

Title	Primary Care Group Report
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Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	25 th July 2024

Report Purpose and Recommendations	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board with an update on the work of the Primary Care Group (PCG).</p> <p>It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board notes the work of the Primary Care Group.</p>	

Key Risks	
<p>The report relates to the following key risks identified in the Place Delivery Assurance Framework presented to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 21st March 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PDAF 1 Service Delivery:</i> Wirral system partners are unable to deliver the priority programmes within the Wirral Health and Care Plan which will result in poorer outcomes and greater inequalities for our population. • <i>PDAF 3 Collaboration:</i> Leaders and organisations in the Wirral health and care system may not work together effectively to improve population health and healthcare. 	

Governance journey			
Date	Forum	Report Title	Purpose/Decision
30 th April 2024	Primary Care Group	Agenda and papers for meeting	Meeting held and work progressed.
25 th June 2024	Primary Care Group	Agenda and papers for meeting	Meeting held and work progressed.

1	Narrative
1.1	Background
1.1.1	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is working with each of the nine Places in the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) to establish robust governance and assurance mechanisms through strong partnership arrangements. The Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (WPBPB) is the forum where NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will conduct business pertaining to the Borough transparently in the public domain and in collaboration with system partners. These arrangements will also support further delegation of decision making and resources to each Borough.
1.1.2	The Primary Care Group has been established to oversee the exercise of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's statutory powers in Wirral relating to the provision of GP primary medical services under the NHS Act 2006, as amended by the Health and

	Care Act 2022, and other primary care services as delegated in future. The Group will report on these matters to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board to support the effective conduct of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's business in Wirral.
1.2	Primary Care Group Meetings, 30th April 2024 and 25th June 2024
1.2.1	<p>Risk Register:</p> <p>30th April 2024:-The Group were updated on the progress of the new risk register template. No changes to previous risk scores were proposed.</p> <p>25th June 2024:- The Group were updated on mitigations to the two defined risks.</p>
1.2.2	<p>Work Plan:</p> <p>30th April 2024:-The Group agreed the expanded work plan for 2024/25.</p> <p>25th June 2024: - discussion on Fuller recommendations and local development of neighbourhood model. GP Workforce dashboard shared but needs updating to more current period.</p>
1.2.3	<p>Primary Care Update:</p> <p>30th April 2024: - <u>Access</u></p> <p>Appointment data for core appointment activity as of February 2024 was set out in the report. Overall, for general appointments, Wirral perform well within the various areas.</p> <p>The Wirral rate for appointments booked on the same day or beyond is 53% and Wirral practices offer the highest number of face-to-face appointments compared across Cheshire & Merseyside practices.</p> <p><u>Capacity Access and Improvement Payments (CAIP) 2023-24</u> – The Group was informed that the unconditional payment of 70% has been paid monthly to Primary Care Networks (PCNs). They continue to work on compiling all supporting evidence of their achievement against the three key areas of the scheme, to inform the submissions due to the Group for payment approval of the remaining 30% by 31st August 2024.</p> <p><u>Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP) 2023-24</u> The Group was advised that nationally, overall patient satisfaction with practices had fallen. This appears to be related to a drop in scores for 'experience of making an appointment', which strongly correlates with the 'ease of getting through' of which there is great variation in this approach amongst practices. This is reflected across Wirral practices.</p> <p><u>Enhanced Access (EA) 2024-25</u> The Group was updated that a summary of revised plans had been collated from each PCN to identify any changes from pre-agreed plans. The total commissioned hours of delivery had been adjusted to reflect population and practice changes within a PCN from April 2024.</p> <p><u>Healthwatch Commission – Enhanced Access Review 2023</u> The Group was informed that an evaluation report will be presented by Healthwatch Wirral to a future meeting. This will provide a good baseline and will be used to inform any changes required to improve the service.</p>

Wirral Access Hub

The Group was advised the additional Access Hub ceased on 31st March 2024 in line with the Winter provision directed by NHS England. The Hub provided an additional 429 urgent on the day appointments per week on average. Utilisation of appointments offered was 98.68% with 72% of patients being seen the same day. The service had proved to be a really good resource over the Winter period.

Next Steps - Access 2024-25

Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP)

It was confirmed to the Group that the four domains of *empowering patients, implementing Modern General Practice, building capacity and cutting bureaucracy* would continue. Further detailed guidance on this was awaited.

GP Contract 2024-25 including Capacity Access and Improvement Payment (CAIP)

PCN Clinical Directors will need to declare implementation of three domains of Modern General Practice Access Model being better digital telephony and use of data, simpler online requests (online consultations available during core hours) and faster care navigation, assessment and response by their member practices. Use of audit may apply via NHS England to confirm achievements.

The NHS Cheshire and Merseyside focus for 2024/25 will be supporting the local Urgent Emergency Care system. For general practice this will mean a greater lens on access to appointments, in particular, a 2% increase in appointments over 12 months and also appointments offered, for those who need it, within 2 weeks - 90% within 2 weeks.

25th June 2024: Access

The Group were updated on PCARP digital monies – Online Consultation software, Accubook and SMS text messaging are the main priorities with any remaining funding made available to Place for proposals from PCNs.

30th April 2024: - New PCN Request

The Group was advised of the request received from several practices within Birkenhead PCN to form a new, separate PCN.

The approval process for a new PCN request would be in the first instance a submission would be presented to the Place Leadership Team for recommendation and then to Primary Care Group for final approval.

It was expected that all papers would be ready by the end of May 2024 and would be presented to 25th June 2024 Primary Care Group meeting.

25th June 2024: - New PCN Request

The Group received the full proposal. The locations of the practices within the proposed new PCN are geographically well aligned and coterminous, serving a deprived population with varying health needs and access challenges.

With regards to care delivery, patients would continue to receive a range of PCN delivered services from Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) roles, i.e. physio, clinical pharmacy, social prescribing, health coaches etc.

The new PCN will recruit to a mental health role, in addition wider mental health support and clinical psychologist roles to supplement the existing mental health offer to patients.

Patient experience will be managed as part of plans to develop Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) within the PCN.

There are no staffing implications and there will be minimum disruption for staff. In terms of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE), there are no concerns in this area.

There would be no financial implications for NHS Cheshire and Merseyside. PCN funding will be re-aligned in-year to reflect the transfer of the patient population. Discussions had taken place between the existing PCN and the proposed new PCN with no concerns raised.

The timeline for this proposal is working towards the beginning of August 2024 for completion.

The Group recommended agreement in principle to the new PCN request for approval by the Place Leadership Team.

30th April 2024:-

Primary Care Quality Scheme (PCQS) 2024-25 Funding

The Group was informed that the scheme will be more improvement focussed and will include elements for carers support, patient safety and opioids medicines management. The scheme is scheduled to start July 2024.

25th June 2024:-

Primary Care Quality Scheme (PCQS)

The Group were informed there had been involvement from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside clinical leads and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Lead for Wirral in the development of this scheme.

The four elements to the scheme which are all compulsory are:

- Element 1 - Reduction in Antibiotic Prescribing
- Element 2 - Reduction in Prescribing of Addictive Drugs
- Element 3 – Carers
- Element 4 – Patient Safety *

*Group suggested this element is offered at practice-level like the rest of the scheme, rather than PCN-level.

The Group recommended agreement in principle to the PCQS scheme 2024/25 for approval by the Place Leadership Team.

30th April 2024:-

Moreton Group Practice Update

The Group was advised on an estates matter affecting the site at Chadwick Street, Moreton.

Both Moreton and Meols PCN and the Practice have decided that Chadwick Street

	<p>site can be relinquished. The site is owned by a private provider and with the lease ending, they did not wish to commit to a further lease for 15 years.</p> <p>25th June 2024:- <u>Moreton Group Practice</u></p> <p>The Group were updated on work continuing with the practice on estates matters at Pasture Road and additional rooms, and the closure of the Chadwick Street site. A business case will be submitted for additional space at Pasture Road which is planned for August.</p> <p><u>Whetstone Medical Centre</u> - A request for a sale and leaseback has been received by Wirral Place. A 15-year lease has been proposed with no break clauses. Place Leadership Team have approved the sale and leaseback and lease term in principle, subject to agreement over appropriate break clauses given the regeneration / redevelopment of the Birkenhead area.</p> <p>The Group noted the approval in principle subject to agreement over appropriate break clauses given the regeneration / redevelopment of the Birkenhead area.</p> <p>25th June 2024:- <u>Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) procurements</u></p> <p>The Group were updated that the Townfield Health Centre APMS procurement was awaiting an ICB decision on whether a Prior Information Notice (PIN) can be issued. The Leasowe Medical Centre APMS procurement is due to commence after the period of purdah ends.</p>
1.2.4	<p>30th April 2024:- <u>Primary Care Medicines Management Update</u></p> <p>The Group noted the summary performance report.</p> <p>25th June 2024:- <u>Primary Care Medicines Management Update</u></p> <p>The Group noted the summary performance report.</p> <p>The Group received an update on Community Pharmacy – Pharmacy First Service</p> <p>Since Pharmacy First went live on 31st January 2024, across Cheshire and Merseyside there had been 27,973 referrals to the service of which 1,792 had been from Wirral Practices, this equated to 6%.</p> <p>Referrals by practice were set out in the report which shows that five practices had made no referrals with another five practices having made three or less. Contact will be made with these practices to get a further understanding of the reasons for no use.</p>
1.2.5	<p>30th April 2024:- <u>Quality Update</u></p> <p>The Group noted the update.</p>
1.2.6	<p>30th April 2024:- <u>Update from Local Representative Committees</u></p> <p>Local Medical Committee: The Group was informed there was an ongoing national dispute in relation to the current 1-year GP contract, which had not been accepted.</p> <p>Local Dental Committee: The Group was informed that there are two schemes for</p>

access recovery plans for dentistry – one national and one local. The local scheme is from 1st April 2024 and the Service Level Agreements were issued to dentists on 29th April 2024.

Details on Wirral dental practices signing up to either the local or national schemes would be available shortly. There have been relatively few Wirral dental practices opting out of their NHS contract, however, with regards to practices taking on new NHS patients, this puts significant pressure on dentists, so likely it won't be every practice that signs up to either scheme.

It was proposed it would be useful if someone could attend a community group to explain why there are issues in dentistry – local dental advisor happy to attend.

25th June 2024:- Update from Local Representative Committees

Local Medical Committee:- The Group received an update on national discussions regarding the potential for industrial action by general practices. There is a non-binding ballot to judge the views of GPs on the new contract and if industrial action is to be considered. The ballot ends on 27th July 2024. It was agreed to add this item to the Risk Register.

Local Dental Committee:- The Group received an update on the following issues;

- capacity access issues for paediatric dentistry in hospital settings for children, sometimes they are waiting 12 months to be seen.
- Issues with numbers for the Wirral provision of Orthodontists. There are 200 dentists in Cheshire and Merseyside with 49 signed up to the dental provision.
- Urgent Care Plus has been introduced; this is payment to a dentist to work a number of sessions. Complex patients who may not have seen a dentist for some time are also included in this.
- Members were informed that year-end figures for NHS funding were due out soon. A £17m underspend clawback is estimated with £15.8m back to the local scheme is estimated. Choice is available for some practices to undertake more NHS work but it is more cost effective for them to undertake independent/private dental work. Funding is not sufficient to attract dentists to undertake NHS work.
- Fluoridation in the water supply is currently being considered in the North East of England.

1.2.7 **30th April 2024:- Primary Care Finance:** The Group received the report, with the following headlines:

- the reported year-end position as at Month 12, to 31st March 2024 is an adverse variance to plan of £0.781m, (Month 11 £0.469m) and the risk and mitigations to delivery against the budget of £67.265m.

25th June 2024: Primary Care Finance: The Group received the report, with the following headlines:

Members were informed that it is still very early in the financial year, month 2 results are in line with plan. There will be a better sense of any emerging risks/improvements when Month 3 results are reported.

2.1	<p><i>Risk Mitigation and Assurance</i></p> <p>The work taken through the Primary Care Group provides controls for and support assurance of the management of the strategic risks PDAF 1 and PDAF 3. The Primary Care Group also has a Risk Register, which will into the PDAF and discussions at the Place Based Partnership Board around risk.</p>
2.2	<p><i>Financial</i></p> <p>The financial implications arising from this report are articulated in 1.2.7 above.</p>
2.3	<p><i>Legal and regulatory</i></p> <p>There are no direct legal and regulatory implications arising from this report.</p>
2.4	<p><i>Resources</i></p> <p>Wirral Council are supporting the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board and, when required, the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will support the remaining governance and assurance infrastructure.</p>
2.5	<p><i>Engagement and consultation</i></p> <p>Engagement with system partners has taken place in the development of the Terms of Reference for the Primary Care Group. This is a group that has been agreed as part of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's governance for Wirral. The Primary Care Group has a membership that includes Healthwatch Wirral and representation from the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. The PCG is co-chaired by representatives from the VCFSE.</p>
2.6	<p><i>Equality</i></p> <p>Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have a legal requirement to make sure their policies, and the way they carry out their work, do not discriminate against anyone. The business of these groups will be conducted with an awareness of the general duty requirements and place equality considerations. No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report, although impact assessments will be required for any service changes proposed through the Primary Care Group.</p>
2.7	<p><i>Environment and Climate</i></p> <p>Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside are committed to carrying out their work in an environmentally responsible manner, these principles will be followed by the Primary Care Group.</p>
2.8	<p><i>Community Wealth Building</i></p> <p>Community Wealth Building in Wirral focusses on partnerships and collaboration. These partnerships are led by Wirral Council with external partners and stakeholders, including residents. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside will support the Council in community wealth building by ensuring health and care organisations in the borough have a focus on reducing health inequalities and contribute to the development of a resilient and inclusive economy for Wirral. The Primary Care Group will take account of this in their work.</p>

3	Conclusion
3.1	It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board notes the work of the Primary Care Group.

4	Appendices
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	There are no appendices to this report.
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