



**North West**  
SECURE DATA  
ENVIRONMENT

Part of the  
**NHS Research Secure Data  
Environment Network**



# North West Secure Data Environment

Making a positive impact  
on the health and care  
of people in the North West  
through better use of data





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# Foreword

**The North West region is a combination of urban, rural and coastal communities with a population of 7.4 million people constantly generating valuable health and social care data.**

In 2022, the Government announced it would invest up to £200 million to boost NHS healthcare data research. This was in line with the core recommendations of the Goldacre Review, the Data Saves Lives strategy and the Life Sciences Vision. A network of 12 secure data environments (SDEs) was developed to enhance our abilities to access data for research and health planning. The North West Secure Data Environment (North West SDE) is a vital part of that network.

The aim of the North West SDE is to provide faster and more secure access to different types of NHS data for research. By improving access to NHS data, the North West SDE will enable world class research to prevent, diagnose, and treat our biggest healthcare challenges. The healthcare data available will help researchers understand local population needs and target development of innovative solutions to areas with the greatest potential for improvement. The depth and breadth of data that will be available will help bring about major improvements in healthcare for the region. Linking data across multiple settings will also have a much wider purpose, helping researchers understand patients pathways and interactions with the health systems.

The North West SDE has been developed to offer a well-designed, joined-up service, to benefit all. It is designed to be used by NHS and public bodies, academia, life sciences, industry including MedTech and pharmaceutical companies.



**Adrian Jonas**  
**Senior Responsible Officer,**  
**North West Secure Data Environment**

Our guiding principle is to ensure everything we do is of benefit to our population. We have carried out civic engagement across the localities within the region to ensure the North West SDE is being developed in line with our population needs and desires. Our local and regional patient groups hold the North West SDE to account. A diverse group of public members sit on our data access committees and review each research project to ensure it is for public benefit.

The security and access of data within the North West SDE is of utmost importance to us. All data within the North West SDE is de-identified to protect and preserve the identity of the data subjects. And finally, but most importantly, we adhere to the Five Safes framework to ensure complete transparency and public trust.



# About us

The North West Secure Data Environment (SDE) is a collaboration between three integrated care boards covering the North West of England. The North West SDE teams are a cross-regional collaboration between NHS organisations and academic organisations within the North West ensuring that we harness the power of data for research responsibly and drive meaningful change in healthcare for the North West and beyond.

Secure data environments are data storage and access platforms. They uphold the highest standards of privacy and security for NHS health and social care data, when used for research and analysis. SDEs give approved users access to relevant health data for research and analysis on the platform.

The North West SDE is one of 11 regional SDEs, along with a national SDE, within the NHS Research SDE Network. These platforms will become the main route for accessing NHS data for research.



# About our region

The North West of England is a vibrant and diverse region known for its rich industrial heritage, dynamic cities, stunning landscapes, and strong sense of community. The North West region is the second largest SDE within the network of regional SDEs.

The North West is unique in the challenges it faces. We have some of the most deprived areas of the country with lower life expectancies. We also have some of the widest health inequalities. Some of our great cities have significant concentrations of deprivation and some of our coastal areas also experience high levels of deprivation. Demand for health and care services in the region is increasing at a greater rate than its population growth.

## North West SDE population

The North West SDE covers three integrated care systems with a combined population of **7.4 million** people.



NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

**Population:**  
**2.6 million**



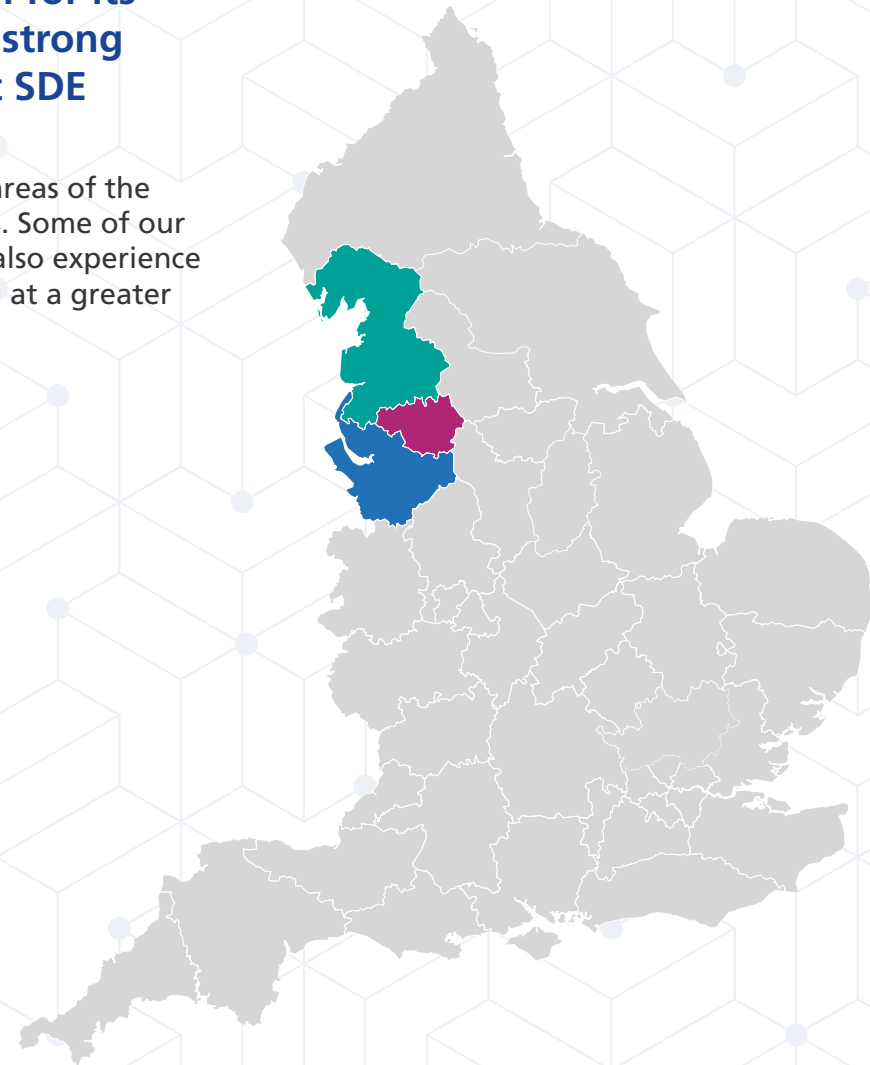
Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership

**Population:**  
**2.8 million**



Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership

**Population:**  
**2 million**





# The service offer

Three elements of service are available through the North West SDE. These services are aligned with the national SDE network service provision, which ensures a consistent offer and user experience across the network.

Each research project can request a specific set of services and data assets to meet their requirements by completing a Data Access Request (DAR) form. Each element of this bespoke service will be included within the overall costs for the North West SDE service. Every project will include Platform as a Service and Data as a Service.

North West Secure Data Environment



## Platform as a Service (PaaS):

Provision of a secure research environment, including delivery of data into the secure environment; selected research tools, optional archiving storage where required and technical support.



## Data as a Service (DaaS):

Data assets shown on the [Health Data Research Gateway](#) can be selected to address specific research questions.



## Consultancy as a Service (CaaS):

Research support and advisory services from subject matter experts.

The North West SDE service offer will be in continuous development to meet the needs of our users. From April 2025 to September 2025 a series of pilot projects will be undertaken to work with users to develop processes.



# Services available from September 2025

If you would like to discuss any of these services please contact the team to discuss your requirements.

Platform as a Service	Data as a Service	Consultancy as a Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cohort discovery</li><li>• Azure Secure workspace standard package</li><li>• Provision of a synthetic data set</li><li>• Data sets mapped to OMOP</li><li>• Project archive</li><li>• Re-activation of archived data for re-analysis/follow up</li><li>• Bring your own tooling</li><li>• Bring your own code</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision of single data set</li><li>• Access to multiple linked data sets</li><li>• Pseudo at source</li><li>• Creation of bespoke linked data assets</li><li>• Bring your own data</li><li>• Work across the SDE Network</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refresh/update data</li><li>• IG consultancy service</li></ul>

**Clinical trials:** In addition to the core three levels of service we are also developing our service offer to support clinical trials. This is an important development area for the SDE and our capacity and capability is growing all the time

- Clinical trial feasibility
- Clinical trial outcomes
- Clinical trial recruitment



## Why come to the North West SDE?

The benefits of using our service are:

### Safe Data:

- The North West SDE offers a more secure environment where data is accessed as opposed to shared.
- The North West SDE has access to a broad range of population healthcare data (subject to IG approvals) spanning three ICSs in the North West of England, covering a diverse demographic
- We can also offer links to research infrastructure within the North West.

### Safe Projects

- The application process is much easier – a single application process for England with a uniform national Data Access Request process. You do not need to apply to every organisation to request access to their data

- Applications are reviewed by subject experts and members of the public to ensure public benefit

### Safe Settings

- The North West SDE has been developed and is managed by the NHS. Our data analysts work within the NHS.

### Safe Outputs

- Outputs from analyses only leave the North West SDE when they have been checked to ensure patient confidentiality is maintained.

### Safe People

- There is a central and standard User and Organisation validation process, which is completed once to access SDEs across the network.



## Our credentials

The three integrated care boards as data controllers for the North West SDE, hold the Section 251 Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG) and Research Ethics Committee (REC) approval, which provides the legal basis for using and sharing health and care data under the common law duty of confidentiality.

CAG and REC reference numbers:

- Cheshire and Merseyside ICB – CAG Reference: 23/CAG/0033, REC Reference: 24/EE/0035
- Greater Manchester ICB – CAG Reference: 24/CAG/0034, REC Reference: 24/EE/0036
- Lancashire and South Cumbria – CAG reference: 25/CAG/0020 REC reference: 25/SW/0011

Each partner organisation is bound by a duty of confidentiality and must abide by the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

For further information please visit the privacy policy on our website [Your Privacy - North West SDE](#)

# How to access the North West Secure Data Environment?

## The SDE network will simplify the process to gain access to health data.

The SDE network supports the move away from sharing NHS data by providing a service to access data within a secure setting.

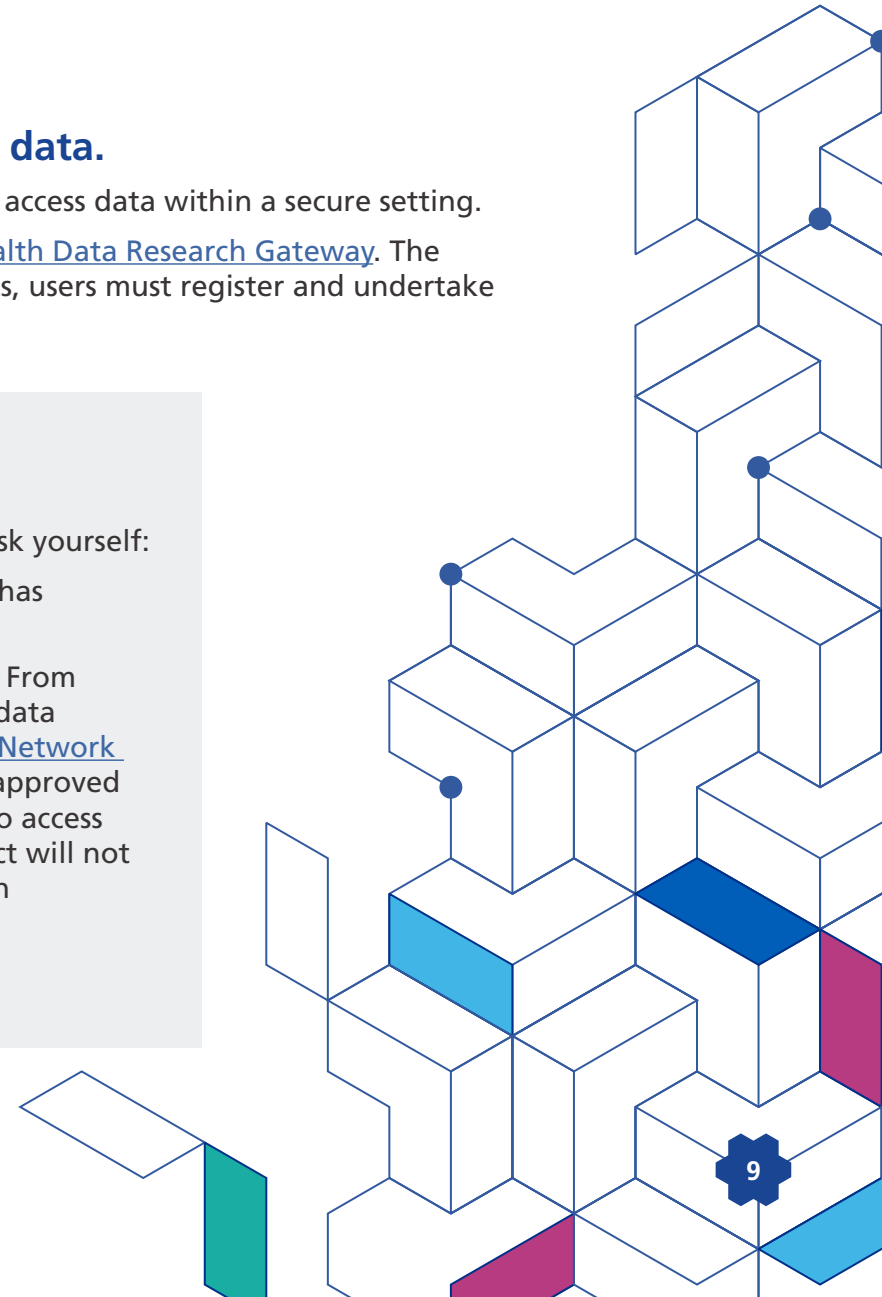
Information on North West Data Assets is available from the [Data Custodian Network - Health Data Research Gateway](#). The gateway shows high level data assets with summary information. To fully review data assets, users must register and undertake a validation at both user and organisation level.

## Before you apply

Before you apply to the North West SDE there are a few questions you might want to ask yourself:

- **Is there a dataset already available that I can use?** The [HDRUK Health Data Gateway](#) has a metadata catalogue of existing datasets and BioSamples
- **Do I need to apply for authorisation to access the datasets I require for my research?** From 1 April 2026, all organisations and individuals interested in applying to access health data through the SDE Network must complete the registration process. [NHS Research SDE Network Registration Service - NHS England Digital](#). To avoid any delays in your project being approved you should simultaneously apply for authorisation for you and/or your organisation to access SDE datasets when you submit your initial request to the North West SDE. Your project will not be able to progress to beyond step 4 'Approve' without the appropriate authorisation
- **Have I undertaken the appropriate engagement for the research project?**

Once you have considered the above you are ready to progress to stage 1.



# 1 Scope

To begin your enquiry with the North West SDE you will need to make an initial request through the main email address [nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk). Upon receipt of your initial email our team will respond with some further info and the DARF (Data Access Request Form). The DARF is a nationally agreed request form you will need to fill in and return to us.



# 2 Develop

Once you have submitted your initial enquiry you will be contacted by a member of our team. At this stage we will review your request and discuss with you your requirements.



# 3 Access

We will then:

- Assess the viability of your project
- Generate a pricing proposal
- Work with you to prepare your submission for the Data Access Committee(s)



# 4 Approve

At the point where you have accepted a pricing proposal and completed the Data Access Request form in full, your application will need to be quality assured, reviewed and verified to be presented at the Data Access Committee(s) (DAC).

The DACs are a committee of subject matter experts and Patient and Public Representatives representing the three Integrated Care Boards (ICBs):

- Cheshire and Merseyside
- Greater Manchester
- Lancashire and South Cumbria

Dependent upon the content of the request, approval could be required from all three DACs.



# 5 Mobilise

Once steps 1 – 4 have been completed and your user and/or organisation registration and access has been approved we then move on to stage 5.

During this stage we will work through all of the documentation and contracting agreements for:

- Integrated Governance (IG)
- Commercial
- Finance

Once all of the contracts and documentation have been agreed and completed, a high level summary of your project will be uploaded to the [Data Use Register](#) published on the North West SDE website.



# 6 Deliver

At this stage the North West Data and Tech team will:

- Agree the final data specification
- Create your workspace where your data requirements will be made available within the SDE
- Give you access to your requested data



# 7 Close

Upon closure of the project, the North West SDE team will:

- Archive the data
- Decommission the workspace and users
- Close financials
- Update the Data Use Register



# North West Research Ecosystem



## NHS and Health Data Partners

NIHR Clinical Research Networks / Regional Delivery Networks

Other Sub-National SDEs

NHS Provider Research and Development (R&D) Teams

Individual Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

Large Provider Trusts (e.g., MFT, LUHFT)



## Academic and Research Institutions

NIHR Applied Research Collaboratives (ARCs)

Universities (Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Lancaster)

Hartree Centre

Clinical Trials Units

Health Data Research UK (HDRUK) North



## Innovation and Technology

Health Innovation Networks (HINs)

North West eHealth (NWeH)

Commercial Analytics Providers (IQVIA, Optum)

EHR / Technology Platform Providers (Graphnet, Microsoft, EPIC, EMIS)

NHS Digitrials



## Public Sector and Agencies

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

Lifescience Networks (e.g. N8 Research Partnership)

UK Health Security Agency

Other Public Sector Bodies (Local Authorities)

# Data assets

The North West SDE will offer access to data assets from both national and local sources. As we onboard different data providers to the North West SDE more datasets will become available. Datasets will be added through controlled phases allowing for the evaluation and security of those assets.

In addition to our regional offer, the HDR UK Innovation Gateway, [Health Data Research Gateway](#), allows access to the metadata catalogues from all the SDEs within the network.



## Tooling

Researchers would be given access to a Virtual Machine and workspace within the Secure data environment that would contain the following standard tooling.

### Windows 11 Enterprise

With the following software installed:

- SQL Server Management Studio
- Visual Studio Code
- R Project
- R Studio
- Python 3.11
- Anaconda 3
- Azure Data Studio
- Azure Storage Explorer
- Mozilla Firefox
- Notepad++
- Azure CLI
- Az Copy
- Microsoft Power BI
- Libre Office
- Git
- Java Runtime Environment
- Jupiter
- R Tools

### North West Secure Data Environment

## Data Asset Roadmap

### Local assets

Primary Care (Cheshire and Merseyside)*	Acute Local (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals)*	Mental Health (MRIC/Mersey Care)*
Primary Care (Great Manchester)**	Wrightington, Leigh and Wigan (Acute and Pathology Data)**	Primary Care (Lancashire and South Cumbria)**
Liverpool Hospital Group (Acute, Pathology and Imaging Data)**	University of Liverpool (Environmental Metrics UPRN)**	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (Acute, Pathology and Imaging Data)**
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (Mental Health)**	Walton Centre for Neurology (Acute and Imaging Data)**	Prostate Cancer Research Dataset (Prostate Progress) routinely collected data**
Prostate Cancer Research Dataset Patient Reported Outcomes**		

### National assets\*\*\*

SUS	Civil Registrations Births and Deaths	Medicines Dispensed in Primary Care
Community Services Dataset (CSDS)	Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS)	National Cancer Registration Service (NCRAS)
Improving Access to Psychological Services (IAPT)	Adult Social Care	E-Referrals
Elective Waiting Times	Maternity Services Dataset	Residential linkage Datasets (UPRN)
Ambulance National	Cancer Waiting Times	Alcohol Dependence
Clinical Registries: National Institute for Cardio-vascular Research (NICOR)		

\* available for use. \*\* data asset preparation work required and subject to Data Sharing/Processing Agreement.

\*\*\* all national assets subject to Data Sharing Agreement. Currently in progress.

## NWSDE - Summary of data assets:

All datasets below are de-identified and at patient level. Linkage is possible on pseudonymised NHS number across datasets.

### Local assets

#### Primary Care Data (OMOP)

Primary care data includes events, prescribing, diagnosis, treatments and clinical values from the primary care record. This dataset is in a base standardised structure or in OMOP format.

Source: Graphnet.

#### Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Acute OMOP Dataset

Activity data from Acute care conforming to the OMOP common data model derived from Acute based hospital systems including Visit Occurrence & Visit Detail; Death; Condition Occurrence; Drug Exposure; Procedure Occurrence, includes radiology procedures; Device Exposure: Covers implants; Measurement: Numeric results e.g. from blood tests, pathology results; Observations; Specimen; Care Site.

Source: Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

#### Mental Health Research Data (MRIC)

Data from Mental Health Services containing Diagnosis, Care Packages and information on treatment in mental health services, includes research ready unstructured data to structured formats.

Source: Mersey Care Trust.

#### Virtual Wards

Commissioning dataset to support the reporting of activity within the virtual wards provided by community teams.

Source: Cheshire and Merseyside Acute Providers.

#### Wrightington, Leigh and Wigan

Acute EPR, pharmacy, labs, observations (OMOP CDM).

Source: Wrightington, Leigh and Wigan.

#### Liverpool Hospital Group (Acute, Pathology and Imaging Data)

Secondary/tertiary Electronic Patient Records, labs, pathology, multimodal imaging.

Source: Liverpool Hospital Group.

#### University of Liverpool (Environmental Metrics UPRN)

Household-level geospatial & environmental metrics (Pseudo UPRN for household linkage).

Source: Open Source.

#### Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (Acute, Pathology and Imaging Data)

Cancer Outcomes Services Dataset, Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT); Radio Therapy Dataset (RTDS) (Phase 1); imaging, Electronic Prescribing Medicines Administration, Pathology (Phase 2).

Source: Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

#### Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (Acute, Pathology and Imaging Data)

Cancer Outcomes Services Dataset, Systemic Anti-Cancer

Therapy (SACT); Radio Therapy Dataset (RTDS) (Phase 1); imaging, Electronic Prescribing Medicines Administration, Pathology (Phase 2).

Source: Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

#### Cheshire and Wirral Partnership (Mental Health)

Data from Mental Health Services containing Diagnosis, Care Packages and information on treatment in mental health services, includes research ready unstructured data to structured formats.

Source: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership via Mersey Care Research Innovation Centre.

#### Walton Centre for Neurology (Acute and Imaging Data)

Multimodal neurology data including: imaging, neurophysiology, biobank.

Source: Walton Centre for Neurology.

## Local assets Continued

### Prostate Cancer Research Dataset (Prostate Progress) routinely collected data

Cancer Dataset for Prostate Cancer containing observations, treatments, conditions, demographics, visits, biomarkers, palliative care, procedures, other services.

**Source:** SNSDE's across the SDE network (various Hospital Trusts).

### Prostate Cancer Research Dataset Patient Reported Outcomes

Patient Reported Outcomes for patients diagnosed with Prostate Cancer.

**Source:** Prostate Cancer Research.

## National assets

### Adult social care

The Adult Social Care dataset provides information on the care and support services delivered to adults in England. It includes data from local authorities who are responsible for delivering social care.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Alcohol Dependence Dataset (England)

The Alcohol Dependence programme is collecting patient level data specifically to monitor activity and impact of Alcohol Care Teams in hospitals, especially in terms of clinical outcomes and the impact on reducing health inequalities.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Ambulance Data Set

The Ambulance Data Set (ADS) is intended to provide an improved, consistent level of detail about how ambulance services respond to and treat the thousands of calls that are received by the 999 service every day.

**Source:** NHSE.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Status

This dataset records individual vaccination events, details of the patients and batch information on the vaccine for anyone vaccinated within England.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Cancer Waiting Times Data Collection (CWT)

The national Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) system allows NHS providers to record data derived from patient care activity. This data can be used to monitor cancer waiting times targets or plan service improvements. As a patient moves through the stages of their treatment pathway data on referrals, treatments and diagnosis are derived from care records locally.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Civil Registration of Births Dataset

A collection of demographic and clinical records detailing births.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Civil Registration of Deaths Dataset

Details of all registered deaths in England and Wales since 1993, as provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It contains details of the registration and basic demographics of the deceased person.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Clinical Registries: National Institute for Cardio-vascular Research (NICOR)

Data on treatments, procedures and outcomes for patients with CVD <https://www.nicor.org.uk/datasets#:~:text=These%20are%20the%20current%20datasets,Supporting%20data%20set%20documentation%20page>

**Source:** NHSE.

### Community Services Data Set (CSDS)

The Community Services Data Set (CSDS) is a patient-level data set that captures data about community health services provided outside of hospital settings.

**Source:** NHSE.

## National assets Continued

### Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS)

The Maternity Services Data Set (MSDS) is a patient-level data set that captures information about activity carried out by Maternity Services relating to a mother and baby(s), from the point of the first booking appointment until mother and baby(s) are discharged from maternity services.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Medicines dispensed in Primary Care

NHS England has established a monthly collection of patient-level data about medicines dispensed and claimed for in community settings.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS)

The Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS) is a patient level, output based secondary uses data set which aims to deliver robust, comprehensive, nationally consistent and comparable person-based information for

patients who are in contact with mental health services.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)

The IAPT data set was developed with the IAPT programme as a patient level, output based, secondary uses data set which aims to deliver robust, comprehensive, nationally consistent and comparable information for patients accessing NHS-funded IAPT services in England.

**Source:** NHSE.

### NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS)

The NHS e-Referral Service provides an easy way for patients to choose their first hospital or clinic appointment with a specialist. Bookings can be made by the patient online, using the telephone, or directly in the GP surgery at the time of referral. Under the NHS Standard Contract, all GPs in England use e-RS to make referrals to consultant-led outpatient services.

**Source:** NHSE.

### National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS)

The National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS), part of Public Health England (PHE), is the population-based cancer registry for England.

**Source:** NHSE.

### National Waiting List

The National Waiting List is a weekly data collection relating to demand, activity and waiting lists for elective care. Providers of NHS services that fall within the scope of Referral to Treatment (RTT), such as acute trusts, specialist trusts and any other provider of consultant-led services for NHS patients (including independent sector providers) submit data weekly to NHS England.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Secondary Uses Service (SUS)

The Secondary Uses Service (SUS) is the national data repository for NHS-funded care in England. It contains detailed, patient-level data extracted from provider systems, primarily used for secondary purposes such as

commissioning, service planning, performance management, and research. SUS captures data across various care settings, including Admitted Patient Care, Outpatient Attendances, and Emergency Care, and serves as a foundational dataset for numerous national analyses and reports.

**Source:** NHSE.

### Tobacco Dependence Dataset (England)

The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) has set out a commitment for the NHS to deliver NHS funded tobacco dependence treatment services across inpatient, maternity and outpatient/community settings. This patient-level data collection will provide systems the ability to prioritise patient cohorts, track outcomes and understand the impact on health inequalities.

**Source:** NHSE.

# Potential uses of the North West SDE

The development of the North West SDE is aligned to six high level use cases:

- AI/Algorithm development, testing training and validation for use in healthcare.
- Clinical trial activities including feasibility, recruitment, and short-and-long term trial follow up.
- Real world studies including safety, effectiveness, cost effectiveness studies.
- Translational research including academic discovery and implementation of discovery into practice.
- Epidemiological studies including the incidence, distribution of illness and factors related to health.
- Health systems research. Evaluation of health systems or processes, including operational and applied research.

## Real examples of what the North West SDE could do

Below are some examples of research projects which have been undertaken within the North West.

### Virtual wards – Greater Manchester

The UK aims to have 40 to 50 virtual ward beds per 100,000 people, with Greater Manchester (GM) being well on the way to achieving its target of 1,250 virtual ward beds. The initial focus is on respiratory and frailty care, with plans to later include heart failure, children's, and end-of-life care.

The project aims to assess activity levels, patient demographics, and variations across localities. It will evaluate patient outcomes, cost implications, and system-wide healthcare utilisation, as well as the impact of different virtual ward models. The results and conclusions will inform future policy decisions and service improvements, shaping the future of virtual ward provision in Greater Manchester and potentially influencing national strategies.

### Groundswell – Cheshire and Merseyside

Prevention of ill health is increasingly prioritised by the NHS, and has an NHS net zero co-benefit, with implications for mitigating climate change. Prevention of ill health will sustain the NHS as a viable organisation.

This project uses primary care data and environmental data to predict protection against onset of common mental health conditions and other non-communicable diseases to understand who will benefit the most from existing local facilities and where is the greatest burden of ill health. The aim is to prevent the onset of ill health by providing suitable facilities that encourage healthy behaviours, thereby reducing the number of people with limiting long-term conditions.

### DIAPHRAM – Cheshire and Merseyside (with collaboration from Lancashire and South Cumbria)

DIAPHRAM is a study to assess the effectiveness of parent champions intervention in children's centres at reducing risk of hospitalisation of infants (under 3) with bronchiolitis.

This project will benefit considerably from mother-baby linkage which can be challenging in NHS data sets. Lancashire and South Cumbria will be looking at these linkages with potential for federated analyses.

# Cost to access the service

The cost of accessing and using a secure data environment (SDE) varies depending on type of data required, and the services provided.

Pricing within the North West SDE adheres to the NHS England five commercial principles (developed for the Data for R&D programme):

- **Principle 1:** Costs of access should not be prohibitive.
- **Principle 2:** The NHS will always charge a fee for accessing health data.
- **Principle 3:** The cost of access should depend on how the data is being used.
- **Principle 4:** On top of costs for access, the NHS intends to share in the value created by its data.
- **Principle 5:** The NHS need to retain flexibility to change the exact value sharing options.

Projects are priced per project using a regulated consistent framework. Working with funding bodies and aligned to NIHR.

Generally, costs are associated with:

## Platform as a Service (PaaS):

Provision of a secure research environment, including delivery of data into the secure environment; selected research tools, optional archiving storage where required and technical support.

Charge to include:

- Secure data environment workspace configuration set up including data engineering to supply assets and data provider charges associated with provisioning data.
- Technology – third party platform base cost contribution, project-specific compute, storage and tool charges and sundry software licences.



## Data as a Service (DaaS):

Published and agreed, bespoke data sets.

Charge to include:

- A negotiated price for bespoke datasets that may include pricing for royalty or intellectual property if the output from the project is to be commercialised at a later date.
- Each project request will be individually evaluated based on several factors including type of request and complexity.
- Timelines will be dependent on type of request and complexity. This will be agreed during the enquiry/application process.



## Consultancy as a Service (CaaS):

Research support and advisory services (data analysis and clinical support).

Charge to include:

- People with subject matter expertise used to support the researcher based on a national rate card price per day/hour.

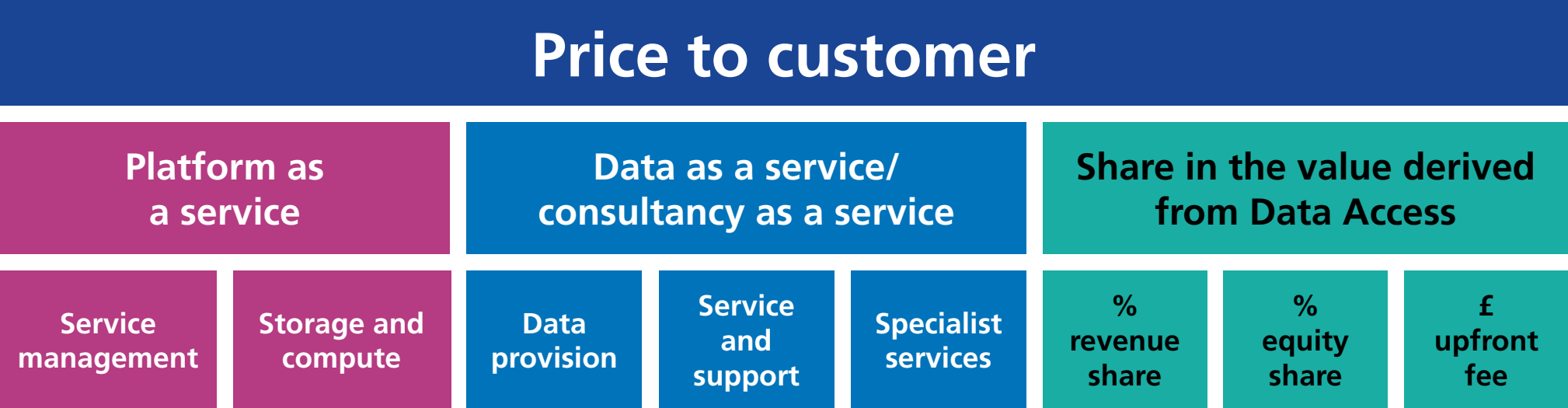


Please contact the team to discuss use of the North West SDE services: [nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk)

# Elements included in cost

Each project using the North West Secure Data Environment will have a bespoke costing plan, based on the services required.

There are options for payment for data access. These include payment of a fee based on the services and revenue share or equity share based on the innovations developed within the North West Secure Data Environment.



# Our technical platform

The North West SDE federates data from several data stores. These data stores hold multiple data assets from different local health systems. Data is prepared to research-ready standard, structured into a standard format ready for analysis, with metadata available on definitions, content and structure and data quality and integrity performed so that the data asset is ready to use for research.

The data is in source data stores ready for extraction into the North West SDE. Data enters the North West SDE workspace on a project-by-project basis against criteria approved at the Data Access Committee. Each project has its own workspace with the tooling available for researchers to undertake their analysis.

The federating and processing of the data is subject to a strict Information Governance framework and follows all legal requirements around the use of data.

Data within the North West SDE is de-identified and only leaves the platform in aggregate form after output checking and approval is complete.

## Key:

**ADF:** Azure Data Factory

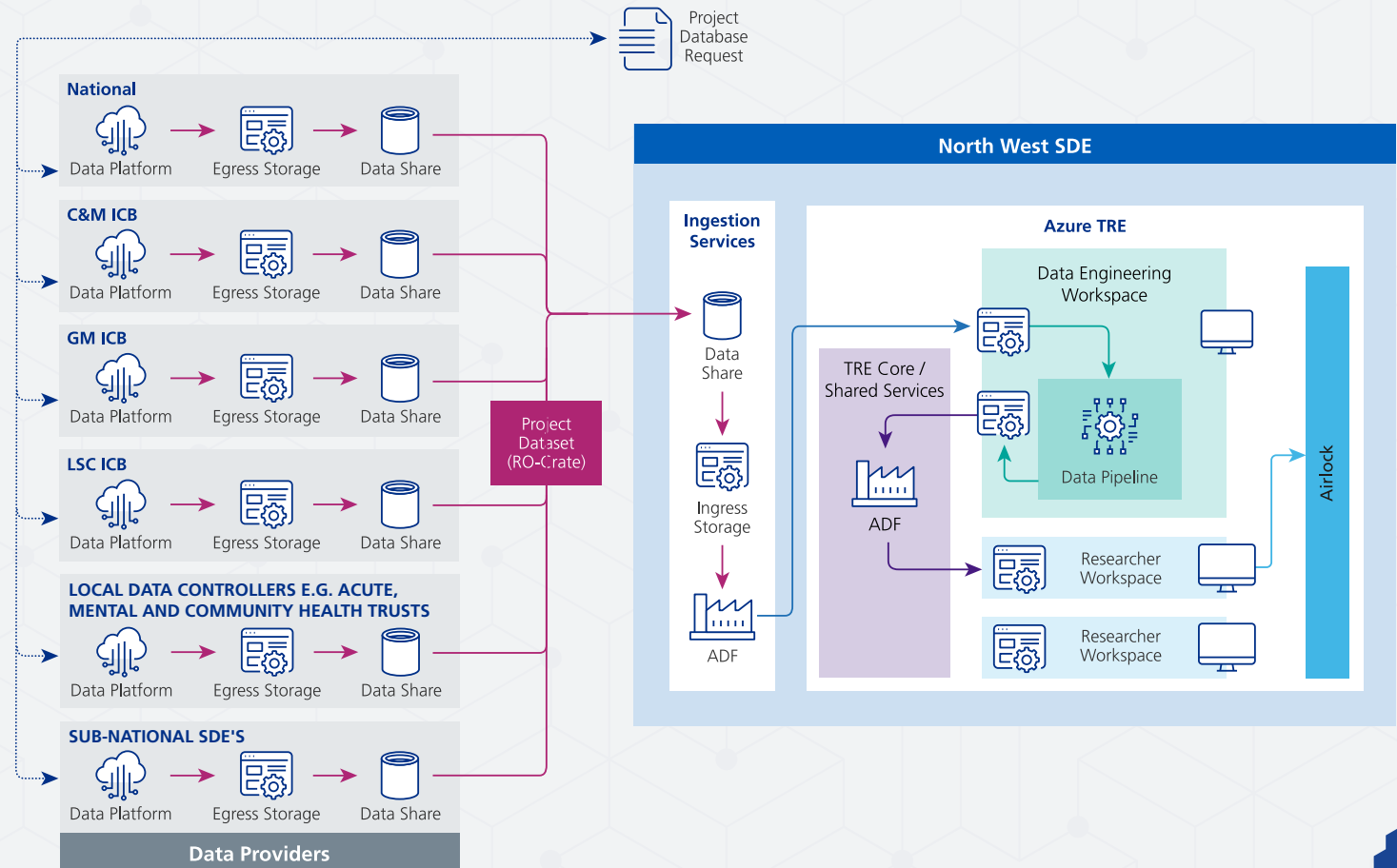
**C&M ICB:** Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board

**GM ICB:** Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board

**LSC ICB:** Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

**M-RIC:** Mental Health Research for Innovation Centre

**TRE:** Trusted Research Environment



# Visit our website

You can find out more about the North West Secure Data Environment by visiting our website:








[northwestsde.nhs.uk](https://northwestsde.nhs.uk)

Enquiries to:

[nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:nw.sde@lthtr.nhs.uk)



Guided by the principles of the Five Safes:

-  **Safe Data**
-  **Safe Projects**
-  **Safe Settings**
-  **Safe Outputs**
-  **Safe People**