



ADPH West Midlands

Position paper on screening, immunisation and vaccination - September 2025

The audience for this position paper is:

- Deputy Director of Vaccinations and Screening, NHS England - Midlands
- Chief Nurse for NHS England - Midlands
- Screening and Immunisations Leads, NHS England - Midlands
- West Midlands ICB Chief Executives
- West Midlands ICB Medical Directors
- West Midlands ICB Chief Nurses
- West Midlands Place-Based Partnerships

Summary - what is this paper about?

- NHS England has important responsibilities for vaccination and immunisation, as well as for population screening (full list [here](#)) and will establish [collaborative working arrangements](#) with ICBs for commissioning of these from April 2025.
- Responsibility for commissioning vaccination services and suitable elements of screening pathways will be delegated to ICBs in April 2026, subject to governance and Secretary of State approval.
- Local Directors of Public Health (DsPH) across the West Midlands welcome recognition of [their important role in local action on vaccination](#) given their knowledge of local populations and public health programmes, and the contribution they make to [ensure screening programmes are delivered fairly and efficiently, connecting screening commissioners and providers with communities](#).
- They seek assurance on ongoing governance including local DPH involvement, quality improvement, and attention to health inequalities for both vaccination and screening programmes at regional level during this time of change.

Background and context

Local DsPH, as independent advocates for the health of the population who provide leadership for its improvement and protection, have a [key role](#) in contributing to and influencing the work of NHS commissioners, providers and other ICS partners, helping to lead a whole systems approach to public health.

The role of DPH is a critical one within Local Authorities and within NHS systems, and includes a number of statutory and other responsibilities, including *ensuring there are*

robust plans in place to protect the health of the population and to contribute to and influence the work of NHS commissioners, providers and other ICS partners, helping to lead a whole systems approach to public health ... to improve health and care outcomes and experiences across the whole population. This includes providing appropriate challenge to arrangements for screening and immunisation programmes, advocating for an emphasis on reducing health inequalities and improving access for underserved groups.

Our aim is to positively influence the process of delegation of vaccination, immunisation and screening services in order to fulfil our statutory responsibility within Local Authorities.

Ensuring effective involvement and assurance in the process of delegation of Vaccination, Immunisation and Screening Services

The WM DsPH welcome the closer collaboration with NHS England - Midlands, on this matter.

Through a collaborative regional approach, the WM DsPH seek to be assured that there will be:

- **consistency of governance** around delegation and **improved communication** – including **expectations around** local authority leadership (support, challenge)
- increased **attention to health inequalities** – ensuring reducing health inequalities is a key principle embedded within the operating model. The allocation of resources could use the principles of **proportionate universalism**, with additional resources allocated to areas with lower coverage/uptake, on a sliding scale, to reduce the inequalities gap
- **improved data collection and sharing** (ensuring completeness of data collection, including ethnicity and learning disability, across all programmes), including **improved access to data for public health teams, data accuracy and data transparency**
- **local flexibility of delivery models** to ensure programmes are culturally sensitive and appropriate
- clear expectations for locally set ambitions and **confirmation of programme targets**
- opportunity to **benefit from working with local Public Health teams**, including joint work on increasing uptake.

At the local level, WM DsPH are keen to work with ICBs to support better outreach and engagement with local communities to increase uptake where needed, and define optimal delivery.

On behalf of the West Midlands Directors of Public Health,

Allison Duggal and Nadia Inglis

Chair and Vice Chair of ADPH WM

WM ADPH gratefully acknowledges the work already done by East Midlands ADPH, with the hope that the adoption of a Midlands-wide position on the process of delegation of Vaccination, Immunisation and Screening Services will provide an even stronger representation of the positions held by Directors of Public Health across the wider region.

[The Association of Directors of Public Health West Midlands](#) is the representative body for the fourteen WM Directors of Public Health (DsPH), working collaboratively to strengthen the voice of public health. It acts as a regional network of ADPH UK. The Chair is **Allison Duggal** and the Vice Chair is **Nadia Inglis**.