Working together:
NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Working together across Cheshire

This briefing is intended to give you more information regarding the proposed next steps that are being presented to our Governing Bodies for consideration and support over the next couple of months.

Through our transformation programmes (Connecting Care, Caring Together and The West Cheshire Way) we have clearly outlined our ambition to develop better integrated care across Cheshire. This ambition means that primary care, hospitals, other providers, commissioners, as well as health and social care, will be joined up and aligned. These plans don't just focus on us joining up these services, but doing so in a way which is co-terminous with Local Authority boundaries, followed by smaller, community based footprints, called 'Care Communities'.

Nationally and regionally there is a direction to move towards place based care, with 'Place' being identified as these Local Authority boundaries. We have been working closely with Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council colleagues to consider what this would mean for our four Cheshire CCGs.

Work has been already been done in developing these Care Communities across individual CCG areas and many are already established, growing from GP registered lists and bringing together integrated health and social care teams, as well as having established patient forums and engagement mechanisms. The aim is to bring all Care Communities to the same level of integration, and to develop them further to include third sector organisations, care homes, and voluntary organisations.

Each CCG in Cheshire is committed to ensuring that services are commissioned and delivered as locally as possible with many services being commissioned on this local Care Communities footprint. However to deliver the best possible care for our population, successful Care Communities need to be supported by and integrated with hospital care which will be commissioned and provided at scale. The emerging development of what is known as Integrated Care Partnerships will have the majority of functions to deliver this.

Doing things differently

We have spoken to you before about the creation of our Cheshire CCGs Joint Commissioning Committee. The Committee has worked together to create a number of recommendations to take to the Governing Bodies of all four CCGs which clearly describe the steps that the Committee believes need to happen next to progress these ambitions described above. They are as follows:

- **Recommendation 1:** that the four existing Cheshire CCGs should merge into one Cheshire CCG with the development of two integrated health and care commissioning committees on local authority footprints. The single Cheshire CCG would be a statutory NHS body from 1st April 2020.

- **Recommendation 2:** that a single Accountable Officer is appointed for the four CCGs and is in post by 1st April 2019, and who will be the Accountable Officer for the Cheshire CCG from 1st April 2020

- **Recommendation 3:** that the three existing CCG Executive Teams merge into one single team following the appointment of the single Accountable Officer

- **Recommendation 4:** that between 2018 - 2020 the CCGs continue to strengthen their collaborative commissioning arrangements, identifying opportunities to commission services for our local population collectively and collaboratively

- **Recommendation 5:** that the CCGs progress, ahead of 2020, shared governance arrangements.

We believe the following benefits will be realised from implementing these recommendations:

- improved outcomes for the population (across Cheshire) and improved opportunities to engage our residents in the co-design of services
- create the optimum environment to both enable and accelerate the development of and implementation of new models of integrated care built from care communities of 30,000-50,000 people across Cheshire
- develop the integration agenda with the two local authorities and meet the national target of achieving integration between health and social care by 2020

Next steps

Each of the four Cheshire CCG Governing Bodies will be considering these recommendations at their meetings in public, dates of which are as below:

- **NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG:** 25 April 2018
- **NHS South Cheshire CCG and NHS Vale Royal CCG:** 3 May 2018
- **West Cheshire CCG:** 17 May 2018

If each Governing Body supports the proposals within these recommendations then we will take them to each of our GP Memberships for consideration and support. It will be the decision of our GP Membership, along with NHS England, whether we take the required steps to progress them.

A paper has been written that outlines all of the details in this briefing, and this will start to be shared as part of the public Governing Body papers. NHS Eastern Cheshire CCG is publishing this paper on their website first on the **afternoon of 18 April 2018**. This paper will be available at: **https://www.easterncheshireccg.nhs.uk/Meetings/25-april-2018.htm** and is attached for your information.

Following these approval stages we will collectively, in conjunction with clinicians and our partners, put together a robust work plan that has clear stages in the process to help you further understand how we are putting the recommendations into action and what it means for Cheshire.

This will mean that we will have two distinct but very much aligned workstreams being developed and implemented in conjunction to take forward the progression of our Integrated Care Partnerships and Care Communities as well as the development of a single Cheshire CCG.

What next?
This is the first of many briefings, and we will continue to talk with you in order to keep you informed of, and engaged in, any proposed changes. Alongside the briefings, the CCGs are also developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. This FAQ document will be a 'living' document which will be updated to address any concerns and questions raised across the CCGs. This FAQ document will be circulated with each briefing.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this briefing.

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