

NHS

The NHS is the largest organisation in Europe and is recognised as one of the best health services in the world by the World Health Organisation.

Cels interfaces with the NHS at a number of levels, including the regional procurement forum. Cels also has links with the regional NHS Innovations Hub, hosted by the Regional Technology Centre, which has a range of technologies available to companies and intellectual property for licence.

In North East England, the NHS has more than 60,000 employees and £3.5 billion of annual funding. This covers a wide range of organisations and responsibilities, from hospitals to doctors and walk in clinics to care trusts.

The North East Strategic Health Authority (NHS North East) was launched on 1 July 2006, to replace the two previous strategic health authorities for Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and County Durham and Teesside. Its role is to make sure that services are fit for purpose, that quality and improvement targets are met, and that NHS organisations in the region, such as primary care trusts, hospitals and the ambulance trust, are providing well-planned, good quality services that meet the needs of local communities. The NHS North East covers an area from the Scottish border, down to North Yorkshire and across to the Cumbrian border in the west, incorporating 8 hospital trusts, 12 primary care trusts, one ambulance trust and two specialist trusts providing mental health and learning disabilities services.

There are 48 foundation NHS trusts in the country, 5 of which are in the North East including Northumbria Healthcare, City Hospital Sunderland, Gateshead Health, South Tyneside and Newcastle Hospitals Trust. Foundation status was first introduced in the Health and Social Care Act 2003 and means fewer inspections and monitoring and allows them to borrow money from banks.