

Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

To:

- Current ICS executive leads
- ICB CEO designates
- ICB chairs

24 December 2021

Copy:

- LA Chief Executives

Dear colleague

I am writing to confirm a new target date for the establishment of statutory ICSs.

In order to allow sufficient time for the remaining parliamentary stages of the Health and Care Bill, a revised target date of 1 July 2022 has been agreed for the new arrangements to take effect and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to be legally and operationally established. This replaces the previously stated target date of 1 April 2022. This new target date will provide some extra flexibility as you prepare for the new statutory arrangements and manage the immediate priorities in the pandemic response, while maintaining our momentum towards more effective system working.

An implementation date of 1 July would mean the current statutory arrangements would remain in place until then, with the first quarter of 2022/23 serving as a continued preparatory period.

I know that there has already been significant progress in preparing for the proposed establishment of statutory Integrated Care Systems; we ask that you continue to prepare for the formal establishment of ICBs in line with the guidance we have previously set out, but working to the revised target date. The attached briefing indicates what is said in the 2022/23 planning guidance on this including the adjustment to recruitment timelines for ICB leadership roles. The planning guidance also asks you to continue to develop system level plans for 2022/23, as designate or interim system leaders.

NHSEI will support CCG and designate ICB leaders to re-set their transition plans in-line with the revised timetable, working with their local partners. We will provide further guidance on this to systems in January 2022.

The establishment of statutory ICSs, and timing of this of course, remains subject to the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

Thank you for all your efforts so far in establishing ICSs on a statutory basis, I hope this extended deadline will help you progress your plans whilst addressing the challenges you are facing with the pandemic and other pressures.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Cubbon**  
Chief Delivery Officer  
NHS England and NHS Improvement