



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Guidance: Call for expression of interest for local authorities to participate in the next phase of NHS Health Check Online

Purpose

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is seeking expressions of interest from local authorities interested in collaborating on the next phase of the development of the NHS Health Check Online.

We are currently working with three local authorities (and general practices in their areas) to pilot the NHS Health Check Online in a small-scale, private Beta pilot phase. We are now planning for the next phase of development in private Beta, following the initial 6-month pilot, before we move to public beta (national rollout) and are looking for a further five to eight local authorities to work with us.

This document sets out the background, guidance, eligibility and selection criteria for local authorities who wish to work with DHSC during this next phase of private Beta, and broadly sets out expectations and requirements for key stakeholder groups.

Applicants are urged to read this Guidance note and associated appendices carefully before applying.

Background

The NHS Health Check programme, a core component of England's cardiovascular disease prevention programme commissioned by local authorities since 2013, aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, and some cases of dementia among adults aged 40-74 years.

Each year, the NHS Health Check programme engages over 1.4 million people. A national evaluation of the programme estimated that at current statin prescribing levels, over 5 years, 2,500 people will have avoided a heart attack or stroke ([NHS Health Check Programme review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)).

However, overall national uptake of the NHS Health Check has never exceeded 50%, meaning there is still a large proportion of the eligible population that the existing in-person programme is not reaching.

An evidence-based review of the programme, published in 2021, recommended a digital approach to improve participation and engagement with the NHS Health Check. Government has since announced a commitment to develop the NHS Health Check Online from 2024.

The vision for NHS Health Check Online is to increase the flexibility and reach of the NHS Health Check through the creation of an innovative, accessible national digital service, that can be delivered alongside the local face-to-face service, that helps people understand and take action to engage with their cardiovascular health. The aim is that the NHS Health Check Online will offer participants the same assessment as set out in legislation through an additional, flexible mode of delivery.

Delivering the NHS Health Check Online

DHSC has invested around £17m in the development of NHS Health Check Online, accessible to eligible invitees through a web browser or the NHS App. Local authority commissioners can choose to offer the digital check alongside the existing in-person check, to give users more choice about where and when to have a check and empower people to take action to improve their health independently. The NHS Health Check Online will enable people to self-check at home, only directing people to their GP where further clinical assessment and treatment is required.

For further detail on NHS Health Check Online, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document at Appendix A.

Private Beta Phase

DHSC is now in the [private Beta pilot](#) phase, where the digital platform has been built and testing has commenced. This is initially in the form of a 6-month pilot with a small number of people in the 3 local authorities successful in last year's EOI.

Once the pilot ends, DHSC would like an additional five to eight local authorities (and general practices within them), depending on the size of eligible populations and number of general practices willing to sign up in their areas, to be delivering the NHS Health Check Online in the next phase of private Beta from late 2025.

This next phase will help to refine the service, validate assumptions, and inform the best approach for national rollout at scale.

This next phase of private Beta phase will:

1. Continue to build and improve an end-to-end NHS Health Check Online available via a web browser and integrated with the NHS App, GP IT systems and users' GP records, and signposting to national support and follow-on advice. This service will meet all existing legislative, technical, and clinical requirements, optimise user journeys and meet relevant medical device certification requirements.
2. Test the implementation and feasibility of the initial NHS Health Check Online service with a small number of end users in a range of GP providers across up to eight local authorities.
3. Continually evaluate the usability, acceptability, effectiveness, and uptake of the NHS health Check Online platform for different user groups.
4. Further develop the approach to improve and optimise it for user groups.
5. Determine the most suitable commissioning and delivery approach for subsequent rollout.

Roles and responsibilities

As commissioners of the NHS Health Check, DHSC would like to collaborate with an additional five to eight local authorities and GP providers in their areas to continue to test the NHS Health Check Online in the private Beta phase. We are seeking to blend the use of a digital product with existing local NHS Health Check pathways and deliver it alongside the face-to-face health check, thus embedding the new NHS Health Check Online within existing programmes.

To summarise the expected roles and responsibilities for the extended private Beta phase:

Local authorities will:

- continue to be responsible for commissioning the NHS Health Check, and to comply with their existing legal duties in relation to the NHS Health Check, in as far as they apply to the LA role in the online service.
- be responsible for agreeing suitable remuneration with their GP providers for the NHS Health Check Online.
- continue, together with their GP providers, to be responsible for identifying and inviting eligible people to participate in the NHS Health Check – this includes providing people with invites to participate in the in-person or digital checks.
- from March 2026 procure, at their own cost, the required blood testing products for participants' use from the national NHS Health Check Online home blood testing framework (which is currently being established by DHSC). Prior to March 2026, subject to the necessary financial approvals being secured by DHSC, costs for the blood sampling element of the NHS Health Check Online will be covered centrally by DHSC. This will provide LAs with sufficient time to draw down from the NHS Health Check Online National Blood Testing Framework when established.

DHSC will:

- cover the cost of building the digital platform and management of the service.
- coordinate and fund programme evaluation, which is likely to be undertaken by an external supplier.
- create and manage a national framework for the requisite home blood testing products from which local authorities will be required to procure from (the national framework).
- As above, subject to the necessary financial approvals being secured by DHSC, costs for the blood sampling element of the NHS Health Check Online will be covered centrally by DHSC until March 2026.

DHSC, NHS England and partners will:

- be responsible for the build of the NHS Health Check Online private Beta product and any future improvements.
- be responsible for the live service management and functionality of the product.

- lead user research and product development to feed into the roadmap, which sets out new features and functionality to be built into the app and their priority order, as well as future rollout.
- deliver an end-to-end home blood sampling service directly to participants once procured.
- The NHS Health Check Advisory Group (with membership from ADPH, LGA, RCGP and NHSE) and its scientific and clinical sub-group will continue to advise DHSC on the development and roll out of NHS Health Check Online as well as on the performance and improvement of the current face to face programme.

Responsibilities may shift between these organisations/partners subject to future organisational changes.

Benefits of being involved

Being part of this next phase of private Beta presents the following benefits:

- Being part of an exciting, digital project and being an early adopter of NHS Health Check Online, helping to refine and shape the service, providing insights prior to rollout across the country.
- As digital approaches become increasingly part of the future direction, participation in this early phase will place successful local authorities in a strong position to rollout NHS Health Check Online at scale ahead of other local authorities, leading the way for other areas.
- We anticipate NHS Health Check Online will be cheaper for local authorities to deliver than the face-to-face service, enabling the overall delivery of a greater number of checks within existing local authority NHS Health Check resource.

Eligibility and selection

We welcome EOIs from any individual local authority in England, not already part of the pilot, who fulfils the following eligibility criteria:

1. The local authority can identify GP providers willing to deliver the NHS Health Check Online, who: (i) are using the EMIS IT system; and (ii) collectively could deliver NHS

Health Checks to at least 7.5% of the local authority's eligible population (as per criteria set out in legislation) in one year;

2. The local authority can provide a point of contact to DHSC who has capacity (up to one day a month) to support GP providers in onboarding to the NHS Health Check Online and be willing to share learnings through quarterly governance meetings;
3. The local authority has the agreement of their Director of Public Health;
4. The local authority can provide a named clinical lead. This could be from the Integrated Care Board (ICB), GP provider or primary care network (PCN). Their main role will be ensuring the implementation complies with the [DCB0160 standard](#);
5. The local authority can provide a named Data Protection Officer or equivalent; and
6. The local authority understands the requirement and has the ability to procure from the national framework, at its own cost, the home testing element of the NHS Health Check Online from March 2026.

Local authorities that meet the eligibility criteria will then be assessed against the criteria set out in the table below. The table also confirms the relative weighting applied to each criterion. The weightings reflect the relative importance of the criteria. A minimum score of 1 applies to each of the criterion. DHSC may reject any application which does not meet the minimum score in respect of one or more criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Demonstrable experience and commitment to strong partnership working with NHS Health Check providers.	30%
Can evidence that the local population eligible for the NHS Health check covers a broad range of population groups by age, sex, deprivation decile, ethnicity, and risk factor prevalence.	30%
Has established pathways and services available to support behaviour change after participants complete their NHS Health Check.	20%
Can evidence local infrastructure available to support participants to carry out blood pressure checks in the community, including community pharmacy.	20%

Each response to the scored questions (see Appendix B: Local authority Expression of Interest Form) will be marked out of a possible score of 3. The scoring will be based on the general principles and descriptions shown in the below table:

Score	Rationale
0	Response does not provide any relevant evidence and there is no confidence they meet the criteria.
1	Response provides minimal evidence and there is a low confidence they meet the criteria.
2	Response provides acceptable evidence and there is good confidence they meet the criteria.
3	Response provides exceptional evidence and there is high confidence they meet the criteria.

Once each question has been scored, and the relevant weighting applied so as to produce a total overall score for each application, applications will be ranked based on that total overall score, with priority given to those with the highest score. The twelve highest ranked applications will then be taken forwards to a final assessment stage as described below.

In the event that the twelfth and thirteenth ranked applications achieve the same overall score, all thirteen will go through to final assessment stage as described below.

Final assessment stage:

DHSC reserves the right to select between five to eight local authorities for the private Beta phase of the NHS Health Check Online. In making its determination as to which (and how many) of the twelve highest ranking applications DHSC will select to take part in the private Beta phase, DHSC will consider:

1. The regional geographic spread of the local authority pilot sites across the country; and
2. The size and diversity of the local population eligible for the NHS Health Check, ensuring the final selection includes a diverse mix of people by age, sex, deprivation decile, ethnicity and risk factor prevalence; and
3. The existing data extraction systems / tooling, if any, used by local authorities to monitor the invitations and uptake of the NHS Health Check programme in their locality. DHSC want to ensure the NHS Health Check Online works for both local authorities with data extraction tooling and those who use a more manual approach and will therefore consider a spread.

For the purposes of the final assessment stage, the previous rankings will be disregarded. DHSC reserves the right to select up to eight local authorities.

Should those local authorities who are selected for the private Beta phase fail to provide the required information after selection, or wish to withdraw their application altogether, DHSC may approach the next highest ranking local authority based on the above evaluation process.

For further details on the eligibility and selection criteria and expected response format, please see Appendix B: Local authority Expression of Interest Form.

How can we apply to be a private Beta phase area?

All local authorities interested in participating in the private Beta phase of the NHS Health Check Online who fulfil the eligibility criteria are encouraged to submit an expression of interest form (Appendix B). Those applications that meet the eligibility criteria will then be assessed to determine the most suitable areas.

The expression of interest process will be open on 14 July and will close 12.00pm on 8th September 2025. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Please send a completed form as a single document (with no attachments) from a recognised local authority email address to NHSHealthCheck@dhsc.gov.uk by 12.00pm 8th September 2025. All the information you want us to consider must be included in the EOI form provided. Additional documents will not be considered.

The subject line of your email should be as follows: 'NHS Health Check Online extended private Beta EOI: [local authority name]'

Learning and developing throughout private Beta

The NHS Health Check Online is governed, monitored and assessed according to the [Government Functional Standard for Digital](#), and accompanying [Digital Assessment Framework](#).

A formal independent evaluation of the pilot phase of the NHS Health Check Online is currently underway, to gather insights on its implementation and impact. The DHSC team is starting to receive early findings and they are being used to improve the product and implementation of the NHS Health Check Online. We expect this evaluation of the 3 pilot local authorities to conclude towards the end of the year. As we implement learnings from this, we expect there to be further user research on changes. This research may take

place with GPs or users from any local authorities delivering the NHS Health Check Online at that stage.

As the NHS Health Check Online rolls out more widely, we are planning for there to be another formal evaluation likely to take place in late 26/27. We are currently determining the scope of this evaluation but would expect local authorities to support the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to ensure the programme is appropriately evaluated against its aims.

Assurance

The roles and responsibilities will be set out in a memorandum of understanding between DHSC and each of the successful local authorities.

Timeline

An indicative timeline for the project is outlined in the table below.

Stage	When	What
Local authority selection	14 July 2025	EOI open for applicants and open of clarification period
	5th September 2025	Closing date for EOIs
	Week of 8th & 15th September 2025	Moderation and selection
	Week of 29th September 2025	Notify local authorities of selection & commence formal agreement.
Onboarding	October 2025 - December 2025	Introduction and onboarding for local authorities
		Local authorities onboarding GP providers to the programme
		Local authorities start procurement processes to procure the blood testing framework
Delivery	From January 2026 or earlier if onboarding complete	Commence inviting eligible invitees
		Delivery of the NHS Health Check Online
		Data collection

Further information

Questions

If you have any questions about the expression of interest, please contact NHSHealthCheck@dhsc.gov.uk We will aim to respond to all queries in a timely manner.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Detailed FAQ on the NHS Health Check Online
- Appendix B: Local authority Expression of Interest form