

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUITNY COMMITTEE :  
19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NHS WIRRAL AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE WIRRAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

- 1. WIRRAL HEALTH ECONOMY – REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS ACROSS HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE SOUND FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANNING**
  - 2. JOINT COLLABORATION BOARD BETWEEN COUNTNESS OF CHESTER AND WIRRAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS**
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### *Executive Summary*

*This paper informs the Committee of discussions held across NHS organisations on Wirral and the Local Authority with the aim of exploring how NHS and Local Government can work together in the light of current and future financial challenges in order to identify potential savings as result of collaborative working.*

*In addition the paper sets out the purpose and the scope of the recently established Joint Collaboration Board formed between the Countess of Chester and the Wirral University Teaching Hospitals.*

*This items falls within the Social Care and Inclusion portfolio.*

### **1 Background and progress so far**

- 1.1 In Autumn 2009, NHS Wirral hosted a financial summit which was attended by managers and senior clinicians from NHS Wirral, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust and the Chief Executive and Senior Officers of Wirral Borough Council. The meeting explored the potential effect of the recession and potential public sector funding pressures on health and local government on Wirral, and suggested some areas for further work and discussion where it was felt there was scope for increased effectiveness and efficiency as a result of collaborative working.
- 1.2 The Chief Executives of the Council and the four NHS organisations, together with the Directors of Adult Social Services and Children's Services agreed to take forward discussions in the following work areas:
  - Urgent care
  - Planned Care
  - Children's Services
  - Older People's Services
  - Mental Health

- Public health
- Back office functions
- Public and Staff Engagement

1.3 They also agreed to continue to meet on a regular basis to ensure co-ordination across workstreams and to maintain momentum in taking forward discussions. The aim is to produce a programme of targeted savings which can be implemented over the next three to four years. As proposals are put forward there will be a need for wider discussion across organisations and with the public in the Spring of 2010.

## **2 Discussions beyond Wirral**

2.1 NHS Northwest has organised similar discussions across the whole of the Northwest with NHS and local government organisations. They have also encouraged discussions about the future shape of acute hospital services as this is the sector which the National Operating Framework for the NHS suggests will see contraction as a result of greater efficiency. It is in this context that the discussions between Wirral University Hospital and the Countess of Chester have been established.

## **3 Joint Collaboration Board between Countess of Chester and Wirral University Teaching Hospitals**

3.1 There has been a long and beneficial partnership between the two organisations which has resulted in the development of robust services across West Cheshire and Wirral to include a high quality Renal Service based on both sites, Urology Cancer Services, based at Arrowe Park, and specialist Vascular services (EVAR), based at the Countess of Chester.

3.2 The added imperative is the financial climate and its impact on the Public Sector. It is clear from the work that has been done locally and the NHS Northwest that the approach must be focused on an economy wide basis and the hospital is working under the leadership of NHS Wirral to plan services. It is also clear that we need to be planning some services on a wider footprint and over the course of 2009 NHS Wirral, NHS Western Cheshire, The Countess of Chester and Wirral University Teaching Hospitals agreed a footprint of Wirral and Western Cheshire as an important footprint for the planning of secondary care health services.

3.3 The Joint Collaboration Board has been established and had its first meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The membership of the Board is the Executive Directors of both Trusts. The purpose of the Board is to explore and examine all potential opportunities for the two Trusts to work together to develop safe, high quality services that will be sustainable in the long term and will derive benefits for patients and support the strategic direction of the two organisations. It will do this by systematically working through all of the services that are provided by each Trust to identify different

service models. This work will be carried out by clinical staff working in the two units, and we will involve service users in the reviews.

- 3.4 In addition to establishing the Board and agreeing Terms of Reference, we have also taken the opportunity to make a joint appointment between the two Trusts. There was a vacancy to the post of Associate Director of Operations – Diagnostics at Wirral University Teaching Hospital and we have asked Richard Baird, who holds the same position at the Countess of Chester, to work across both sites. He will take up this new post on a secondment basis on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- 3.5 A driver for this new arrangement is to look at Pathology services in the first instance to identify the opportunities to provide a Chester and Wirral Pathology Service. This is at the very early stages and Richard will work with staff from the different Pathology disciplines to develop a more robust model of service.
- 3.6 The Trusts are at the beginning of a very exciting piece of collaborative work, in which both organisations have taken the initiative to respond to the range of external pressures facing the NHS and the Public Sector in general. The driving force within this work is to maintain high quality and safe services that are sustainable in the longer term to derive benefits for patients. Wirral has a track record of achieving that with the Countess of Chester in their Award winning Chester & Wirral Renal Service and the development of Cancer Centre status for Urology which again is a collaboration service with Chester

#### **4 Financial Implications**

The intention of this work programme is to achieve efficiencies across the public sector

#### **5 Staffing Implications**

These will be identified as the work progresses

#### **6 Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment**

All major service developments are subject to an Equality Health Assessment and an Impact Assessment will be carried out on this proposal.

#### **7 Community Safety Implications**

None

#### **8 Local Agenda 21 Implications**

None

**9 Planning Implications**

None

**10 Anti Poverty Implications**

None

**11 Social Inclusion Implications**

None

**12 Local Member Support Implications**

None

**13 Health Implications**

The intention is to develop programmes which meet the health aspirations of NHS Wirral and the Council

**14 Background Papers**

None

**15 Recommendations**

That the Committee notes the collaborative working and seeks further regular updates on progress.

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