



North Central London
Integrated Care Board

SDF PCN Development Funding 2025-26 Approach

October 2025

Introduction

NHS England provides service development funding (SDF) for ICBs as additional programme funding on top of ICB baselines. The planning guidance set out that in 2025/26 NHS England will reduce the proportion of SDF that is ring fenced, with the removal of previous ring fencing for Primary Care Transformation.

Primary care service development funding and general practice IT funding guidance 2025/26 states, with specific reference to primary care (general practice), that this funding is to be used to:

- Improve patient access to and experience of general practice;
- Support the improvement and transformation of general practice, including addressing unwarranted variation;
- Continue to support the delivery of the modern general practice (MGP) model; and
- Reduce demand by developing neighbourhood health service models.

For 2025/26, £728K of funding has been allocated to develop Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within North Central London. This funding is non-recurrent and is not to be used to fund business as usual staff costs or ICB costs.

Thank-you to all PCNs for sharing your approach to using PCN Development Funding last year, both through information submitted about achievements with 2024/25 PCN Development Funding and through conversations in PCN SLF meetings. This slide deck provides an overview of how PCNs may use the 2025/26 PCN Development funding.

PCN Development – 2025/26 Areas of Focus

- Areas of focus for the 2025/26 PCN Development funding are shown below, with detail on the following slides. The intention is to enable PCNs to:
 - Continue initiatives that are working from 2024/25.
 - Have scope to test new initiatives
 - Further the focus on neighbourhood delivery
- It is important to note that:
 - Use of the funding must not duplicate with other sources of funding e.g. capacity and access improvement funding, LTC LCS funding, or with functions already provided by other parts of the system e.g. NCL training hub workforce education leads.
- As this funding is non-recurrent, PCNs must have plans in place to maintain funding where activities introduce recurrent costs.

All PCNs (30% total funding)

1. Developing neighbourhood health service models

- Information regarding this area of focus, including **scope and expected deliverable(s)**, will be circulated to PCNs during Quarter 4 25/26 (delivery may continue into 2026/27 building upon PCN neighbourhood champions work taking place in 2025/26).

PCNs select either OR both of these options (70% total funding):

2. Workforce (Supporting skills and capabilities)

- Funding a PCN Workforce Education lead*.
- Support MDT working and ARRS supervision.
- Funding a PCN Quality Improvement lead.

3. Improving ways of working

- Reducing unwarranted variation and increasing operational efficiency across the PCN.
- Adopting/embedding technology to support at-scale working across the PCN.
- Service and/or network development through PCN collaboration with network practices and VCFSE / local system partners.
- Addressing health inequalities through PCN development and collaboration with network practices and VCSFE / local system partners.

* Separate from TH funded workforce education leads

Sign-up and Reporting Processes



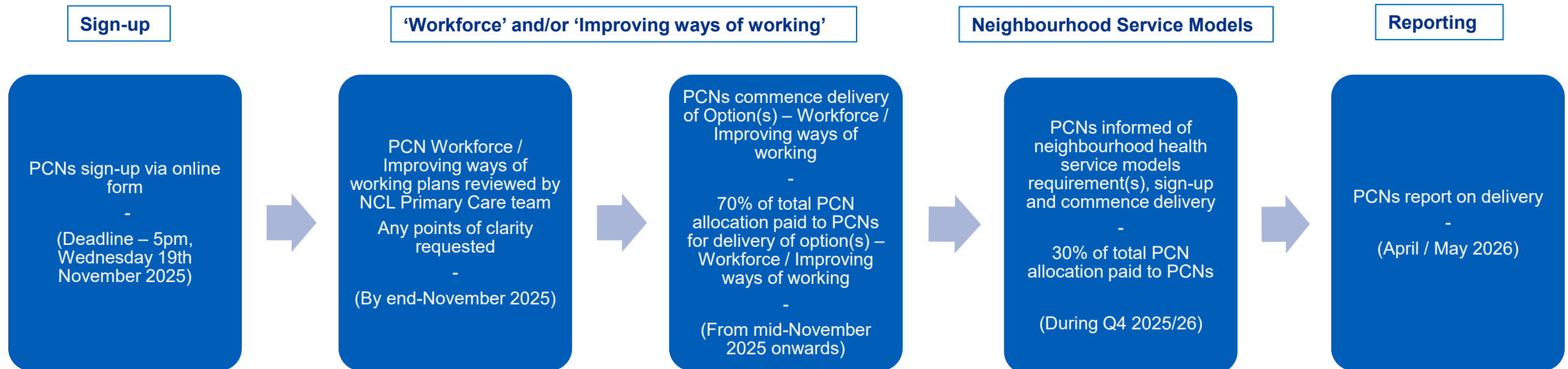
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Sign-up process

- PCNs are requested to:
 1. Inform NCL ICB on how they plan to use 70% of the funding to deliver 'Workforce' and/or 'Improving ways of working';
 2. Confirm that they understand and agree to the requirements of the funding
 3. Note that 30% of the PCN Development funding will be ring-fenced for the development of the neighbourhood health service model (information regarding expected deliverable(s) and sign up will be circulated to PCNs during Quarter 4 25/26).
- An online form has been set up here – [2025-26 SDF PCN Development Funding - North Central London ICB - Citizen Space](#) - (The online form questions are listed on slide 5 of this pack).
- **PCNs are asked to complete the online form by 5pm, Wednesday 19th November 2025.**

Year-end reporting process

- PCNs will be asked to report in April/May 2026 on:
 - Delivery of:
 - Workforce and/or Improving ways of working plan(s)
 - PCN Neighbourhood Model Operating Plan
 - Measurable impact of the work assessed through SMART methodology (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)
 - Final breakdown of allocation of the funds to each area of work
- Year-end reporting templates will be provided to PCNs during Quarter 4 25/26



Questions for PCN online CitizenSpace form

For information, these are the questions included in the online CitizenSpace form:

1. PCN name, PCN ODS code, and NCL borough located
2. Name and role of person completing the form
3. Contact email
4. Which area(s) of work is your PCN planning to take forward?
 - Workforce – supporting skills and capabilities (please describe aims, how this will be delivered, and how impact will be measured)
 - Improving ways of working (please describe aims, how this will be delivered, how impact will be measured, and how this supports ICB priorities/strategies and/or regional or national directives)
5. Please provide a percentage breakdown of anticipated allocation of funds for each PCN development area (must sum to 100%)
 - Percentage of funds allocated to Developing neighbourhood health service models (required to be 30%)
 - Percentage of funds allocated to Workforce (Supporting skills and capabilities): XX%
 - Percentage of funds allocated to Improving ways of working: XX%
6. Please confirm that you understand the requirements of how this funding is expected to be spent, and that there is a requirement to report back on progress in April/May 2026 including:
 - Work completed to date
 - Measurable impact of the work assessed through SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) methodology
 - Final breakdown of allocation of the funds to each area of work