



An introduction to Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs)

What is an INT?

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) are multidisciplinary groups of health, social care, and voluntary sector professionals working together at a local (“neighbourhood”) level with the aim to play a central role in improving health outcomes, focusing on prevention, shifting care towards primary and community services, and reducing health inequalities.

In Sussex, INTs are also referred to as Integrated Community Teams (ICTs). These terms can be used interchangeably.

Neighbourhood health is a key part of the [NHS 10 Year Health Plan for England](#).

What is the purpose of INTs?

Coordinate care locally: Bring together primary care, community health, mental health, social care, and voluntary sector partners.

Prevent escalation: Support people to stay well and independent at home, reducing hospital admissions and long-term care needs.

Personalise support: Design care around individuals, families, and communities rather than organisational boundaries.

Service Commissioning: Services will be commissioned at a neighbourhood level enabling INTs to commission services at a local level providing people with the right services in the right place at the right time

Where does community pharmacy fit in?

Community pharmacies are key partners in INTs, offering accessible, trusted, and preventive care at the heart of the community.

Pharmacy teams contribute by:

- **Medicines optimisation:** Ensuring safe, effective, and efficient use of medicines across care settings.
- **Early intervention:** Supporting self-care, healthy living, and early identification of health issues.
- **Continuity of care:** Supporting hospital discharge, care homes, and long-term condition management.
- **Public health delivery:** Providing vaccination, smoking cessation, and minor ailments services.

- **Signposting and social prescribing:** Connecting people to wider community or voluntary sector support.

Who makes up the INTs?

Whilst these teams are still developing, they can typically include:

- General practice (GP) staff
- Community nurses, health visitors, and allied health professionals (AHPs)
- Mental health workers
- Social care and home care staff
- Children's services staff
- Community pharmacy
- Dentists and optometrists
- Secondary care
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations
- Other relevant local agencies

How will INTs benefit community pharmacy?

- Stronger links with GP practices, community nursing, and social care teams.
- Better information flow and shared care planning.
- Opportunities to shape local population health initiatives.
- Greater recognition of pharmacy's clinical role within integrated care.
- A clearer pathway for referrals and feedback between sectors.