

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	23 rd January 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 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
23 rd January 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 Meeting, 23rd January 2024
1.2.1	Risk Register: The Group were advised that the new risk register template is being compiled in line with the new Cheshire and Merseyside format and will be available from the next meeting. 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: Two trailblazer sites advised to go live from 23 rd January 2024 with a funding plan expected by end of February for the £20k allocated to improve health outcomes. Proposed new governance to be taken to the Steering Group on 1 st February 2024 (changing the Steering Group to be Neighbourhood Oversight Group and joining it with the project group). The plan is to send out Expressions Of Interest for the remaining 7 neighbourhoods in 2024/25 financial year (it is predicted by VCFSE representatives that the neighbourhoods will not all come forward at same time with EOI).
1.2.4	<p>Primary Care Update: The Group were updated on Enhanced Access assurance and the activity via the Access Hub, operating from Birkenhead Medical Building. Details on the phasing of the cloud-based telephony investment into general practices were shared with the aim for completed installations by end of March 2024.</p> <p>Seven general practices have chosen to access improvement support via the General Practice Improvement Programme to review internal processes such as reception access; appointments management; business operations.</p> <p>The Group reviewed appeals from three general practices regarding their non-achievement of some indicators within the local Primary Care Quality Scheme. Two appeals were upheld, and achievement payments approved and one appeal declined with no achievement payment to be made.</p> <p>The Group received details on an established local commissioned service for the fitting of intrauterine devices clarifying the scope of the service as to what was not included, to keep the service consistent with the rest of Cheshire and Merseyside.</p> <p>The Group were updated on two forthcoming procurements for Alternative Provider Medical Services contracts – both contracts due for renewal in 2025.</p>
1.2.5	Stamp Duty Land Tax: The Group were updated on a request for financial assistance from a general practice towards the cost of stamp duty land tax because of a completed new build and lease assignment. Further clarification questions were raised by the Group to which answers are being obtained. The Group will consider the request in due course.
1.2.6	<p>Primary Care Finance: The Group received the report, with the following headlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The year-to-date position as at M9 is an adverse variance to plan of £0.299m against a budget of £50.250m. • The forecast yearend position as at M9, to 31st March 2024 is an adverse variance to plan of £0.305m, (M7 £0.485m) and the risk and mitigations to delivery against the budget of £64.843m. • The in year allocation and virements to the 2023/24 budget were detailed in the relevant tables within the Finance update.
1.2.7	Other contractor updates: The Group received a verbal summary update from the dental advisor representative on current dentistry contracting matters.

1.2.8	NHS Talking Therapies update: No update was available.
1.2.9	<p>Quality update: The Group received the report and were asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and note all GP Incidents recorded, highlighting any emerging themes or trends and offer further discussion if necessary. • Retain the information provided surrounding the PSIRF Framework and ask any questions when required. • Review what Safeguarding Training is available and share widely with your networks. • To note the CQC updates for information only.

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	<p><i>Environment and Climate</i></p> <p>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.</p>
2.8	<p><i>Community Wealth Building</i></p>

	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.
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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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