

WIRRAL PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP BOARD**22nd JUNE 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	PRIMARY CARE GROUP HIGHLIGHT REPORT
REPORT OF:	PLACE DIRECTOR (WIRRAL), NHS CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

REPORT SUMMARY

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.

The WPBPB is supported by four key governance and assurance groups. This paper is a highlight report from the Primary Care Group.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Primary Care Group has been established to oversee exercise of the 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.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered as this group is required by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to support governance and assurance in Wirral on primary care matters.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Since the last report to the Place Based Partnership Board the Primary Care Group has met on three occasions. This report covers the meetings held on 28th March 2023, 25th April 2023 and 23rd May 2023.
- 3.2 The meeting held on 28th March 2023 considered the following items of business.
- 3.2.1 **Change of Service Delivery Unit (SDU) membership:** The Group supported the request from Wallasey Primary Care Network (PCN) for St George's Medical Centre to move from Wallasey Wellbeing SDU to North Coast Alliance SDU. The Group did not support the request for Heatherlands Medical Centre to move from Arno Primary Care Alliance SDU, part of Birkenhead PCN and asked for further work to be undertaken with the practice and SDU.
- 3.2.2 **Primary Care Network Assurance and Delivery 2022/23:** The Group received an update on progress made by each PCN and Service Delivery Unit (SDU) in Wirral and subsequent assurance in relation to delivery of the Network Designated Enhanced Service (DES). Each PCN/SDU had also provided an updated maturity matrix which enables PCNs/SDUs to assess their individual progress and development against intended elements. Overall PCNs and SDUs are developing in all aspects of the Network DES. The update provided showed slight variations in approach between each PCN/SDU but no issues of concern.
- 3.2.3 **Merger of Sunlight Group Practice and Allport Surgery:** The Group supported a proposal from Sunlight Group Practice and Allport Surgery to merge. The proposal will result in the merger of the two practices and back-office functions; however, service delivery will be delivered from both existing sites which will further enhance care and service delivery and patient choice. There is no impact upon estates as both sites will continue to operate and deliver patient care.
- 3.2.4 **Merger of clinical systems:** The Group supported a proposal from Townfield Health Centre to merge their clinical system (EMIS) with Cloughton Medical Centre, for the benefit of patient care and working at scale. In supporting the proposal, the Group also acknowledged the contractual differences between the two practices.

- 3.2.5 **Non-Core Primary Care Funding 2022/23 Forecast and 2023/24 Plan:** Primary care funding is made up of core and non-core (discretionary) funding at a local level, with access to additional ad-hoc capital investment and/or funding as and when opportunities arise such as system development and transformation funding. Core funding consists of delegated funding from NHS England which covers payments such as core medical contracts (GMS, APMS and PMS), Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF), Primary Care Networks etc. Non-core funding consists of locally commissioned services and care delivery support such as SMS, software licenses and platforms. The Group received a report that summarised the non-core funding expenditure for 2022/23 and plans for 2023/24.
- 3.2.6 **Primary Care Quality Scheme:** The Group approved the Primary Care Quality Scheme (PCQS) for 2023/24. This focuses on incentivising reductions in antibiotic prescribing and opiate prescribing and improving dementia diagnosis coding.
- 3.2.7 **Lloyd's Pharmacy:** The Group noted that NHS England and NHS Improvement North West had received notice that Lloyds Pharmacy will cease to provide pharmaceutical services at Lloyd's Pharmacy located in Sainsbury's, Upton with effect from 22nd July 2023.
- 3.2.8 **Primary Care Finance:** The Group received a report that set out a year to date position as at Month 11 with a favourable variance of £0.238m against a budget of £41.251m. The forecast yearend position as at M11, to 31st March 2023 was a favourable variance to plan of £0.231m. The funding allocation received for the Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) of £1.642m, which is over and above the baseline budget allocation at place level and Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Hub Allocation of £0.220m.
- 3.3 The meeting held on 25th April 2023 considered the following items of business.
- 3.3.1 **Risk Register:** The Group reviewed the risk register that pertains to primary care services in the borough.
- 3.3.2 **Work Plan:** The Group agreed a work plan for 2023/24.
- 3.3.3 **Assurance on access:** The Group noted that Healthwatch Wirral were working on a project on access to general practice. This will be reported to the Group when completed.
- 3.3.4 **Taking Together Wirral:** The Group agreed that Talking Together Wirral should be invited to be members of the meeting.
- 3.3.5 **Primary Care Update:** The Group considered and agreed to a PCN level contracting approach for the re-procurement of the community phlebotomy service. The Group received a short briefing on the proposed floating accommodation vessel to house asylum seekers in Wirral Waters – more details are expected in due course. Summary details were shared with the Group on the new Capacity Access Plan requirements under the PCN Direct Enhanced Service for 2023/24, where PCNs are required to aim for improvement in three key areas:

- patient experience of contact;
- ease of access and demand management; and
- accuracy of recording in appointment books.

3.4 The meeting on 23rd May 2023 considered the following items of business:

3.4.1 **Risk Register:** The Group reviewed the risk register that pertains to primary care services in the borough.

3.4.2 **Work Plan:** The Group reviewed progress against the work plan for 2023/24.

3.4.3 **Primary Care Update:** The Primary Care Update focused on two areas, the *Delivery Plan for recovering access to primary care*, published by NHS England on 9th May 2023, and an update on the proposal to house asylum seekers on floating accommodation in Wirral Waters.

The *Delivery Plan for recovering access to primary care* is part of the ongoing commitment building upon the Fuller Stocktake, for integrating primary care with three essential elements: streamlining access to care and advice; providing more proactive, personalised care from a multidisciplinary team of professionals; and helping people stay well for longer. This plan acknowledges the increase in general practice appointments provided, higher than pre-pandemic levels and the successful COVID Vaccination Programme delivered by primary care. It acknowledges that patient demand for primary care services continues to increase and patients' experience of the "8am rush" to secure appointments through contacting their practice, remains a challenge. The plan also aims to ensure patients know on the day they contact their practice, how their request will be managed so avoiding patients being asked to re-contact the practice. The Group will be considering the local response to this plan.

The issue of the proposals around the asylum seeker's accommodation is being dealt with by a Wirral Council led multi-agency forum. The group received an update from this meeting and affirmed their support for the approach being taken.

3.4.4 **Townfield Health Centre APMS Contract Extension Proposal:** The Group supported a proposal is to enact the extension to extend the current interim APMS contract in place at Townfield Health Centre for a further 12 months as per the original contract terms. This will allow sufficient time for the recent developments put in place by the current provider to embed, the benefits of the clinical system merger to be maximised and provide uninterrupted and continuity of care for patients. The extension will also provide additional time to explore and understand all options surrounding the future recommission of the Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contract.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 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.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is developing a risk management and assurance framework, which will include place. The Primary Care Group has an existing Risk Register which will contribute to a Place register.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Engagement with system partners has taken place in the development of the Terms of Reference for the Primary Care Group. This is a governance group that is required by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside for each place. The Primary Care Group has a membership that includes Healthwatch Wirral and representation from the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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 have been received by the Primary Care Group in instances where they have been required to decide on a specific issue.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 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.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Simon Banks
Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
email: simon.banks@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Papers brought to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board meetings on 13th October 2022, 8th December 2022 and 9th February 2023 provide background information on these groups and how they align to the Board.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral Place Based Partnership Board	13 th October 2022 8 th December 2022 9 th February 2023 9 th March 2023