

<b>Title</b>	Planning 2024/25 Update
<b>Authors</b>	Simon Banks, Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
<b>Report for</b>	Wirral Place Based Partnership Board
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Report Purpose and Recommendations

This paper sets out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25. 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. The refresh of the Wirral Health and Care Plan will contribute to the work to revise Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan.

It is recommended that the Board:

- Notes the update provided by this paper.
- 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023	Health and Wellbeing Board	Interim Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Strategy	For approval. Approved.
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	Place Based Partnership Board	Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24	For agreement. Agreed.
21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023	Health and Wellbeing Board	Cheshire and Merseyside Joint	For approval. Approved.

		Forward Plan 2023-28	
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Place Based Partnership Board	Planning for 2024/25 Update	For approval. Approved.

<b>1</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Background</b>
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. 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. The refresh of the Wirral Health and Care Plan will contribute to the work to revise Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership’s Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Joint Forward Plan.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25</b>
1.2.1	Planning guidance for the forthcoming operating year is usually issued in the month of December for implementation in the following April. As reported to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board in January 2024, the 2024/25 planning guidance was delayed whilst NHS England continued discussions with Government on agreeing expectation and priorities.
1.2.2	Although national guidance was delayed, planning for 2024/25 has continued. The financial allocations for 2024/25 were already published. The overall financial framework remains consistent, including the payment approach to incentivise elective recovery. There is an expectation that ICBs will 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. NHS Cheshire and Merseyside has therefore continued to work with NHS trusts and system partners on finance, activity and workforce plans for 2024/25.  It had been anticipated that the Planning Guidance would be issued after the Budget. At the time of writing the Guidance had not been released.
1.2.3	The financial settlement for the NHS became clearer following the Budget statement

by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. In the Budget statement the Chancellor set out that the government will increase the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) revenue budget for 2024/25 by £2.445bn. This provides funding for the NHS pay deals concluded during 2023/24 and the pressures created by the new voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing, access and growth (VPAG) with a small additional benefit which allows NHS revenue funding overall to increase very slightly in real terms. Even with the certainty provided by the Budget, the financial year 2024/25 will remain challenging for the NHS at all levels.

The Budget announced an investment of up to £35m in maternity services. This will support rollout of the avoiding brain injuries in childbirth programme, neonatal resuscitation training, improvements to how women's experiences and views are reflected in improvements to care, expansion of midwifery posts and the training of more obstetric physicians.

The Budget document confirmed an ongoing focus on reducing agency spending and specifically underlined the need to remove off-framework agency spend early in 2024/25.

The biggest single announcement in the Budget by the Chancellor was £3.4bn of capital over 3 years to be invested into digital, data and improvement-powered transformation which will improve NHS productivity, starting in 2025/26. This funding is directly linked to achieving productivity ambitions of a scale described in the Long-Term Workforce Plan, rising to 2% annual productivity by the end latter two years of the next 5 years with an average of 1.9%. These initiatives have been structured around three goals:

- To transform access and services for patients.
- To transform the use of data to reduce time spent on unproductive administrative tasks.
- To create a 'One Digital' estate.

This is likely to include:

- Substantial investments in core information technology (IT), both at provider level and national level – enabling us to invest in reducing tech debt, improving core services, and lowering running costs.
- A continued expansion in the NHS App, with a major new focus on the NHS staff app and digital passports, so staff can move between providers more smoothly.
- An expansion of the Federated Data Platform, rolling it out to all trusts more quickly, and with more functionality.
- Digitising processes such as transfers of care, which cumulatively will make a huge difference to the lives of clinicians, and to the flow of patients through our services.
- Pilots to test the ability of AI to automate and increase the accuracy of time-consuming administrative tasks.

This capital investment is a major part of what is required to deliver the level of productivity improvements originally set out in the LTWP. Whilst not the only investment required (with wider revenue and capital budgets to be settled for the future in an upcoming Spending Review) and is a hugely significant step.

1.3.1	<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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.</p>
1.3.2	<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 these for the 2024-25 planning year. A series of workshops have been taking place to support this work. 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 be asked to approve the final Wirral Health and Care Plan 2024-25 at the June 2024 meeting.</p>
1.3.3	<p>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.</p>

2	Implications
2.1	<p><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).</p>
2.2	<p><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.</p>
2.3	<p><i>Legal and regulatory</i> There is a legislative framework within which the NHS is required to undertake planning with partner organisations.</p>
2.4	<p><i>Resources</i> There are no additional resource implications arising from this report.</p>
2.5	<p><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.</p>
2.6	<p><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</p>

	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.

<b>3</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
3.1	This paper has set out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25. 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.
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.

<b>4</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix One Alignment of Integrated Care System Planning

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