

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2025/11098

Date Received: 29th September 2025

Response Due: 27th October 2025

Date: 13th November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29th September 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

This request concerns your organisation's policies, initiatives and actions as an "anchor institution" – that is, as a large, place-based organisation that uses its employment, procurement, estate, and other levers to support local economic, social, and environmental wellbeing.

Please provide the following information for the last three financial years (or the most recent available period):

Anchor Strategy / Policy

Copies of any published or internal strategies, policies, plans, or board papers that define your organisation's role as an anchor institution or set objectives for anchor-related activity.

- Our Strategy 2030 (attached) references the importance of our role as an anchor institution (see pages 28/29)
- There haven't been any specific board items on anchor work recently - there was an item on a Board workshop in summer 2021 and another in summer 2022. The slides for both of these are attached.
 - The Anchor Work is however referenced in the twice-yearly report to public board on partnerships. I've attached both the April and October 2025 papers. The April paper has more detail and covers the 'reset' of the Anchor Partnership across the Wigan locality.

The date of approval or adoption of such strategy/policy.

Our Strategy 2030 was adopted by Trust Board in March 2021.

Dedicated Teams / Leadership

Details of any dedicated teams, departments, posts, or named roles (by job title only, not personal names) with responsibility for anchor-institution or community-wealth-building work.

None.

Copies of any role descriptions or Terms of Reference for anchor-related working groups or steering committees.

We have a steering group for Anchor work. There aren't formal terms of reference, by the role of the group is outlined in slide 13 of the presentation that went to Trust Board in July 2022 (attached).

Procurement and Local Supply Chain

Any KPIs, targets, or reports showing spend with local suppliers (e.g., within your local authority area or region), or with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social enterprises, or voluntary-community sector organisations.

We are working with our Anchor Partners across the Wigan Borough to identify opportunities to increase spend with local supplies, SMEs, and VCFSEs

Any frameworks or procurement policies designed to strengthen local supply chains or inclusive procurement.

The National Procurement Policy Statement 2025, issued under the Procurement Act 2023, sets strategic priorities for public procurement. Frameworks and policies are designed to strengthen local supply chains and promote inclusive procurement, especially within local government and public sector bodies.

Employment and Workforce

KPIs, targets, or reports relating to local recruitment, apprenticeships, entry-level employment or career-pathway programmes aimed at residents in your local area.

The Talent for Care Lead has targets that have been agreed between WWL and Wigan and Leigh College for employment programmes within the borough.

Any policies or initiatives to address equality, diversity and inclusion in recruitment from local communities.

We have a civic agreement as part of our partnership working that talks about our ambition across the borough to improve health, education and employment for people in the Borough but we don't have anything specifically that refers to EDI although the whole agreement is part of the aim to improve access to education, training and employment.

Estates and Capital Investment

Any programmes or policies to use your estates, land, or capital projects to promote local economic development (e.g., local supplier targets in construction, use of local land for community benefit).

There is no Programme, Or Policy to use Estates land for Local Economic opportunities. In terms of Capital, whilst there is not a specific policy to Bias Local contractors over regional contractors, We as a Trust do still conduct contractual tender Exercises with Contractors capable of delivering healthcare. As opposed to using National Frameworks to deliver our schemes.

Partnership Working

Details of your participation in any local or regional anchor networks (e.g., Birmingham Anchor Network, London Anchor Institutions' Network, Leeds Anchor Network, etc.).

We are an active participant in the Wigan Anchor Partnership.

Copies of Memoranda of Understanding, Terms of Reference, or equivalent documents for these partnerships.

The Trust does not hold this information. Please redirect your questions to Wigan Council's FOI team at foirequest@wigan.gov.uk.

Monitoring and Reporting

Copies of any recent reports, dashboards, board updates, or evaluations that measure the impact of your anchor-related activity.

We don't have a dashboard regularly produced, although (as you'll see from the slides) have looked at the metrics on an ad hoc basis. As part of the reset of the Anchor Partnership across the locality, it is planned to consider how we measure our actions (taking a logic model approach)

Budget and Resourcing

Budget allocations or recorded expenditure specifically earmarked for anchor-related activity (if separately identified in accounts or reports).

No specific budgets are earmarked for anchor activity.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Tabitha Gardner
Chief Finance Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wroughtington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111