

Title	Finance & Investment Group Highlight Report
Authors	Martin McDowell, Associate Director of Finance (Place)
Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	21 st December 2023

Report Purpose and Recommendations

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).

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.

Key Risks

The report relates to the following key risks identified in the Place Delivery Assurance Framework presented to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 19th October 2023:

- *PDAF 1 Service Delivery:* 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.
- *PDAF 3 Collaboration:* Leaders and organisations in the Wirral health and care system may not work together effectively to improve population health and healthcare.
- *PDAF 5 Finance:* Poor financial performance in the Wirral health and care system leads to a negative impact and increased monitoring and regulation.
- *PDAF 6 Community Wealth Building:* 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
25 th October 2023 22 nd November 2023	Finance and Investment Group	Agenda and papers for meeting	Meetings 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 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, 23rd November 2023
1.2.2	<i>Pooled Fund Report – Month 6 (to end September 2023)</i> The Finance and Investment Group (FIG) received an update on the Pooled Fund, which had also been discussed at the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board (WPBPB) on 23 rd November. The FIG noted the position presented to the WPBPB and agreed that the main risks identified in the report.
1.2.3	<i>Wirral Place System Financial Position – Month 7 (to end October 2023)</i> The FIG discussed the system financial position – month 7, which had also been previously discussed by the WPBPB on 23 rd November. The members of the group discussed the financial position for the year to date and identified the key assumptions, risks, and mitigations in relation to the forecast positions for the remainder of the financial year.
1.2.4	<i>Wirral Place Financial Recovery Plan</i> The FIG received an update on the Wirral Place Financial Recovery Plan and discussed a recent meeting held with WUTH, WCT and the ICB Place to review further opportunities to improve plan following a peer-review of assumptions relating to the forecast out-turn position for 2023/24.
1.2.5	<i>Wirral System Investment Plan 2023/24</i> The FIG noted that the 2024/25 planning round will commence shortly including an approach to repeat the workshops which are due to start in December. The ideas shared in the last meeting had been considered when developing the agenda and programme.
1.2.6	<i>Workplan</i> The revised workplan was discussed and agreed for the remainder of the financial year.

2	Implications
2.1	<i>Risk Mitigation and Assurance</i> 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.

2.2	<i>Financial</i> There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
2.3	<i>Legal and regulatory</i> There are no direct financial 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 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.
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 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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