

# London Health and Care Devolution

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London is on a journey to become the healthiest city in the world. Over the past few years, our health and care system has made significant strides to organise services around the changing needs of our city's growing and diverse population. In support of this progress, the Government recently invited London to explore whether devolution could make these improvements go further and faster.

In December 2015, all 32 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), London Councils on behalf of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, the Mayor of London, NHS England and Public Health England came together as 'London Partners', and signed the [London Health and Care Collaboration Agreement](#). Through this, the Partners committed to work more closely together to support those who live and work in London to lead healthier independent lives, prevent ill-health, and to make the best use of health and care assets.

Central government and national bodies backed this vision through the [London Health Devolution Agreement](#), and invited London to explore devolution – the transfer of powers, decision-making and resources closer to local populations – as an important tool to accelerate transformation plans and respond to the needs of Londoners more quickly.

Many decisions about health service planning and budgets are taken at national level. This can sometimes create unintended barriers to delivering the connected and tailored local services that Londoners want. London has already made significant progress in integration and collaboration within the current system through: co-commissioning in almost all CCGs; cross-borough STPs; pooling budgets through the Better Care Fund; joint decision-making by health and wellbeing boards; and innovative transformation through NHS vanguards and integration pioneers.

Devolution aims to allow us to go even further by enabling health and care decisions to be made for London, in London.

Through the devolution agreements, London Partners aim to minimise unnecessary bureaucracy, and provide new opportunities for CCGs and boroughs to support Londoners to be as healthy as possible and to ensure that the health and care system is on a sustainable footing.

London's health and care landscape contributes significantly to the rest of the UK: a quarter of NHS doctors and more than half of England's nurses are trained in the capital, and London is a centre of excellence for health training, education and specialist care. London's health and care system is also very large, with hundreds of organisations and a considerable proportion of the NHS budget. Given this size and complexity, we are exploring how devolution could work in practice through [five pilots](#). These pilots have focused on our three priorities - prevention, health and care integration and making best use of health and care buildings and land - and are exploring decision-making at the most appropriate and local level.

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When developing their proposals, pilots have been exploring what is possible within the current system and what explicit devolved powers are sought. It is clear that much can be done within existing powers, but that by overcoming some specific challenges, efforts to transform health and care could go further and faster. Pilots are setting out their transformation vision, 'offers' by the local system to accelerate action and devolution 'asks' to overcome identified barriers to progress.

This paper aims to update CCG governing bodies on the progress of the London Health and Care Devolution Programme as we move towards a second devolution agreement.

We are keen to ensure the asks are coproduced and are reflective of the London-wide system's thinking. As we draft the final agreement and shape our final asks, CCG governing bodies are asked to:

1. Note progress and the forward timescales to the next Devolution agreement for London, building on the commitments and priorities agreed in December 2015.
2. Review and provide any comments on the current proposals as they support specific Devolution Pilot requests and enable the potential to devolve certain powers across London partners, including CCGs.
3. Support the development of the final Devolution agreement(s) and delegate authority to a named individual (e.g. CCG Chair) to agree and sign off the agreement on behalf of the CCG.

