

Title	Finance & Investment Group Highlight Report
Authors	Martin McDowell, Associate Director of Finance (Place)
Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	17 th October 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 Finance and Investment Group (FIG).</p> <p>It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board notes the work of the Finance and Investment Group and continues to receive updates as a standing agenda item.</p>	

Key Risks	
<p>The report relates to the following key risks identified in the Place Delivery Assurance Framework which was updated and presented to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 26th September 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. • <i>PDAF 5 Finance:</i> Financial pressures in the Wirral health and care system could impact in the quality of care and patient experience. • <i>PDAF 6 Community Wealth Building:</i> The focus on responding to current service priorities and demands diverts resource and attention from delivery of longer-term initiatives in our strategies that support the broader social and economic development of the borough. 	

Governance journey			
Date	Forum	Report Title	Purpose/Decision
27 th March 2024	Finance and Investment Group	Informal Financial Planning Meeting	Meeting held and work progressed.

1	Narrative
1.1	Background
1.1.1	<p>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.</p>

1.1.2	The Finance and Investment Group (FIG) has been established to develop and review Wirral place strategic and operational plans to deliver national, Cheshire and Merseyside and local priorities. The Group will ensure that these plans secure continuous improvement, with a focus on health inequalities, and are delivered within financial allocations. The Group will receive assurance on the delivery of financial plans and associated work programmes to ensure that they are aligned with strategic and operational plans to enable their delivery.
1.2	Finance and Investment Group Meeting, 25th September 2024
1.2.1	<p><i>Informal discussion to revise the groups workplan</i></p> <p>Members of the group met and held an informal discussion to reflect on the previous meetings and to shape the groups workplan for the future. The group agreed to review the current Terms of Reference before the next meeting scheduled for 23rd October and provide input to ensure that the future workplan will enable the group to respond to emerging challenges facing the health and social care system.</p> <p>All members of the group provided an update on the current financial performance against plans and noted several emerging risks including increasing cost of care packages, additional prescribing costs and the challenge of delivering cost efficiencies. The members of the group also reported that organisations are continually working on identifying further opportunities to mitigate these cost pressures.</p>

2	Implications
2.1	<p><i>Risk Mitigation and Assurance</i></p> <p>The work taken through the Finance and Investment Group provides controls for and support assurance of the management of the strategic risks PDAF 1, PDAF 3, PDAF 5 and PDAF 6. Specific financial risks relating to the delivery of organizational and wider system plans are evaluated and reported to the group.</p>
2.2	<p><i>Financial</i></p> <p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.</p>
2.3	<p><i>Legal and regulatory</i></p> <p>There are no direct financial 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 Finance and Investment Group. This is a group that has been agreed as part of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's governance for Wirral. The Strategy and Transformation Group has a membership that includes partner organisations and representation from the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector.</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</p>

	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 discussed through the Finance and Investment Group.
2.7	<i>Environment and Climate</i> 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 Finance and Investment Group.
2.8	<i>Community Wealth Building</i> 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 Finance and Investment Group will ensure that these principles are incorporated into its operations.

3	Conclusion
3.1	It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board notes the work of the Finance and Investment Group and continues to receive updates as a standing agenda item.

4	Appendices
	There are no appendices to this report.

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