

Date: 02 March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

You will know I wrote to you early last month to update you on the outputs of our MoU engagement through December and January and informing you of the recommendations and next steps agreed at our January Partnership Board meeting.

One of the actions we committed to taking forward and defining in the short term was appropriate transition arrangements covering the year ahead. In particular, for CCGs, recognising the current statutory roles and responsibilities within our system.

Following positive discussions, I want to update you on the conclusion of this dialogue and the agreements reached by the Partnership Board, in supporting the 2021/22 transition year, at its meeting on 24 February:

- Extend membership to all CCG Chairs - Responding to the need for greater local NHS perspectives in our discussions. A development which will also assist the Board by providing for some lay/independent involvement and a wider clinical voice
- Maintaining the current position of a Chair and Accountable Officer representative of CCGs
- That in keeping with the commitment provided in January these arrangements will be reviewed within six months of their introduction
- The Board agreed to introduce these arrangements from 1st June. This will support a smooth transition but will also follow local government elections now confirmed for 6th May.

All of the above has reference to and provides for some small supplementary updates to our MoU, as we committed to do, at Appendix 6 only. Accordingly, I have provided an updated Appendix 6 attached to this correspondence should you wish to make an addendum to the document already circulated. You will note that we alluded to this change in version 8 of the MoU as circulated and which, I know, is already in the process of being signed up to.

I have confidence that these arrangements will support and assist the partnership, making best use of our shared knowledge and experience during this transition year, as we respond to the challenges and system development needs that have now been described in the Government's White Paper and which include projections that we will need to develop both a Partnership and an NHS Board for Cheshire and Merseyside.

As we prepare to embark on the next step of this shared journey, I want to place on record my thanks and gratitude to the outgoing Board, both for their contributions but also for supporting this proposal.

I also want to recognise and thank those of you that have been feeding back and providing commitment to or directly signing up to the MoU. I look forward to hearing from all of you on your progress by 12 March.

Should you wish to discuss this further Ben Vinter remains available as a resource to support your discussions and Jackie Bene and Alan Yates also remain available to discuss with senior leaders as needed.

Finally, let me direct your attention to Partnership microsite:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk/partnership-assembly>

Regards



Alan Yates
Chair, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership

Enc:

- Updated – MoU Annex 6

Annex 6 – Partnership Board Membership

- i. A representative from each of our nine Local Authority areas within the ICS footprint.
- ii. A CEO and a Chair representing acute providers
- iii. A CEO and a Chair representing mental health and community providers
- iv. A CEO and a Chair representing specialist providers
- v. Two Primary Care Network representatives. Assumed elected or nominated via the Primary Care Network Forum
- vi. A CCG Accountable Officer
- vii. A CCG Clinical Chair
- viii. The Chairs of each system CCG providing community, place and clinical perspective
- ix. A Public Health representative
- x. A VCSE representative
- xi. An NHSE/I representative
- xii. From the Partnership, itself, it is proposed that the Chair, Chief Officer and up to 3 executive director posts will be full or voting members of the Board. Other directors will attend.

The above Partnership Board membership provides for both the envisaged future form reflecting when the ICS has assumed statutory powers and acts as a bridge, through 2021/22, reflecting an anticipated transition year.