

# PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 1 March 2022

Present: Councillor J Robinson (Chair)

Councillors J Johnson P Martin  
D Brennan D Mitchell  
I Camphor A Wright  
T Cottier

Deputies: Councillors W Clements (for Councillor B Berry)

## 36 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members, Officers and any members of the public , attending or viewing to the meeting.

## 37 APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received in advance of the meeting:

Councillor B Berry  
Councillor S Hayes  
Councillor J Walsh

## 38 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or an other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor I Camphor	Personal interest by virtue of his employment within the NHS
Councillor T Cottier	Personal interest by virtue of his spouse's employment within the NHS

## 39 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022 be agreed.**

40 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No public questions, statements or Member questions were received in advance of the meeting.

41 **THORN HEYS RESPITE PROVISION UPDATE**

A Report was presented by Simon Banks, Chief Officer, NHS Wirral CCG and Wirral Health and Care Commissioning (WHCC) which advised how Thorn Heys is a health service provided by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) for short breaks for adults with a learning disability.

The report informed Members how the model of care was established over 20 years ago and how due consideration was required to ensure that the affected individuals' needs continue to be appropriately met. It was explained how the service is currently commissioned by NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and that funding is part of a block contract with CWP. Members were then advised how the service is located on a site known as 'Ashton House', located in Oxtou Ward and owned and managed by CWP. The report provided an update on work to date including details of the consultation process that would begin in June 2022.

The Chief Officer advised how during the last few years the WHCC, CCG and Wirral Council had seen a reduction in the number of people and their families accessing the short breaks provision at Thorn Heys. He further advised how the service had been temporarily closed for an extended period during the Covid-19 pandemic where families were supported with alternative arrangements as required.

Members heard how Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) had undertaken a joint needs assessment of the 13 families who use the service and the assessments resulted in the following outcomes:

- The majority of users of the existing short break service at CWP could access appropriate care and support through other existing social care provision (10 out of 13 families);
- There remain 3 individuals who would need oversight of, or interventions, by a trained nurse during the course of short break provision. These needs could be met by another short break service provided by another health care provider, subject to assessment of need and discussion with families;

The Chief Officer summarised how the needs of the 13 families could be met as follows:

- Service with a qualified nurse on site by another health care provider – 3 families
- Adult Social Care Short Break Service – provided by individually commissioned complex care respite services with the independent sector from a community care framework– 4 families;
- Adult Social Care Short Break Service – Provided by commissioned adult disability short break services at Tollemache Road, Birkenhead. – 6 families.

In response to questions raised by Members the Chief Officer advised how it was currently unknown as to whether there would be a transferred cost to either parents or the service user and that outcomes of the consultation would firstly be considered. Furthermore, Members were then advised how means testing is a local authority policy, NHS services are free from the first point of delivery, therefore, it would depend on the outcomes of the consultation how this service will continue to be funded with regards to means testing. Members were advised how this matter is not a funding issue as the funding is available as part of the block contract, it is more about the appropriateness in care. Members heard how if the service remains as NHS provision there will be no cost. If it becomes Social Care it will be subject to Local Authority regulations, if its joint then the financial arrangements will have to be established.

In response to a further question, Members were informed that the consultation will start in June 2022 and will run for 12 weeks, with a discussion and decision to take place in September 2022. Members were advised that the consultation had been delayed due to pressures on the service mainly due to the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus disease earlier in the year, that combined with the forthcoming local government election period meant that June 2022 was the earliest the consultation could begin.

A further question was put about budgets and it was explained how the monies that are pooled are within the budget arrangements with the Council under section 75 and forms part of a block contract. Members were informed how any investment in the Thorn Heyes site is the responsibility of the Cheshire/ Wirral partnerships and would have to be factored in. In response to a question about inspection of the service. Members were advised how Cheshire/ Wirral partnerships had been subject to CQC inspections.

In response to a discussion on individual needs, Members were advised how regardless of the outcomes of the consultation individual needs of the 13 people affected would be assessed alongside a carers assessment to help identify what provision is needed.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 42 INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM

A Report by The Chief Officer, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), provided an update on the Integrated Care System and the associated changes to Wirral's (CCG).

By way of background, Members were advised how partners across Wirral have a long history of working effectively together to agree and deliver shared outcomes. They were further advised how the Integrated Care System and the developmental Wirral Place Based Partnership would be inclusive, bringing together commissioners, providers and colleagues from Social Care, Health and Voluntary Sectors. The report informed how Wirral's Place Based Partnership would build on the Borough's Health and Wellbeing Strategy by developing the partnership strategy/priorities and associated outcomes for health and care across Wirral. It advised how Wirral's Place Based Partnership would be responsible for the delivery of an Integrated Health and Social Care system through effective stakeholder collaboration and improved health and social care services to deliver better outcomes for the population of Wirral.

The report advised how Officers from a range of health social care and voluntary organisations will attend Wirral's Place Based Partnership to work together to transform services across the health and social care system to deliver sustainable change with maximum benefits to communities, residents, and patients. Members heard how Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership wrote to partners on 22 October 2021 to update about the process of developing the new ICB's Constitution and engagement with system partners and stakeholders. Members then heard how the ICB would be responsible for implementing the overall NHS strategy in Cheshire and Merseyside, assigning resources, securing assurance, and ensuring partners that the right activities are focused on securing the best outcomes for communities.

The report explained how the ICB Constitution is heavily prescribed nationally to reflect the need for clear and consistent process on the management of NHS resources and decision making. However, specific choices are required in relation to the membership and size of the ICB including the number of executives, non-executives, and partner members. It was explained how integration would build upon and strengthen the existing single approach to integrated planning and commissioning at place and building upon the pooled resources of £235M.

Members were further advised how Several workshops had been held to develop the Wirral Place Based Partnership arrangements including workshops with elected members, partners and technical expertise. A workshop was held on 8 October 2021 with Senior Officers from partner organisations to develop the governance arrangements for the Wirral's Place-

Based Partnership. The following areas were agreed at the workshop as detailed below:

- An understanding of the requirements and expectations of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership in the design of place-based arrangements and process of the appointment of a Lead for Wirral who will discharge the duties of ICB; .
- Agreement that the Wirral Plan 2021-25 Vision for place is the overarching strategy and the core principles for Wirral's Place-based Partnership (as created by the System leads and Healthy Wirral Partnership);
- Support for the Wirral Integrated Care Partnership Delivery Group to continue shaping and designing the detail of the Governance Structure aligned to the guidance and legislation;
- Confirmation that a programme of continued consultation and engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, led by the recently mobilised fourth Workstream of Communication and Engagement, is a priority;
- A commitment by all to continue to work together to drive forward integration, joint working and new ways of working to improve outcomes for residents and partners to truly make a sustained difference.

The report informed Members how Wirral's Place Based Partnership would drive a culture towards greater collaboration and joint working and build upon what partners have already worked hard to develop over the years. Governance arrangements would continue to develop over time, with the potential to develop into more formal arrangements as working relationships and trust increases. Members were further informed how Wirral Place Based Partnership Terms of Reference continue to be developed and will be brought to the next Health and Well-being Board and Public Health and Adults Social Care meetings for discussion and approval.

The report advised how there are nine Local Authorities working together at Cheshire and Merseyside System level: Wirral, Warrington, Sefton, St Helens, Liverpool, Knowsley, Halton, Cheshire East & Chester and Cheshire West. The Cheshire and Merseyside System required all 'Places' to self-assess against each of the domains of their partnership maturity by 5 November 2021.

Mr Greg Dropkin, representing campaign group 'Save our NHS' addressed the Committee to express some concerns on behalf of the group most notably emergency care provision

In response to a question by a Member in relation to the constitution of the ICB Board, Members were advised that the constitution would need to be

authorised as a CCG and that there would be a small executive team appointed. The Chief Officer resolved to provide Members with documentation on the proposed make up of the ICB. Furthermore, in response to an additional question, the Chief Officer advised that a provision within the constitution to ensure that the NHS remains preferred providers would not be listed within the document itself, but would be within associated guidance as a recommendation.

Members were then advised in response to a question that any administrative change that new structures would bring will be subject to consultation and there will be a purpose for appointing a Director of Place to ensure that voices are heard, furthermore attention would be focused to the ' Digital Agenda' to ensure that the digitally disadvantaged are reached.

In response to a further question, Members were advised how there has been Trade Union involvement and a reference group has been established. The Chief Officer spoke of the importance of collaborative working and that the agenda for change that has served the NHS well in recent years. A result of this had been improving patient care He also highlighted the importance of accentuating 'Place'

On a motion by Councillor J Robinson, seconded by Councillor D Brennan it was:

**Resolved – That the Partnerships Committee resolve to note the report and recommend that the provision of emergency care to all who are present in the area is retained within the new arrangements and that the relevant council committee should undertake further scrutiny on the issue.**