



**Cheshire and  
Merseyside**  
Health and Care Partnership

# Update from the Partnership Board

**November 2021**

## Partnership Board Update

This is a summary of the discussions at the most recent Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Board (HCP), which took place on Tuesday, 9 November.

### Chair's introduction

Interim Chair of the Partnership, David Flory, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. There were over 40 participants, representing wide ranging partners including people from each of the nine places in our system.

The agenda for the meeting had been arranged in a way to allow sufficient discussion on the substantive items. This time, the Board would be hearing an update from our Interim Chief Officer, Sheena Cumiskey; an outline of progress developing governance arrangements for our system; and a 'deep dive' in the Children and Young People Programme 'Enacting our Strategic Priorities'.



### Chief Officer's Message

Sheena Cumiskey, Interim Chief Officer explained she had been in the role now for around two and a half months. This had been a privilege and a pleasure and she was glad to have been able to contribute – together with the amazing staff of the HCP and all partners – to creating the best conditions for the Partnership to achieve its vision. There is a shared common purpose and everyone is focussed on reducing health inequalities and ensuring we improve the lives of the poorest, fastest. We are implementing our Transition Programme, to make sure there is a safe close down of existing CCGs and the transfer of their functions, as well as the effective establishment of the new ICB.

Key to this is place-based working, to do much as possible close to where people live and fully engage all stakeholders. Borough Places had been asked to assess themselves against our ICS Place Development Framework and this work will inform next steps and work required to further prepare our places for operation from 1st April next year.

By the end of the calendar year, we hope to have appointed all place-based leads. These are pivotal appointments and key to ensuring the progress made so far continues.

We have now completed an engagement process to get feedback from stakeholders on our proposals for the constitution of the Integrated Care Board. There had been many responses, and we will be reporting on this separately summarising stakeholder responses and action taken as a result. The proposals had been co-produced with leaders from across the system to determine the leadership, functions and portfolios for the statutory roles, and well as identifying what other roles would be necessary to provide the right 'scaffolding' to facilitate real, integrated services.

There are two Provider Collaboratives in our system – one for acute and specialist trusts, and one for providers of mental health, learning disability and community services. Provider Collaboratives will enable joined up, integrated connected care in local places, as well as 'at-scale' developments for a bigger footprint, across the Cheshire and Merseyside geography. This important development is to secure consistency in models of delivery and standards, reducing unwarranted variation in quality, providing mutual aid when necessary and securing the best use of resources.

Everyone in the Cheshire and Merseyside system is working together to meet the challenges of winter, urgent care pressures, recovery of services and Covid. We are all driven by the Marmot principles of equity and equality. In addition, we have adopted 'We Are One' as a strapline to reiterate the fact that staff from the Partnership and CCGs, as well NHS organisations, Local Authorities and VCFSE - sector are working together to break down the barriers to integration.

David invited representatives from across the places to give their perspective in response to what they'd heard from Sheena on progress so far.

Steve Broomhead, Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council and David Parr, Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council welcomed the progress that had been made so far and appreciated the productive working relationships that had been built up across the Partnership. They recognised the challenges, especially around workforce and financial resources, and agreed that constructive, sometimes difficult discussions around many of the issues we are facing had proved beneficial in building up trust and co-operation.

Dr Paula Cowan GP and Chair of Wirral CCG and Dr Andrew Wilson GP Chair of Cheshire CCG also welcomed the direction of travel and agreed that system working was the key to securing the improvements we are seeking for our population. There is positivity in our Places and the involvement of the VCFSE sector is both essential and welcome. They acknowledged the difficulties being faced by our staff and reiterated the importance of regular, transparent communication as well as practical support, to help reduce levels of anxiety and stress, particularly in view of the current pressures in our services. The new Joint Committee of CCGs was progressing with delegating authorities that would contribute to reducing duplication and preparing for new ways of working.

Geoffrey Appleton, Lay Chair of St Helens CCG added that the forthcoming appointment of the leadership team to substantive roles would also enable further progress. He said there was energy and commitment in our Places and the changes – certainly in St Helens where integration is advanced – are evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

Joe Rafferty, Chief Executive of Mersey Care NHS Trust and leader of the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Community Services Provider Collaborative added that he felt we were now progressing from the 'what?' and 'why?' questions to the 'how?'. Relationships in the system are intact, indeed are strong as a result of the journey so far and he welcomed the balance between short, medium and long term programmes of work that are enabling us to look beyond immediate difficulties. The Provider Collaborative is progressing with members committed to ensuring local Places are the beneficiaries, even when working on a wider, system footprint.

Lynn McGill, Chair of East Cheshire Hospitals agreed with all of the comments and suggested we are now seeing an appreciation of Place priority over organisational priority. Conversations are maturing and there is more commonality about working jointly.

David thanked everyone for their contributions which, he said, gave a very rich flavour of how it feels throughout the ICS.



## Governance Update

Professor Sarah O'Brien, Director of Strategy and System Development gave an update on progress against our plan including our 'Readiness to Operate' from 1<sup>st</sup> April. [Her presentation can be found here](#). There is considerable activity throughout the Partnership around this and our progress is in line with expectations.

She confirmed that we would be submitting our naming requests (in line with national requirements) to NHS England next week and are proposing:

- that the ICB would be called 'NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board';
- that the ICP, which will be a statutory committee of the ICB made up of at least NHS and Local Authority members, but will also include others and will build on the existing Partnership, would be called 'Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership'
- and that the ICS – that is the system as a whole – would be known as NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICS'.

The establishment of the ICP will be an opportunity to build on the work we have already done as a partnership to date but to also take that further and keep focusing on whole system joint working to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes together. The partnership board agreed to have a task & finish group to explore membership and scope of the ICP and to report back to board in January.

Cllr Louise Gittins suggested it was important to continue with the already established track record of involving local elected members in such work, to ensure that patient's voice is heard. David Flory agreed and invited Louise to join the task finish group.

Cllr Yvonne Nolan was keen that the ICP had adequate VCFSE sector and Healthwatch representation. Sam Corcoran, Leader of Cheshire East Council said that she had liked what she had heard so far throughout the meeting, and was keen now that progress continued.

## Children and Young People's Service

The Board heard a presentation from the CYP programme offering a 'deep dive' into this aspect of the Partnership's work. The programme is chaired by David Parr, CEO Halton Borough Council who introduced Dr Liz Crabtree and Dani Jones from Alder Hey.



[Here you can find an abridged version of their presentation](#) (which includes contact details for Liz and Dani should you wish to find out more) and we would urge you to take a look at it, as well as the film clips here which were part of the original presentation. [Healthy Schools in Halton](#) and [Sefton CAMHelions](#).

There are some stark facts which make for difficult reading but everyone is agreed that it is essential for all our children and young people that they have the best start in life and have access to the best opportunities to enable them to thrive. Of course, our children are the adults of the future and they themselves will go on to be parents.

It was also noted that Covid has increased health inequalities, especially for children, with family incomes reduced in many cases, and their education has been severely disrupted. This will have a long term impact.

The programme has four priorities – childhood obesity; respiratory and asthma; mental health and wellbeing; learning difficulties, disabilities and autism – with the overall aspiration being healthy children, becoming healthy adults, who are healthy parents who go on to have healthy children.

The HCP Board was asked to address the needs of Children and Young People in our area by

- Being advocates for children and young people, and for the programme
- Ensure developments are informed by the needs of children and young people
- Recognise this work as a priority, and sustain the programme
- Embed children and young people’s needs in to system data developments, allowing co-creation of Cheshire and Merseyside level CYP ambitions
- Embedding effective interventions and models of care into core commissioning baselines in future.

Leadership across the ICS must to address the issue on Cheshire and Merseyside basis to give whole system approach. Policies would need to be developed to address factors like poverty, food, access to green spaces and be informed by sound data.

Cllr Bannon thanked Paul, Liz and Dani and spoke for all when he said the work was long overdue and much needed.

Dr Paula Cowan also pointed out the influence of parental factors on children and young people’s health and the need to be mindful of this.

Dr Ian Ashworth, Director of Public Health at Cheshire East reminded the Board of the importance of social workers, public health nursing and health visitors. It was important to continue to support and develop these areas of the workforce.

Dame Jo Williams, chair of Alder Hey Children’s Foundation Trust said the ICS now provides a real opportunity to prioritise this work for the benefit of all children in Cheshire and Merseyside, and make a positive impact.

Finally, Cllr Louise Gittins, like all present, was hugely motivated by the presentation and spoke for everyone when she said ‘Let’s Change the World!’.



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