

## NHS England Quarterly Report to Wirral Health & Wellbeing Board

March 2018

### **1. Purpose of this report**

The aim of this report is to update Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board regarding the activities and responsibilities of NHS England. This report outlines the national and regional position together with specific updates on priorities that the Local NHS England Teams are responsible for progressing.

### **2. Strategy and planning**

#### **2.1 NHS Plan for 2018/19**

NHS England and NHS Improvement published joint guidance on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, setting out guidance on the expectations for commissioners and providers in updating their operational plans and how funds will be distributed for 2018/19.

In line with the priorities set out by the NHS England Board on 30 November 2017, for 2018/19 the NHS will build on the progress made in 2017/18 and protect investment in mental health, cancer services and primary care in line with the available resources and agreed plans. This means a continued commitment to deliver the cancer waiting time standards, achievement by each and every CCG of the Mental Health Investment Standard, service expansions set out by the Mental Health Taskforce and General Practice Forward View commitments, consistent with the expectations already set out in the 2017-19 planning guidance.

The resources available to CCGs will be increased by £1.4 billion this additional investment; £400 million creating a Commissioner Sustainability Fund (CSF), partly mirroring the financial framework for providers, to enable CCGs to return to in-year financial balance, whilst supporting and incentivising CCGs to deliver against their financial control totals.

The key milestones for submitting plans are:

8 March 2018	Draft 2018/19 Organisational Operating Plans submitted
30 April 2018	Final Board or Governing Body approved Organisation Operating Plans submitted

The full guidance can be found at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/refreshing-nhs-plans-for-2018-19/>

## **2.2 National Directors**

NHS England and NHS Improvement have appointed Dr Simon Eccles as the new Chief Clinical Information Officer for Health and Care to spearhead NHS use of technology and data to drive improvements in patient care.

Dr Eccles is a practicing hospital consultant in Emergency Medicine at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and will succeed Professor Keith McNeil. He is also Clinical Director for Emergency Care at NHS England, London, and holds a number of senior roles nationally including as senior responsible owner for NHS Mail and Interoperability.

## **3. Delivery and Assurance**

### **3.1 Operational Delivery & Resilience**

#### **3.1.1 Winter preparedness**

Urgent and emergency services across Cheshire and Merseyside continue to experience pressures, in part as a consequence of the higher than usual influenza infection rates this year and the continued cold weather at the end of February.

Nationally capital funding has been made available out of slippage from the primary care streaming funding. The DCO Team, working with the NHS Improvement team, has encouraged Trusts with constrained cubicle space to bid for this funding. Locally CCGs have been encouraged to utilise all the primary care streaming funding made available to them.

NHS Wirral CCG received circa £226k additional winter funding from NHS England following a bidding process. The funding provided for three schemes running from 22/12/17 – end of February 2018 including:

- Extra bookable GP appointments
- Additional capacity for the primary care acute visiting scheme

A&E Delivery Boards have been requested to share plans for the extended Easter bank holiday period and will be assured by NHS England.

Planning for Winter 2018/19 is starting with a Cheshire & Merseyside workshop scheduled to take place on 21 March to review the learning from this Winter and to identify collaborative work streams that can be developed. An initial questionnaire was sent out to A&E Delivery Boards as part of this process.

#### **3.1.2 Mental Health**

New data published in February demonstrated that a record number of people made a recovery from mental ill health, due to NHS talking therapies last year. The annual report on NHS England's Improving Access to Talking Therapies (IAPT) programme, shows that half of people completing a course of treatment for conditions including depression and anxiety, recovered from their condition.

The NHS Digital report shows that in the last full year, 2016/17:

- 49.3 per cent of people completing IAPT treatment for anxiety or depression recovered from their condition.
- Waiting times for IAPT have improved, with 98.2 per cent of people getting care within 18 weeks and nearly nine in ten starting treatment within six weeks.

There continue to be challenges across Wirral in delivering a high quality IAPT service. NHS Wirral CCG and NHS England have met to explore plans for securing a sustained improvement in service delivery for local patients.

### **3.2 Improvement and Assessment Framework Year-End Process**

The DCO team is currently reviewing the evidence to support CCG 17/18 Quality of Leadership scores as part of the Improvement and Assessment Framework Year-end meetings with all CCGs have been booked provisionally for end April/early May. The National deadline for submitting year end ratings is provisionally the 8th May. This will be informed by a CCG self-assessment process.

## **4. Consultations**

### **4.1 Consultation on Accountable Care Organisations**

NHS England has announced it will be launching a consultation on the contracting arrangements for Accountable Care Organisations (ACOs).

Given the interest in the ACO proposals NHS England will hold a 12 week public consultation process to provide further clarity about their role and scope.

ACOs are only one tool for integrating primary care, mental health, social care and hospital services and not the only or main way to integrate services. Most areas are seeking to do so through voluntary, non-contractual partnerships where GPs, hospitals, commissioners and local government collaborate to improve services for their population. NHS England will be announcing the next wave of these collaborative partnerships shortly.

ENDS

**Nicola Allen,**

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**27<sup>th</sup> February 2018**