

The NHS and local growth: Working to ensure a healthy economy

The health sector is playing an increasing role in supporting local growth, with many local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) already working closely with the NHS to improve regional prosperity.

Partnering with the NHS can help you to:

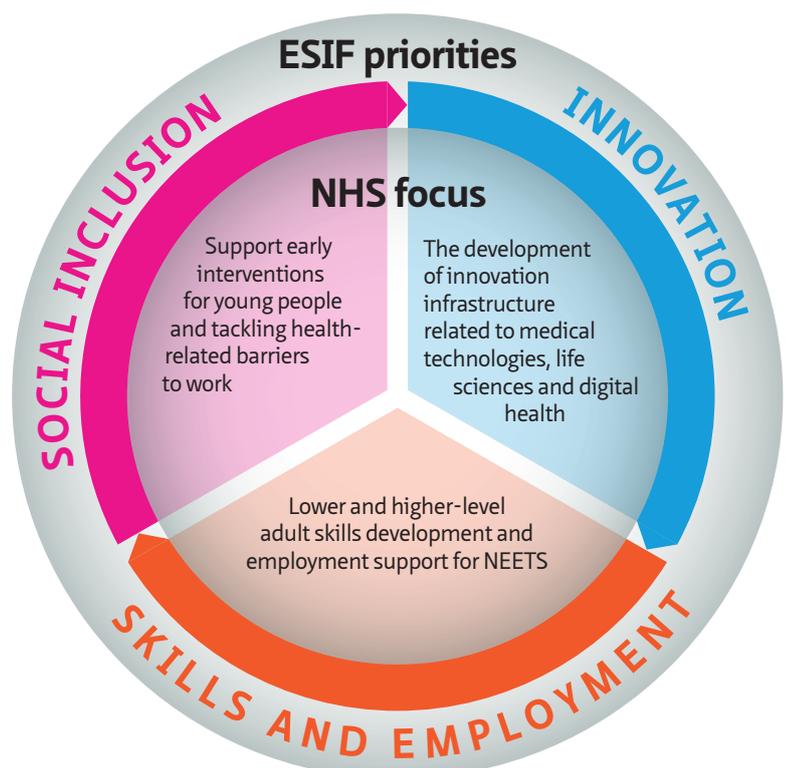
- drive additional investment into your region
- enlarge and upskill your potential workforce
- combat poverty and social exclusion across your communities.

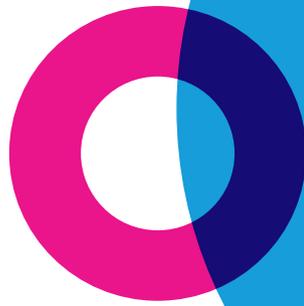
Why now for the NHS?

The NHS is facing unprecedented demand on its services. We need to balance the challenges of sustaining key public services in a tough financial climate with adapting to the health and care requirements of a significantly ageing population. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

The NHS is placed at the very heart of the local economy. To better support the communities we serve, we need to build new partnerships to maximise the value of our clinical excellence, our workforce, our infrastructure and our local investments.

The NHS in England is also becoming more heavily involved in the 2014–2020 round of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). Many of the key areas in the 2014–2020 ESIF round are reflected in the NHS' widening role within local communities:





Get involved

To discuss how we can support your local strategic economic planning, please contact

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There are many opportunities for us to work in partnership to drive local growth. LEPs are already working with the NHS in England, jointly investing millions of pounds to improve regional prosperity by:

- working to attract inward investment in areas such as medical technology, life sciences and digital health, through new innovation infrastructure and bespoke business support
- helping local small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs develop and market innovative solutions to support the self-management of healthcare needs
- broadening access to the vast range of healthcare jobs and apprenticeship offers and co-designing higher-level skills placements linked to local growth priorities
- developing new pre-employment training programmes for 16–24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and people furthest from the labour market
- growing social investment markets to support social enterprises and the social economy
- redesigning the local NHS estate portfolio to support local needs, such as research, housing and low carbon developments
- addressing community public and mental health needs to sustain and grow local employment.

Understanding your local health economy

Academic health science networks work regionally to improve health and generate economic growth. They connect academics and industry with the NHS to accelerate the process of innovation and facilitate the adoption and spread of innovative ideas and technologies.

Clinical commissioning groups are responsible for the planning and commissioning of healthcare services for their local area, underpinning the health and wellbeing of large populations.

NHS trusts – hospitals in England are managed by acute trusts, which employ a large part of the clinical and non-clinical NHS workforce. Some are regional or national centres for more specialised care, while others are attached to universities and help to train health professionals.

Health and wellbeing boards bring together the NHS, public health, adult social care and children's services to plan how to meet the needs of their local population and tackle local health inequalities. They are hosted by local authorities.

The NHS:

- is one of the biggest employers in the world, with 1.4 million staff in England
- deals with more than one million patients every 36 hours
- has planned net expenditure in 2015/16 of over £116 billion
- was rated as the best overall health system in the Commonwealth Fund's global 2014 review of ten health systems.

The NHS Confederation is the authentic voice of NHS leadership.

We are the only membership body that brings together, and speaks on behalf of, the whole health and care system.