

# 20260301 CPIS position statement

## Child Protection Information Services (CPIS)

### and the paramountcy of child safeguarding and child protection

CP-IS [Information Standards Notice](#) (October 2024) sets out the requirements under section 270 of the [Health and Social Care Act 2012](#). This includes children a child protection plan under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, including unborn child protection plans.

This s270 permits NHS Digital, now NHS England Digital Directorate to –

1. setup CPIS which was Phase 1 from 2018 to 2022.
2. run the CPIS system, which is business as usual since 2022.
3. supply a service to any person which is party to phase 2 (2023-2025) and system-wide launch projects (2025-2026).
4. provide new services, as agreed by ICB and their local statutory safeguarding partners, as per para 10 (1) of Schedule 18 of the HSCA to do anything which appears to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the exercise of its functions.

The NHS Long Term Plan (published 2019) states that: "By 2022/23, the Child protection Information System will be extended to cover all health care settings, including general practices." Further to Working Together 2023, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill (2026) and a demonstrable increase in harm to vulnerable children, healthcare providers, ICB and NHS England are required to facilitate the roll-out of CP-IS before December 2026.

Each ICB will have to have a multi-agency safeguarding arrangement (MASA) plan from December 2024 which should reference [Imbedding Working Together](#) for CPIS ~

1. Local areas should reflect on how to strengthen multi-agency working across the whole system of help, support and protection for children and their families, and children's social care, as part of a single system.
2. Local multi-agency leaders should read [working together to safeguard children](#) alongside this advice.
3. Leaders should review their current arrangements and identify what reforms need to be made to comply with statutory guidance.

Both the CPIS Board and the National Safeguarding Steering Group formally communicated the future state of CPIS via the [20260213 NSSG Statutory Safeguarding ICB Protocol for CPIS](#), below, and we'd draw your attention to –

- Para 11 – the expansion of CPIS
- Para 27-33 – the statutory safeguarding function of ICBs
- Para 34 and 35 – learning lessons and improving practice



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Our [NHS England Internal DPIA](#) focuses on delivery and security of the CP-IS system.

This DPIA also contains an annex that outlines the healthcare services who already access to CP-IS. As well as the governance control and consultation process for adding any new healthcare services to CP-IS. CP-IS access is either integrated into a local Electronic Patient Record system or by accessing the National Care Records Service.

These health services do and are about to include–

- Emergency Departments, including paediatric A&E departments.
- Walk-in Centres: Including urgent care centres.
- Minor Injury Units (MIU)
- Ambulance Services
- 111 Service
- GP Out-of-Hours Services
- Maternity Units
- Paediatric Wards
- Outpatient Departments
- Emergency Dental Services, when connected to a hospital
- General Practice
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- School Nursing and Health Visitors
- Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)
- Termination of Pregnancy Services (ToPS)
- Community Paediatrics
- NHS Dentistry
- Children’s hospices, sponsored by ICB and linked to local NHS Trust
- Youth custody suite with embedded healthcare staff who are employed by a CQC regulated healthcare provider

The NHS England CP-IS Board is working to add further health care services which see children and if you think your service would benefit from CPIA please email

[england.cpis.operations@nhs.net](mailto:england.cpis.operations@nhs.net) who can connect you with a clinical and technical lead.

Our NHS England CP-IS team are undertaking regular engagement with all Local Authorities and are seeking permission to roll-out across new healthcare services which is part of the governance approval process.

All CP-IS users can refer to the external system DPIA that has been produced to provide end users an outline of the IG framework in place for CP-IS – [Child Protection Information Sharing \(CP-IS\) system template DPIA - NHS Transformation Directorate](#)

**We request every NHS-funded and CQC-regulated services who see children and all arm’s length-bodies with professional regulated colleagues to launch CPIS by December 2026.**

The CPIS guide to pre-launch guidance is below and we are currently prototyping in 7 systems.

1. [Implementation process for healthcare organisations - NHS England Digital](#)
2. [CPIS pre-launch checklist](#)

NHS Safeguarding will be undertaking regular audits on CPIS data sets and reporting to CPIS Board and NSSG.