

# **Public Accounts Committee Inquiry: Introducing Integrated Care Systems**

Written evidence submitted by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health: October 2022

- 1.8. The College notes that a multi-agency, wrap-around, cross-sector care has the ability to drive improvement in child health outcomes and ensure children and young people access the care that meets their needs. It is essential that this is supported by a range of services, including mental health services, education, and voluntary sector services, which should have a greater focus on early interventions.
- 1.9. There are several specific areas where integration will be helpful but will require concerted effort from Integrated Care Boards and other systems. Examples include:
- 1.9.1. Early intervention – mental health services, education, and voluntary sector services should have a greater focus on early interventions.
  - 1.9.2. Mental health – mental health services for all children with a mental health condition, and better access for all. This requires an integrated approach.
  - 1.9.3. Primary care – primary care should be a central part of the integrated approach, including those with a mental health condition, and a focus on early intervention, in the community.

## 2. Key recommendations for Integrated Care Boards

- 2.1. In addition to the recommendations above, the Government will also place a number of requirements on Integrated Care Boards that will put the needs of children and young people at the heart of integrated health and care services.
- 2.2. The following recommendations include:
- 2.2.1. A requirement on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to set out the ways in which they will take account of the needs of children and young people under the age of 25 in their five-year forward plans.
  - 2.2.2. A requirement on ICBs to consult people to whom services are provided, on the commissioning and provision of services, including children, young people and families.
  - 2.2.3. For NHS England to ensure their statutory guidance provides a proactive leadership on children's needs, with a particular focus on children under the age of 25.
  - 2.2.4. For the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure guidance produced on Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) contains provisions for the strategy to consider child health and wellbeing, and the needs of children's services. This guidance also needs to set out an expectation that the ICB should consult local children's leadership, and children and young people and families themselves, on the strategy.
  - 2.2.5. A commitment in legislation to publish a report, within a year, that will outline the Government's policy on information sharing in relation to children's health and social care and consistent identifier for children.
- 2.3. The findings of the review of children and young people are overlooked by systems. Illustrating this, a survey of sustainability and transformation partnerships showed that 77% of sustainability and transformation partnerships failed to sufficiently consider children's needs.<sup>7</sup> In 2019, RCPCH's own appraisal of STPs found a lack of recognition of children and young people.<sup>8</sup>
- 2.4. In addition, a survey of sustainability and transformation partnerships showed that out of the 63 sustainability and transformation partnerships, 43% did not have a dedicated lead for children and young people.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.theyworkforyou.com/psc/2021-22/Health\\_and\\_Care\\_Bill/08-2021-09-16a.322.5](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/psc/2021-22/Health_and_Care_Bill/08-2021-09-16a.322.5)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/sustainability\\_and\\_transformation\\_partnerships\\_-\\_may\\_2017.pdf](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-04/sustainability_and_transformation_partnerships_-_may_2017.pdf)

their boards, while 24 did not list their ICB members<sup>9</sup>.

- 2.5. Therefore, it is extremely positive that the Government recognised the need for this Act needed to include a greater focus on children and young people and introduced these concession amendments.
- 2.6. RCPCH is especially pleased that NHS England is required to ensure statutory guidance sets out that each ICB must have an executive children's lead. We believe this is vital for -needed strategic leadership locally to ensure system-wide view -operational across all services for children and young people the delivery of high quality, safe and effective integrated services.
- 2.7. We note that NHS England've committed to publish their guidance on the executive children's lead and would encourage them to do this and share it with ICBs as soon as is possible.
- 2.8. The Secretary of State for Health's written answer to a written question on 11th February 2019 relevant to the child (including their mind, body and social needs) to ensure agencies and appropriate services and interventions are available to the child. The specialisation of services is possible for developing and publishing health strategies and policies in line with the general principles of producing an holistic approach to the health of children and young people.
- 2.9. More recently through our Ambassador Forum, our members have recommended the ICBs:
  - 2.9.1. Have a positive role in addressing health inequalities
  - 2.9.2. Be focused on children and young people but also have a role in the wider portfolio
  - 2.9.3. Should incorporate a holistic view of child health that includes prevention and addressing inequalities and the lead
  - 2.9.4. Have the power to meaningfully consult CYP with regards to areas and services that impact on them and this feedback should influence decision-making.

### 3. Work on ICSs and children and young people: RCPCH future

- 3.1. RCPCH recognise this is a transitional year and that -and -from NHS England to the ICBs.
- 3.2. We use The College who -the needs of children and young people. This will aim to share best practice and provide a summary of progress as these new systems further establish and embed themselves -early next year.
- 3.3. In recognition of the important opportunity ICSs present to child health, the College has prioritised an -its service. Mutual knowledge and experience of children supported by the expertise of the College, -be understood and prioritised.

### 4. -

<sup>9</sup> <https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/43078/documents/795>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.rcpcb.ac.uk/sites/default/files/0318-03.pdf>

4.1 The RCPCH &Us Network<sup>11</sup>

with a scruffy, scruffy, we asked to be in the eye line  
a lot of people in the health service. It's a bit back in 2022 when I was looking

**Child:**

Clothes, food, bed banks in the same place  
as the doctors

Doctors, dentists, nurses, people to talk to  
(mental health) in one place

Enough to eat

Enough medicines and medical tools for  
everyone

More colourful walls

More staff

Cooking room

Choices

**Young People:**

Let them in and let them receive in their own  
services so they did not have to explain  
themselves repeatedly to different people  
or different services, especially about  
mental health or long-term conditions.  
More support during the night. That's  
what I go under

Wo

Services that link together better like  
physical health, mental health, sexual  
health

More information shared between the  
localities, also a mental health first aid  
day

Wait time needs to be low or a mental health  
diagnosis

Communication is important in the moment

It's hard becoming an adult & knowing  
what to do re medical admin

Making help more accessible,  
approachable for all and a more

check-ins rather than check-ups to feel it is  
a recognised case and that you get to  
them

control over which health services had  
access to their information and who they  
told, not GPs, parents/schools being told  
without permission

More help with mental health from  
listening to self-

Let them be in control of their own  
to make appointments with different  
health services

more information about what kind of  
services were available through a  
step by step process

multiple health services in the same  
physical space so they did not have to  
travel to different locations for different  
health support services.

4.2 <sup>12</sup>

produced a short leaflet that outlines how GPs can amplify children and young people's voices work