



Update from the Partnership Board

Edition 2

January 2021

Welcome to our update from the Partnership Board meeting that took place on Wednesday 27th January, 2021. As ever, the meeting was well attended and provided an opportunity for considerable discussion on the agenda items, as well as formal decision making. The substantive business discussed included an update on progress in the Covid Vaccination Programme; our formal application to become an ICS; our process for reviewing programmes to be supported; and the Memorandum of Understanding between Partnership members that outlines our relationships and contributions.

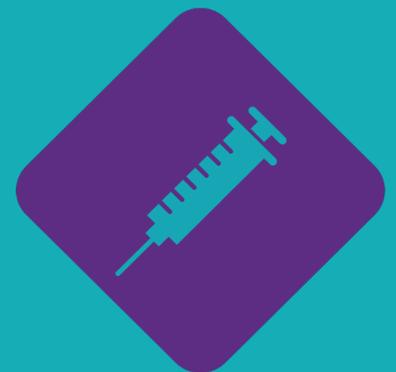
We are pleased to send you this summary, with links to greater detail should you wish to see more.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Bene' followed by 'Alan Yates'.

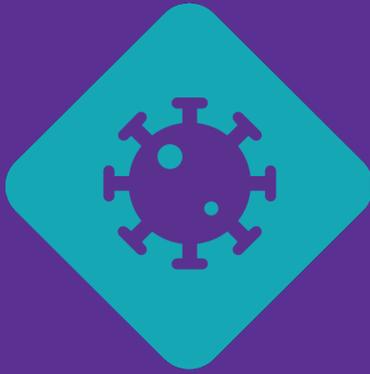
Dr Jackie Bene, Chief Officer and Alan Yates, Chair

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

There have been more than 360,000 vaccines administered across Cheshire and Merseyside and we are very grateful to all the staff involved in the effort. There are many sites now up and running across all our communities with more to come on stream in the next few weeks. Two further mass vaccination centres are planned in Cheshire – at Chester Racecourse and Alderley Park. The mass vaccination centre in St Helens opened on 18th January and has already vaccinated more than 5,500 people (as at 27th January). All care home residents have now been vaccinated – ahead of the 16th February target date set for this group. The majority of care home staff have also been done, but some staff in this sector are difficult to reach either through absence or the very flexible nature of their work. Communications to attract these workers are being stepped up. You can access a [helpful set of Q&As](#), or download [resources from Public Health England](#) about the vaccine, that'll enable you to support us in our communications efforts. We would urge readers to share our messages encouraging everybody to take up their invitation to be vaccinated.



Covid-19 Infection



Sadly, the North West has been particularly hard hit by Covid in terms of infection rates, hospitalisation and mortality. The challenge is continuing and while infection rates are falling, this is very slow. Hospital occupancy remains very high with admissions outnumbering discharges. All our partners across Cheshire and Merseyside are doing everything they possibly can, together, to manage the situation but we expect the next couple of weeks to remain very difficult. Again, we thank all the staff who are working incredibly hard at this time, in very difficult circumstances.

Review of Transformation Programmes

Sarah O'Brien, Executive Director of Strategy and System Development described the agreed process for reviewing transformation programmes to be funded from April 2021. The criteria for review was agreed at last month's meeting and matches the conditions set by NHSE/I for an effective ICS.



Criteria

- Improving population health and healthcare including safety and quality improvement
- Tackling unequal outcomes and access
- Enhancing productivity and value for money
- Helping the NHS to support broader social and economic development.

Proposed programmes will be reviewed by a panel of executives from the Partnership who will make recommendations for consideration and authorisation by the Partnership Board. To expedite the process and give as much preparation time as possible before the April start date, there will be a virtual consideration and approval session with the Board convened in early March to consider the recommendations of the panel.

ICS Designation



Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership will formally apply to become an ICS in a submission made 28th January. The submission includes a detailed development plan which recognises the current position of the HCP and the considerable work to be undertaken in advance of ICS status. The Memorandum of Understanding between members of the partnership is part of the submission.

All partners recognised the significance of the development plan, the importance of including local authority councillor representation on the Board, and the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards in all 'places'. The priorities described were drawn from the existing priorities which have had support from 'places' but as the Partnership's strategy is refreshed, these priorities will be reviewed with places to ensure their continued support.

Memorandum of Understanding



The purpose of the MoU is to clearly articulate the role and aspirations of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health Care and Partnership and the way it works. It recognises the primacy of ‘place’ and reflects increased participation by local authorities. The draft MoU was the outcome of a suggestion at the Partnership Assembly last year and has been consulted on with partners with feedback incorporated into this ‘final’ version. There was much discussion about membership of the Partnership Board with some concerns raised about a perceived imbalance between health representatives; and the importance of political (and through them, public) engagement in our partnership and aims was recognised. There is broad support although

we all realise there is more to do throughout 2020/21 and indeed beyond, to reflect the complexity of the system and to truly co-produce our future. It was agreed that the MoU needs to be dynamic and periodically refreshed to reflect the development of the Partnership. In light of the discussion, it was agreed to review the MoU, and particularly membership of the Board, in not more than six months. This latest version of the MoU which includes the caveat to review membership, will now be taken by members to Governing Bodies, Councils and NHS Boards for their support. You can see the MoU [here](#).



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