people

- To be accountable for how the ICB functions apply to children and young people and that they work in the interest of children and young people within their population. This applies across all ICB functions.
- The Executive Lead will need to have arrangements in place to understand and agree accountability and oversight across the ICB functions and how they will be appropriately represented at Board level.
- The Executive Lead should have a line of sight to delivery of all NHS Long Term Plan commitments for children and young people being led by the ICB.

An executive lead for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- To support the ICB Chief Executive in meeting the legal requirements of relevant legislation including the Children's and Families Act 2014
- To support the ICB Chief Executive in meeting the requirements in line with the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted SEND inspections framework in relation to health working alongside local authority partners
- To work alongside and support the Designated Clinical/Medical Officer/s and ensure that there is sufficient capacity and resource to fulfil functions of the current roles and responsibilities at place base.
- To work co-productively with children and young people with SEND and their families and understand the issues and challenges they are facing locally in accessing the support they need and working with providers and with local authorities to meet outcomes for Children and Young People with SEN/SEND.

An executive lead for Safeguarding

- The ICB chief executive will hold statutory accountability for safeguarding, but this will ordinarily be delegated to a board level executive to support the ICB Chief Executive in performing duties provided by the Children's Act 2004 and Working Together Guidance 2018.
- The ICB CEO will hold statutory accountability for safeguarding and will be legally responsible for delivering the multiagency working requirements set out in Working Together, including requirements related to delegation.
- Statutory accountability for safeguarding will be delegated to a named Executive lead in the ICB. In most cases, this will be the Executive Chief Nurse.
- The executive lead and those who they delegate responsibility to will be supported by designated professionals. Designated professionals are required to have direct access to the ICB executive lead for safeguarding, to ensure that there is the right level of influence of safeguarding on the commissioning process.

An executive lead for Learning Disability and Autism

- To support the ICB Chief Executive in meeting the legal requirements of relevant legislation including the Autism Act and any relevant statutory guidance.
- To be a champion for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and autistic people in the local area including an oversight of how care and support across health and social care is being commissioned and delivered in line with Building the Right Support, National Service Models, Building the Right Home and the NHS Long Term Plan.

- Overseeing and supporting delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan commitments on learning disability and autism within the Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)
- Overseeing and supporting effective delivery of Dynamic Support Registers and Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews
- Overseeing and supporting delivery of the Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR) programme within the ICS.
- Work in co-production with people with a learning disability, autistic people and their families to understand issues and challenges they are facing locally in accessing the care and support they need and working with ICS/ICP partners to improve their outcomes.
- Oversee the development of an integrated all-age commissioning strategy and delivery plan setting out how the ICB working with its local government partners will meet the needs of people with a learning disability and autistic people.
- Ensuring that concerns and comments raised by autistic people and people with a learning disability, as well as their families, are acted upon at the local level.

An executive lead for Down's syndrome

- To support the ICB Chief Executive in meeting the legal requirements of relevant legislation including the Down's syndrome Act and any relevant statutory guidance.
- To be a champion for people with Down's syndrome in the local area including an oversight of how the needs of people with Down's syndrome are being included in commissioning decisions
- Work co-productively with people with Down's syndrome and their families to understand issues and challenges they are facing locally in accessing the support they need and working with ICS/ICP partners to improve their outcomes.
- Ensuring that concerns and comments raised by people with Down's Syndrome, as well as their families, are acted upon at the local level.

As a next step, NHS England will publish full Statutory Guidance later this year, setting out more detail around the performance of these roles along with supporting materials.