

**Reference:** FOI. ICB-2526/230

**Subject:** NHS Talking Therapies

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
	<p>I wish to understand the testing and implementation of the outcome-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies (formerly known as Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)) undertaken in your ICB area. To provide context, in the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019, NHS England implemented a policy change relating to the reimbursement of treatment costs in NHS Talking Therapies. This relates to Local Pricing Rule 8 of the 2017/19 National Tariff, which required the adoption of an outcomes-based payment approach using the 10 national outcome measures collected in the IAPT dataset. The NHS England Strategic Finance team stated the 10 national outcome measures, and nominal weightings of each measure in the outcome element of the outcomes-based payment approach, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical outcomes - 50%.</li><li>• Patient satisfaction – 11.25%.</li><li>• Reducing disability and improved wellbeing – 10%.</li><li>• Employment outcomes – 10%.</li><li>• Patient choice – 3.75%.</li><li>• Access for BAME groups – 3%.</li><li>• Access for over 65s – 3%.</li><li>• Access for self-referrals – 3%.</li><li>• Access and waiting times standard – 3%.</li><li>• Access for specific anxieties – 3%.</li></ul> <p>Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS Talking Therapies service providers were supposed to shadow-test an outcomes-based payment approach from April 2017, with full implementation planned for April 2018. Given the time period this information relates</p>

to, I refer to the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG that transitioned into NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. The date (year and month) the Clinical Commissioning Group region shadow tested an outcomes-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies treatment in the date range of 2008 to the latest available data.
2. The date (year and month) the Clinical Commissioning Group region fully implemented an outcomes-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies treatment in the date range of 2008 to the latest available data.
3. If all NHS Talking Therapies service providers within the Clinical Commissioning Group region adopted the change in reimbursement scheme at the same time. If not, which providers were selected for shadow testing, and when did all providers adopt the change.
4. If possible, the criteria/targets and associated weightings of the 10 outcome measures for the Clinical Commissioning Group region, once the outcomes-based payment approach was implemented from its introduction and each subsequent financial year up to the latest available data.

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB), previously Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) structures, did not implement an outcomes-based payment approach for IAPT services in the time range specified.

NHS England (NHSE) conducted engagement with commissioners and providers in 2017 and it became clear that there were issues regarding quality and completeness with the national IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) data that would be required to implement an outcomes-based payment approach. Subsequently, the NHSE pricing team made areas aware of tariff flexibilities so that commissioners could take a pragmatic approach to implementation.

The NHSE policy on outcomes-based payment approaches therefore became non-mandatory and was not implemented in BNSSG in the previous or current contract for NHS Talking Therapies.

*The information provided in this response is accurate as of 30 October 2025 and has been approved for release by Helena Fuller, Deputy Director of Business, Strategy and Planning for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.*