

# SUMMARY REPORT

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE HEALTH  
AND CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

NOVEMBER 8 2022



Cheshire and  
Merseyside  
Health and Care Partnership

Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership – the sub-region’s new statutory Integrated Care Partnership – met for the first time at the Partnership for Learning conference centre in Halewood, Knowsley on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2022. Meeting papers available [here](#).

Consisting of representatives across the NHS, local authorities, voluntary sector, housing, police and fire and rescue, the Partnership Board provides a multi-agency forum to assess the health, public health and social care needs of people across Cheshire and Merseyside – and develop a combined strategy to address them.

Councillor Louise Gittins, the leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council, was unanimously confirmed as Chair, with Raj Jain – the Chair of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside – confirmed as vice-chair. A process to appoint a second vice-chair, to represent the voluntary sector, is already underway.

Cllr Gittins described her appointment as “an honour” and the inception of the multi-agency partnership as “a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a real difference across our communities”. As a “Marmot community”, she said the Partnership must come together to help tackle health inequalities across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Among the wide-ranging challenges facing the Partnership are issues including access to care – such as GP appointments – and recruitment and retention of staff in social care.

It was confirmed that a draft Terms of Reference for the Partnership Board is set to be reviewed by Cheshire and Merseyside’s nine local authorities and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, with a view to collectively agreeing a single Terms of Reference by May 2023.

Ian Ashworth, lead Director of Public Health for Cheshire and Merseyside’s Population Health programme, led an update on the sub-region’s progress as a “Marmot Community”.

Following input from a wide range of key stakeholders across Cheshire and Merseyside, the landmark report [All Together Fairer: Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health in Cheshire and Merseyside](#) was published in May 2022.

Featuring 22 Beacon Indicators to help measure progress, the key themes are to:

- 1) Give every child the best start in life
- 2) Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- 3) Create fair employment and good work for all
- 4) Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- 5) Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- 6) Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- 7) Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
- 8) Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

Eight NHS Trusts across Cheshire and Merseyside have now signed a “prevention pledge” commitment to embed prevention of ill-health into their service delivery.

Cllr Gittins referenced the impact that signing the prevention pledge could have if adopted by more organisations – and their workforces – across Cheshire and Merseyside, while vice-chair Raj Jain challenged partners to consider not just agreeing collective priorities, but the method with which to deliver large-scale change.

Reflecting current cost of living challenges, Ian Ashworth and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Knowsley Place Director Alison Lee then delivered a joint update around the health impacts of fuel poverty.

Alison explained that there is strong evidence that people who live in cold homes are more likely to suffer from a wide range of physical health issues – as well as mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. She explained that, in Knowsley, partners are using Making Every Contact Count methodology to help support people to live better lives.

Board members recommended reaching beyond the public sector to expand this work further – for example convenience stores such as Spar and Co-op, while housing providers noted a marked increase recently in the number of residents going into rent arrears and suffering with mental health issues.

Representatives from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service then explained how their safe and well checks could be expanded – with access to the right data and links in to organisations which can help. A commitment was also made by partners around the table to undertake suicide prevention training to further support people who are in crisis.

Although this was just the first bi-monthly meeting of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, the Department of Health and Social Care has directed all statutory Integrated Care Partnerships to publish a strategy by the end of this calendar year.

Neil Evans, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Associate Director of Strategy and Collaboration, described the process to achieve this – building on existing strategies such as All Together Fairer and Place Plans.

This will include work with Healthwatch colleagues to ensure it also responds to the resident voice around key issues such as the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on access to services and cost of living pressures.

At the end of the meeting partners outlined their collective commitment to work across traditional organisational boundaries and hold each other to account for delivery as well as to further develop their shared purpose – ensuring residents, service users and patients are at the centre of everything the Partnership does.

To this end, options to expand accessibility and opportunities for public involvement at future meetings will be considered and, in line with the draft Terms of Reference, actions and decisions will be recorded – with progress against key actions reported back at each meeting.

Meetings of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership are held in public. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. More information about the Health and Care Partnership is available via the [NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website](#).