

Title	Planning 2024/25 Update
Authors	Simon Banks, Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
Report for	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
Date of Meeting	25 th January 2024

Report Purpose and Recommendations

This paper sets out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 and the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan. It also sets out the approach being taken in Wirral by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside with Place partners to refresh the Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24.

It is recommended that the Board:

- Notes the work underway in Place that will contribute to the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan.
- Supports the approach being taken to update the Wirral Health and Care Plan for the planning year 2024-25.
- Receives the Wirral Health and Care Plan 2024/25 for approval at a future meeting.

Key Risks

The Place Delivery Assurance Framework agreed by the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 21st December 2023 has identified the key strategic risks for Wirral Place in the following areas:

- Service Delivery
- Children and Young People
- Collaboration
- Workforce
- Finance
- Community Wealth Building
- Unscheduled Care

The planning process and an agreed Wirral Health and Care Plan, supported by an agreed implementation framework provide controls that mitigate these key risks.

Governance journey

Date	Forum	Report Title	Purpose/Decision
23 rd March 2023	Health and Wellbeing Board	Interim Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Strategy	For approval. Approved.
22 nd June 2023	Place Based Partnership Board	Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24	For agreement. Agreed.

21 st September 2023	Health and Wellbeing Board	Cheshire and Merseyside Joint Forward Plan 2023-28	For approval. Approved.
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1	Narrative
1.1	Background
1.1.1	Planning for the delivery of health and care services takes place at several levels – nationally, regionally, sub-regionally and at Place. Planning is influenced by national guidance and local needs, the latter usually emerging from local authority led Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
1.1.2	The Health and Care Act 2022 created a new framework for planning, based around the footprint of an Integrated Care System (ICS). As described in Appendix One, the Government’s NHS Mandate is translated by NHS England into the NHS Long Term Plan and planning guidance and then into Joint Forward Plans by each Integrated Care Board (ICB). The NHS Mandate also influences Integrated Care Strategies of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), which relate to Place Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Health and Wellbeing Strategies, which then connect into ICB’s Joint Forward Plans (JFP).
1.1.3	This paper sets out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 and the refresh of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership’s Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Joint Forward Plan. It also sets out the approach being taken in Wirral by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside with Place partners to refresh the Wirral Health and Care Plan.
1.2	NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25
1.2.1	On 22 nd December 2023 the Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer (Interim) of NHS England wrote to NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and trusts to give an update on planning for 2024/25. Planning guidance for the forthcoming operating year is usually issued in the month of December for implementation in the following April. The letter set out that discussions with Government on agreeing expectation and priorities for 2024/25 remained active. The letter stated that NHS England would not be able to publish the 2024/25 priorities and planning guidance “until the new calendar year”.
1.2.2	The letter advised that, although national guidance was delayed, planning for 2024/25 should continue. The financial allocations for 2024/25 have already been published. The overall financial framework will remain consistent, including the payment approach to incentivise elective recovery. ICBs will be expected to work with partners to develop system plans that achieve and prioritise financial balance. The priorities and objectives set out in the 2023/24 Planning Guidance and published recovery plans on urgent and emergency care, primary care access and elective and cancer care will not fundamentally change.
1.2.3	The key requirements will be for system to maintain the increase in core Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) capacity established in 2023/24, complete the agreed investment plans to increase diagnostic and elective activity and reduce waiting times for patients and maximise the gain from the investment in primary care in improving

	access for patients, including the new pharmacy first service. The final position and performance expectations will be confirmed in the 2024/25 Planning Guidance.
1.2.4	The letter also set out that, in 2024/25, there will be a continued focus on recovering core service delivery and productivity. Work to target a reduction in the cost of temporary staffing will continue. NHS England will also be engaging ICBs and trusts to agree and deploy a standard set of metrics for all executive teams and board to use as a minimum to track productivity alongside service delivery.
1.2.5	<p>Further correspondence is expected setting out details of the national planning process and timetable, with the aim that initial planning returns should be expected by the end of February 2024. The following documents, which would ordinarily accompany the Planning Guidance, were published alongside the letter on 22nd December 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft NHS Standard Contract for 2024/25 and associate documents. • Proposed amendments to the NHS Payment Scheme for 2024/25. • Updated Joint Forward Planning Guidance for 2024/25. • Guidance on developing 2024/25 Joint Capital Resource Use plans.
1.2.6	At the time of writing of this report the NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 had not been released. If the guidance is released prior to the January meeting of the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board a verbal update will be provided. A report on the NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 will be provided to the February meeting of the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board.
1.3	Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Planning
1.3.1	The NHS organisations and upper-tier local authorities in each Integrated Care System (ICS) are required to form a joint committee called an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). This is a broad alliance of partners who all have a role in improving local health, care and wellbeing. They may also include social care providers, the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector and others with a role in improving health and wellbeing for local people such as education, housing, employment or police and fire services. The ICP for the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS is the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (HCP).
1.3.2	Each ICP must develop a long-term strategy to improve health and social care service and people's health and wellbeing in their area. The Cheshire and Merseyside HCP developed an interim strategy between January and June 2023. The interim strategy was endorsed by the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 rd March 2023. The feedback on the interim HCP strategy across partners Cheshire and Merseyside was positive, but it was highlighted that there was a health service bias in the content of the document. System partners also indicated that there is strong ownership and a sense of engagement in the All Together Fairer report, its recommendations and implementation.
1.3.3	The National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Care Act 2022) requires ICBs and their partner trusts to prepare a plan setting out how they propose to exercise their functions in the next five years. This is the Joint Forward Plan (JFP). The JFP should be reviewed and/or revised before the start of each financial year. As shown in Appendix One, the JFP should take account of the NHS Long Term Plan and planning guidance as well as the ICP's strategy. The Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan 2023-28 at their meeting on 21 st September 2023.

1.3.4	<p>The Cheshire and Merseyside HCP is working to refresh their Strategy and develop an updated Joint Forward Plan. The intention is that the Strategy will align more closely to the All Together Fairer report, providing a focus on the wider social determinants of health. This will be achieved by developing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A refreshed high-level strategy outlining principles, key themes and priorities fully aligned to All Together Fairer and • An associated Delivery Plan (Joint Forward Plan) that consolidates existing plans and focuses on delivery and implementation.
1.3.5	<p>In bringing social determinants to the fore of the Health Care Partnership Strategy there is the potential to stretch the system scope and healthcare partnership remit, creating a much broader social determinants agenda. Three areas may help shape the discussion about the content of the HCP strategy that would better align the strategy to the social determinants focus of the Marmot principles focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformational procedures. • Anti-Poverty work. • Equity in all policies.
1.3.6	<p>The refreshed Joint Forward Plan for 2024-29 will be made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire and Merseyside HCP/All Together Fairer delivery plan. Which would be developed from the existing All Together Fairer areas of focus and plans, this would become the work programme for the HCP. • Nine Place plans, reflecting the existing place plans focussed on delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategies. • NHS Delivery plan. This would enable the Integrated Care Board and NHS Partners to describe the key work plans to deliver both local priorities and those nationally mandated in the national NHS planning guidance – this would largely reflect the 2023 published Joint Forward Plan.
1.3.7	<p>NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is arranging several workshops and working groups to develop the refreshed HCP Strategy, JFP and to respond to the NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 when it is published. Most of this activity will be taken forward in Place with system partners in the coming weeks.</p>
1.4	Wirral Place Approach
1.4.1	<p>Planning for health and care services is not only driven by NHS Planning Guidance. As set out in Appendix One it is also influenced by local priorities as set out in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Health and Wellbeing Strategies. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside has recognised the importance of Place in how we have established our governance and working relationships in Wirral with system partners. Our planning for health and care services is influenced by and incorporates the Wirral Plan 2026 and the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 as well as NHS planning guidance. This is demonstrated within the Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24, which was agreed by the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board on 22nd June 2023.</p>
1.4.2	<p>The Wirral Health and Care Plan will not be rewritten for 2024-25 but will be refreshed and updated. The programmes of work agreed by the Board in June 2023 will continue and each Senior Responsible Officer will be asked to review and update</p>

	these for the 2024-25 planning year. A series of workshops have been put in place to support this. The production of a refreshed Wirral Health and Care Plan will be overseen through the Strategy and Transformation Group and will be supported by the Wirral Improvement Team. The Board will receive regular updates on the planning round 2024/25 and will be asked to approve the final Wirral Health and Care Plan 2024-25.
1.4.3	These workshops and the updated Wirral Health and Care Plan 2024-25 will contribute to the refreshed Cheshire and Merseyside HCP Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan. The Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy will also influence the HCP Strategy.

2 Implications	
2.1	<i>Risk Mitigation and Assurance</i> The planning process and an agreed Wirral Health and Care Plan, supported by an agreed implementation framework provide controls that mitigate the key strategic risks identified in the Place Delivery Assurance Framework (PDAF).
2.2	<i>Financial</i> The financial allocations for 2024/25 have already been published and there are no significant changes in the overall financial framework for health and care services. The expectation is that system plans will be delivered that achieve and prioritise financial balance.
2.3	<i>Legal and regulatory</i> There is a legislative framework within which the NHS is required to undertake planning with partner organisations.
2.4	<i>Resources</i> There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.
2.5	<i>Engagement and consultation</i> Engagement with system partners will take place during the refresh of the Cheshire and Merseyside HCP Strategy, JFP and Wirral Health and Care Plan. A series of Place workshops have been established in Wirral, which include voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector representation.
2.6	<i>Equality</i> Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and statutory partners have a legal requirement to make sure their policies, and the way they carry out their work, do not discriminate against anyone. No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report but EIAs will be required for any changes to services arising from the implementation of the Wirral Health and Care Plan.
2.7	<i>Environment and Climate</i> Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and partners in Wirral are committed to carrying out their work in an environmentally responsible manner. There are no environment and climate implications arising from this report.
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 and partner organisations 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 Wirral Health and Care Plan will contribute towards this shared goal.
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3	Conclusion
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3.1	This paper has set out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 and the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership’s Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Joint Forward Plan. It has also set out the approach being taken in Wirral by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside with Place partners to refresh the Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24.
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3.2	The Board is asked to note the work underway in Place that will contribute to the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership’s Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Joint Forward Plan. It is also requested that the Board supports the approach being taken to update the Wirral Health and Care Plan for the planning year 2024-25. The Wirral Health and Care Plan 2024/25 will be brought to the Board for approval at a future meeting.
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4	Appendices
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	Appendix One Alignment of Integrated Care System Planning
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