

Digital ICS: leadership development sessions

Background

The [Digital ICS programme](#) is a free support offer for integrated care boards (ICBs) and integrated care system (ICS) leaders. It is delivered by NHS Providers in partnership with the NHS Confederation and Public Digital, and is supported by NHS England. The programme is an extension of the NHS Providers existing Digital Boards programme and is designed to support leaders to harness digital to deliver system ambitions.

Digital is a fundamental enabler to delivering the four core purposes of ICSs. ICB and ICS leaders therefore need to have a full understanding of digital ways of working in order to realise these ambitions.

Our programme focuses on the collective responsibility of the unitary integrated care board; however, we encourage the board as well as other leadership groups such as the integrated care partnership, programme boards, subcommittees and other decision-making forums across the system to take up the programme offer. Through facilitated discussions, presentation and workshops across multiple leadership development sessions, we help clarify the roles and purpose of ICB and ICS leaders in leading digital transformation across the system.

Alongside a set of free and voluntary leadership development sessions, the programme focuses on sharing good practice and peer learning on digital transformation through events and resources. You can find resources for leaders on system digital transformation [here](#).

Leadership development sessions

Our sessions are designed to help ICB and ICS leaders build their understanding of the potential and implications of the digital agenda and increase their confidence and capability to harness the opportunities it provides.

Our content is bespoke to the needs of the individual system, however examples of what we can cover include:

- **The board's role in assuring, supporting and challenging:** exploring the opportunities digital holds as an enabler for ICSs in terms of reducing health

inequalities, improving patient and staff experience, and effective use of real-time data to inform strategy and decision making.

- **Questions for integrated care board leaders:** a discussion focused on a series of questions for the board to use as tools for assuring themselves on the delivery and capability of digital programmes across the system.
- **Exploring ICS levers:** mapping the different levers, both hard and soft, the ICS currently uses to influence change, and identifying new levers.
- **Workshops:** aimed at aligning on priorities to ensure success in the short, medium and longer term.
- **Learning from other sectors:** deep dive case studies from those who have led digital transformation across large complex institutions, focused on their key reflections and lessons learned.

Our approach

Our leadership sessions are tailored to the development needs of individual systems. To understand what package of support is most appropriate, an early introduction call will be carried out with key ICB/ICS stakeholders. This will inform a proposal submitted to the ICB/ICS. Once a session is confirmed, preparation will be informed by a series of pre calls with system leaders and a review of key documents and strategies.

Given the current pressures on boards, delivery of the sessions remains flexible. We recommend a minimum of 2.5 hours for each session in order to maximise value. Sessions can be delivered virtually or face to face. We ask all members of the board or leadership group to attend.

Feedback

"The Digital ICS leaders workshop helped us align what we mean by digital and how it is an enabler for our broader priorities. It was pitched at just the right level for an audience of differing backgrounds..."

Cedi Frederick, chair, Kent and Medway ICB

"The session helped us identify how we as leaders can practically support digital delivery across the ICS...[and] enabled us to identify other key areas of work to focus on..."

David Crichton, chief medical officer, South Yorkshire ICB

"The team took time to understand the unique needs and context of our ICB. They challenged us to consider what role we as a board will play in making digital a success across our system... The session was exactly what we needed but we now need to expand this work to a wider audience across the ICS."

Shane Devlin, chief executive, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB

Please [contact us](#) to book a session or to find out more information.