

Public questions and answers: Integrated Care Partnership meeting, 25 April 2023

Questions received from the public with responses from the ICB

<p>Question 1</p> <p>Member of the public</p>	<p>In the last set of papers there was mention of £175 million being set aside to tackle health inequalities over the next 5 years.</p> <p>With even further savings being asked for this year recently, will this money that has been set aside, be reduced or be protected? What is the expected breakdown per year? How is it expected to be distributed e.g. per borough or some other way/bidding process? How will you involve those communities most at risk of experiencing health inequalities in the heart of those conversations about how this money will be spent and co-produce the outcomes?</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The ICB medium term financial strategy sets an objective of making a tangible difference in reducing health inequalities and improving health outcomes, by investing £135m recurrently by 2027/28 in supporting targeted prevention and inequalities focussed investment across our system. The strategy also set out a commitment to deliver a sustainable financial balance across the system by 2027/28.</p> <p>As the question rightly points out, the commitment around increased investment in health inequalities will also need to take due account of the wider financial position of the NHS over this period. Within our plans recurrent resources have been earmarked each year to allow for the planned investment in health inequalities prevention as well as taking account of wider financial forecasts and commitments. On inequalities the plan assumes investment of £15m in 2023/24, increasing to £30m per annum from 2024/25 to 2027/28, building incrementally to the £135m for year five. Importantly this funding will be used across the system to support agreed investments in prevention and inequalities, which will also support our overall financial position.</p> <p>For the first year we are seeking to retain our investment commitment, noting final planning for 2023/24 is still taking place. We plan to link our inequalities investment to the five strategic priority areas agreed by the Integrated Care Partnership, noting significant engagement has already taken place as part of the development of these strategic priorities. Going forward we are committed to ensuring co production approaches to determine the right investment to support our collectively agreed priorities and ambition around reducing inequalities.</p>

Question 2

**Member of
the public**

Please can you advise if the ICS holds any data about the approx. % of its population who continue to live analogue lives (for whatever reason) and so risk exclusion from personal access to many NHS ways of working resulting from the rapid rise in the adoption of digital only ways of elements of service delivery?

Response

Although we do not have a precise percentage for south east London, [ONS](#) national statistics show that in 2018 10% of the population were internet non-users. According to [Ofcom](#), 6% of households are without internet access and a further 5% rely on mobile internet access. The communications regulator also found that 'older people are less likely to have home internet access (18% of over-64s), as are those in lower socio-economic groups (11% of those in DE households)'.

The south east London Integrated Care Partnership have set a strategic priority in relation to [primary care and people with long-term conditions](#) with a focus on access, making a commitment to work with partners to make 'better use of digital technology, while protecting people's right to face-to-face appointments and avoiding excluding people who can't or prefer not to use digital technology.'

It is right that we make use of opportunity to use digital technologies to make services more efficient and to provide health and care information to people in way more convenient to them. However we have at all times worked to ensure that access to health and care by residents is not limited to digital channels and will continue to do so. In addition, initiatives by local authorities and the VCSE sector to address digital exclusion directly are in place across south east London.