

Title	Primary Care Group Report
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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 Primary Care Group (PCG).</p> <p>It is recommended that the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board notes the work of the Primary Care 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 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. 	

Governance journey			
Date	Forum	Report Title	Purpose/Decision
30 th July 2024	Primary Care Group	Agenda and papers for meeting	Meeting held and work progressed.
24 th September 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 July 2024 and 24th September 2024
1.2.1	<p>Risk Register:</p> <p>30th July 2024: Members were informed that the score for risk WPCG002 (Mental Health Practitioner roles under Primary Care Network (PCN) Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)) had been increased following discussion at the June meeting.</p> <p>The British Medical Association (BMA) collective action had been added to the Risk Register, noting that General Practitioners (GPs) were unhappy with the new GP contract offered for 2024-25.</p> <p>24th September 2024: The group discussed increasing the risk for risk WPCG003: (Impact of potential collective action by General Practices). NHS Cheshire and Merseyside were made aware that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 practices had switched off Data Sharing Agreements (not related to direct patient care). • 8 practices were switching off Scriptswitch. • There are some practices limiting appointments to 25 per day per clinician. • There are some practices no longer undertaking dressings or fitting pessaries. <p>Although patients do not have to be informed of any collective action unless it relates to the direct stopping of a service the Group discussed the importance of keeping patients aware via the Patient Participation Groups.</p>
1.2.2	<p>Work Plan:</p> <p>30th July 2024: Primary and Secondary Care interface; monthly meetings continue and are constructive but more pace is needed to achieve change.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Healthwatch Wirral Board update would be available for the September meeting.</p> <p>24th September 2024: This was noted for standard business items plus review of terms of reference for Group - the proposed changes to the terms of reference are the removal of the role: Place Associate Director of Transformation and Partnerships and the addition of the below under delegated authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning of Community Pharmacy • Commissioning of Dentistry
1.2.3	<p>Primary Care Update:</p> <p>30th July 2024:</p> <p>Draft C&M Primary Care Strategic Framework shared - covers GPs, Dentistry and Community Pharmacy. Further updates of the document will be provided as and when available.</p> <p>APMS (Alternative Provider Medical Services) Procurement of Leasowe Medical Practice – Group supported the proposed period for contract procurement – contract due for renewal July 2025.</p>

Capacity Access Improvement Payment (CAIP) 2023-24 - Members were informed that approval was sought to support the recommended proportion of CAIP 2023-24 payments for all PCNs and Service Delivery Units (SDUs) as set out in the paper.

The national Capacity and Access Support Payment (CASP), provides 70% of the funding to PCNs without conditions, paid monthly as nationally directed. 30% was for CAIP and this payment was based on evidence of achievement across several access areas.

GP Patient Survey 2024 - There had been a 28% response rate for Cheshire and Merseyside which equated to 38,351 from 136,157 surveys issued.

There had been positive results for Wirral PCNs with several results being higher than the national and ICB average. Two PCNs were in the top tiers for various questions and acknowledgement and appreciation correspondence had been issued to both.

Members were informed that for the question “**overall experience of their GP practice**”, five out of five Wirral PCNs achieved higher than the national and ICS average, with one PCN (Moreton & Meols) being the second highest performing PCN across the whole of Cheshire and Merseyside.

Community Pharmacy PCN Engagement Lead - proposal had been received from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside seeking Place support for a Community Pharmacy Engagement Lead to be allocated to each PCN. The role is to support PCARP and ongoing implementation of Pharmacy First Service, Blood Pressure (BP) checks and contraception services delivered by pharmacies. The role will be key to building relationships between Community Pharmacy and general practice and the delivery of integrated pathways. Members present supported the proposal of Option 2 - each Place would have an Engagement Lead which would support local priorities and wider.

24th September 2024:

Access & Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP) 2024-25 - Work continues on the recovery plan for 2024-25 building on the achievements from 2023-24. There is a continued focus on patients being assessed with the same day and seen within 2 weeks in line with clinical need.

Service Development Fund (SDF) 2024-25 - SDF funding is divided into two parts, one for working **At Scale** across the system, and the other for **transformation** work - the transformation element is currently being held centrally by the ICB and is likely to be used to support financial recovery programme. It is anticipated the At Scale allocation will be released to fund an Acute Respiratory Hub for Winter (work has already started among Wirral partners on agreeing the best utilisation of a Hub for the Wirral system).

Estates – after the merger of Moreton Health Clinic and Moreton Cross Group Practice, a premises review concluded that the site at Chadwick Street, Moreton was no longer required and has been vacated at the end of September 2024.

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme – Autumn / Winter 2024-25 - the COVID-19 Autumn / Winter 2024-25 vaccination campaign is due to commence on Thursday 3rd October 2024.

	<p>Enhanced Access Evaluation Report – Healthwatch Wirral presented findings from their commission. Healthwatch reviewed plans developed by Primary Care Networks to fulfil their Direct Enhanced Service (DES) for the provision of GP Enhanced Access through service delivery sites.</p> <p>The key recommendations from the enter and view visits were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish standard protocols for addressing Did Not Attend (DNA) rates. • Resolve Information Technology (IT) issues. • Develop and implement better communication plans. • Integrate plans to enhance social value. • Prioritise Equality & Quality Impact assessments ensuring services are inclusive. • Commit to addressing health inequalities. • Assess impact of GP Extended Access (EA) on wider system. • Review and enhance staff training. • Encourage collaboration between PCNs to share best practice. • Regular reviews of appointment utilisation, including EA and NHS 111. <p>A full slide-deck presentation is available.</p>
1.2.4	<p>30th July 2024 Primary Care Medicines Management Update: Members were informed that there was nothing to escalate for this item. The Medicines Management Optimisation Group minutes would be shared with this group going forward.</p> <p>24th September 2024 Primary Care Medicines Management Update: Members noted minutes and can contact Place Clinical Director for further information.</p>
1.2.5	<p>30th July 2024 and 24th September 2024- Quality Update</p> <p>No scheduled updates expected.</p>
1.2.6	<p>30th July 2024: Update from Local Representative Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Medical Committee (LMC) <p>There was no representative present at the meeting to provide an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Dental Committee (LDC) <p>There was no representative present at the meeting to provide an update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) <p>There was no representative present at the meeting to provide an update.</p> <p>24th September 2024: Updates from Local Representative Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMC <p>Dr Adegoke advised Wirral GPs are attending a conference on impact of collective action and will report back to the Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDC

	<p>Dr Adegoke shared an update on behalf of Local Dental Committee. LDC have concerns around contracts following the closure of a dental practice in Wallasey and ask if this decision can be reconsidered. ICB will follow-up with NHSE commissioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPC <p>There was no representative present at the meeting to provide an update.</p>
1.2.7	<p>30th July 2024: Finance & Performance 2024/25 – Month 3</p> <p>Members were informed that at the end of month three, there was an overspend of £34k, with a one-off Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) amount from the previous year. The net impact is £34,000 year to date with an adverse variance.</p> <p>Nothing to concern at this point around the budget. A formal report would be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>24th September 2024: Finance & Performance 2024/25 – Month 5</p> <p>Members were informed that Wirral Place has a £75k overspend to date with a predicted overspend of 200k. It was highlighted that the highest variance from budget is for QOF.</p> <p>Financial Recovery Programme – NHS C&M has a forecast £150m deficit, with Wirral Place challenged to recover a £15m deficit as part of the overall programme. Teams across NHS C&M have been reviewing <u>all</u> budget lines for any cost reduction for consideration.</p> <p>In relation to Primary Care, core contract income cannot be considered. The final proposals for cost reductions are still being navigated, with fortnightly meetings in place to review progress. Impact assessments are all being completed as part of this task.</p> <p>The Group discussed concerns around communication to patients – clarification has been sought from the NHS C&M central communications team.</p> <p>Primary Care representatives at the meeting raised their concerns of any cost reductions within Primary Care as it is already underfunded and any reduction in funding will be detrimental to the most vulnerable and will lead to poorer patient experience.</p>

2 Implications	
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	<i>Legal and regulatory</i> There are no direct legal and regulatory implications arising from this report.
2.4	<i>Resources</i> 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.
2.5	<i>Engagement and consultation</i> 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.
2.6	<i>Equality</i> 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.
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 Primary Care 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 Primary Care Group will take account of this in their work.

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

4	Appendices
	There are no appendices to this report.

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