



Update from the Partnership Board

Edition 3

February 2021

Welcome to the update from the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Board meeting which took place on Wednesday 24th February.

Since our last meeting the Department of Health and Social Care have published their White Paper on Health and Social Care and you can see this [here](#). The Paper was discussed at length during the meeting and more details are included later in this update. We also heard the latest position with regard to Covid and vaccination and the establishment of Integrated Care Partnerships at our nine Places.

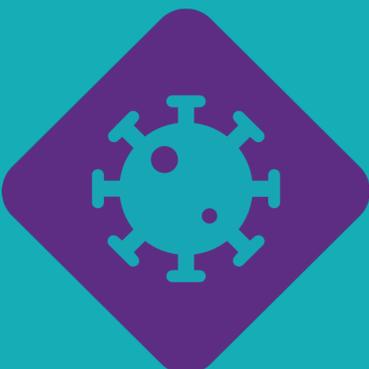
We hope you enjoy this update from the Board, and welcome any feedback you may have.

Best wishes,

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

Dr Jackie Bene, Chief Officer and Alan Yates, Chair

Covid-19 update



Since our last meeting, the number of vaccinations given in Cheshire and Merseyside has more than doubled to over 800,000. We are confident of meeting the target to have offered to vaccinate all eligible adults in cohorts 1-9 by the end of April. We are currently vaccinating people over 60 and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and we will continue moving down the age ranges.

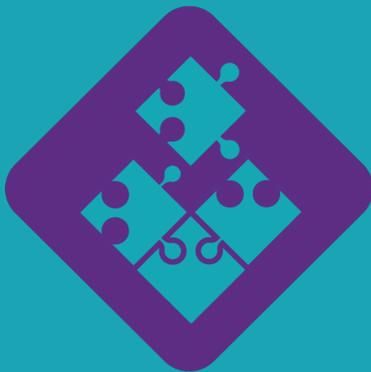
While the rate of infection and transmission, and hospital admissions, all remain higher than we would like, we are pleased to report that these are all reducing. As ever, the advice is to be vigilant in keeping social distance, wearing a face covering when required and regularly washing hands remains important, and we appreciate your help in continuing to spread this important message.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Our draft MOU has been updated following this meeting to reflect additional members to the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Board. Membership will now include the Chair from each CCG. They will provide local NHS representation to mirror the local authority representation described in the original proposal. It was agreed that the new membership arrangements will be effective from June, after Local Government elections have taken place. Given the future arrangements for ICSs described in the White Paper these Partnership Board arrangements will be interim and will be used to establish the future arrangements as they are reviewed within six months of their commencement.



Establishing Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)



Sarah O'Brien, Executive Director of Strategy and System Development, gave a presentation outlining the suggested core features of an ICP, which will be developed in all of our nine Places. The core features include an ICP Board; a nominated Place lead in all areas who will be responsible for integrated working at Place and will connect with the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS; an agreement on a shared vision locally to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes in line with the local Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy; a detailed development plan; defined footprints for integrated care delivery; and an ongoing programme of effective local communication and stakeholder engagement.

It was noted that the nine Places across Cheshire and Merseyside are at different stages in the ICP development so it is difficult – and not desirable anyway – to have a one size fits all approach. The Partnership will provide support and guidance at the level required by each Place; and the primacy of Place in all our work is a priority. However, by April 2022 there does need to be nine functioning ICPs to deliver population health and improve outcomes. Sarah O'Brien is to set up a small working group to develop this further and that will include engaging with colleagues in the Places to progress together. It is really important that we are clear about what is expected across our system, and what and where the differences in needs, approaches and progress are.

White Paper Response

Dr Jackie Bene, Chief Officer of the C&M HCP gave a presentation on the Partnership's response to the recently published White Paper on health and social care in England. The presentation can be viewed [here](#). Jackie has also written a reflection on the White Paper which has been shared widely with our stakeholders and this can be seen [here](#).

Importantly, it was noted that the White Paper did not hold any surprises except for the late addition of the requirement for ICS's – which Cheshire and Merseyside HCP has applied for and expects to be designated – to have two separate Boards; a Partnership Board (much like the one already in place) to promote partnership



arrangements, and develop plans to address the system's public health needs, and an 'ICS NHS Board' which will oversee the day to day running of the ICS - NHS planning and financial allocations. This has raised questions that cannot as yet be answered. And, as the Partnership Board is already extensive and likely to get bigger, it is clear that this would not necessarily be the body where design, development and ideas take place. This could happen in any number of places and Boards across the system but could be co-ordinated at the Partnership Co-ordination Group level to begin with and at an ICS NHS Board level once this has been developed, with the Board exercising the authority of the Partnership.

Jackie's presentation was helpful in explaining the direction of travel and the pace now required. The main thrust of the Paper is to bring health and care closer together; to ensure greater partnership working and reduce the blockages to this. The White Paper has been generally well received – both in the NHS and local authorities – but questions remain, and further detail and guidance is awaited, particularly around provider collaborations, ministerial oversight and workforce transition arrangements. It is essential we retain the vast talent and skill we have across C&M already and we are pleased to see that there is a strong commitment to do just that.

The Partnership is keen to influence further development of the White Paper and the plans to implement it and we are now heading into an interesting period of some flux as the 'small print' is absorbed and considered. A united front will undoubtedly prove powerful and we are pleased that our Partnership is together.

NHS England have published a list of Q&As following the White Paper, and these can be seen [here](#).



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