

Responses to Public Questions – Joint Committee of the Cheshire and Merseyside CCGs

Questions received via email on August 21st 2021 from Mr Chris Ingram

Having read the current web page which refers to the Cheshire and Merseyside CCGs Joint Committee, I am somewhat confused as to what is actually going on with the NHS on Merseyside. Decisions are being made without any consultation with patients and users of the NHS and the information regarding this is absent from all of the associated NHS websites in Merseyside.

- 1) As an NHS user and patient can you tell me what is happening over the creation of ICS and ICB's? I have read that these new entities will take over from CCGs which will be abolished and now longer function. There is absolutely NO mention of ICS/ICBs in any website I have seen which claims to be the voice of the NHS in Merseyside. I have also read that salaries of £250,000 are being considered for the CEOs of these bodies which will include private healthcare providers on the Boards. This means, money which should benefit healthcare will be diverted into the pockets of private healthcare companies and executives with no public accountability, in my opinion.
- 2) Can you tell me who are the so-called 'partners' delivery healthcare and NHS services in Merseyside and Cheshire, their roles, and contract values? Again this information is being hidden from the public and is totally undemocratic.

A: Proposed changes to NHS commissioning arrangements in Cheshire and Merseyside are based on national directives and guidance and legislative reforms stemming from the new Health and Care Bill.

Local partners, including CCGs, NHS Trusts and Local Authorities, are preparing to implement statutory arrangements from April 1st 2022 – including the formation of a new Integrated Care System (ICS) NHS Body, which will provide the structural framework to commission services across a wider footprint, balanced with locally-commissioned services.

The ICS NHS Body will be a statutory organisation. The members of its unitary board will have collective and corporate accountability for the performance of this organisation and will be responsible for ensuring its functions are discharged.

NHS England and NHS Improvement, through its regional teams, will agree the constitutions and plans of ICS NHS bodies and hold them to account for delivery through the Chair and Chief Executive.

NHS England and NHS Improvement will make financial allocations to each ICS NHS body for the performance of its functions. Decisions about spending will be devolved to ICS NHS bodies.

As with CCGs, there will be a legal duty for ICS NHS bodies to make arrangements to involve patients, unpaid carers and the public in planning and commissioning arrangements.

Across Cheshire and Merseyside, we are developing a system-wide strategy for engaging with people and communities, building on the existing relationships, good practice and networks across system partners.

Engagement will be carried out on the local ICS Constitution and governance arrangements for the ICS NHS body and ICS Partnership.