

Title	Primary Care Group Report
Authors	Iain Stewart, Head of Transformation and Partnerships, (Primary Care, Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Wirral)
Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	21 st December 2023

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 19th October 2023:</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
28 th November 2023	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 Meeting, 28th November 2023
1.2.1	Risk Register: The Group reviewed the risk register that pertains to primary care services in the borough. The register will be amalgamated into the new Cheshire and Merseyside format. No changes to previous risk scores were proposed.
1.2.2	Work Plan: The Group reviewed progress against the work plan for 2023/24.
1.2.3	Neighbourhood development: The Group were updated on the wider health inequalities areas incorporating the neighbourhood trail-blazer areas and lead commissioners.
1.2.4	<p>Primary Care Update: The Group were updated on the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan encompassing cloud-based telephony at general practices; care navigation training; promotion of the NHS App for mobile devices; patients' access to medical records.</p> <p>The Group were also updated on digital developments and associated funding; estates matters pertaining to leases; progress with COVID vaccination programme and management of the Special Allocation Scheme which involves maintaining care to difficult to doctor patients.</p>
1.2.5	<p>Draft Primary Care Strategic Framework: The Group received the draft Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board Primary Care Strategic Framework.</p> <p>The Framework encompasses all primary care contractors, not just General Practice. All NHS services need to be working well together to deal with the challenges being faced.</p> <p>Significance engagement has taken place in the development of this framework. This has included Local Representative Committees (covering all contractor groups), Healthwatch organisations, the Primary Care Providers Leadership Forum, Primary Care Network Clinical Directors, Place Directors and Place Clinical Directors. Responses from questionnaires sent to all GPs and Community Pharmacists has also been incorporated. The framework will enable each Place to create their own strategy able to address the individual needs they will have.</p> <p>A specific Place Primary Care strategy will be available to the Board at a future meeting.</p>
1.2.6	<p>PCN Review: The Group received a draft confidential report following the completion of an extensive and lengthy review process of Birkenhead PCN (and its sub-division of practices known as Arno Primary Care Alliance Service Delivery Unit).</p> <p>The review considered eight Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) and concluded with a series of recommendations covering the KLOEs.</p> <p>The Group recommended the review outcome is submitted to NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB System Primary Care Committee for consideration of the recommendations to be actioned.</p>

1.2.7	<p>Primary Care Finance: The Group received the report, with the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the year-to-date position as at M7 is an adverse variance to plan of £0.291m against a budget of £39.010m. • Note the forecast yearend position as at M7, to 31st March 2024 is an adverse variance to plan of £0.485m, (M6 £0.428m) and the risk and mitigations to delivery against the budget of £64.843m. • Note the in-year allocation and virements to the 2023/24 budget;
1.2.8	<p>Other contractor updates: The Group received a verbal summary update from the dental advisor representative on current dentistry contracting matters.</p>
1.2.9	<p>NHS Talking Therapies update: No update was available.</p>
1.3.0	<p>Quality update: No update was available.</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 1.2.6 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	<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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