

Date: 11th February 2021

To: C & M LA CEOs

Dear Colleague

You will know that at the last meeting of the Health and Care Partnership Board when considering its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) it agreed to support political representation from local authorities where a local authority wished. I am writing now to let you know how that support can progress to implementation.

On 2nd February, as part of the MoU development I wrote to all formal members of the Partnership asking them to consider the MoU and, by 22nd March, give an indication of whether the authority was able to support it. I would be grateful if your Authority was able to meet that deadline and let me know accordingly.

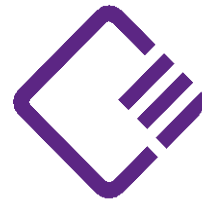
I noted there remained some work to do with CCGs about representation from health commissioners at the Partnership Board; that work has commenced, and I hope will conclude during this month. If there is widespread support, as I hope will be the case, it will be during April that we ask the formal and individual members of the Partnership to formally agree the MoU at their respective Board or Cabinet.

You will be aware that the national Government published last week a White Paper discussing the DHSC's legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill. That provides considerable structural context for all ICSs. It needs detailed and proper consideration, but it is clear already that it is generally supportive of the course we have set. It is reasonable to expect it will place obligations on ICSs once the legislation is passed. I understand that the Government plans to implement the legislation in 2022.

At the Partnership Board meeting in January this year, it anticipated this by undertaking to review the MoU after six months to take into account the changing local arrangements and the legislative context.

It looks much more likely that Local Government elections will take place in May now and whilst we had planned a Political Assembly in April where these matters could be discussed with politicians across Cheshire and Merseyside it seems more appropriate to have that discussion outside the Purdah period and after the elections.

It will be for each Local Authority to determine how it chooses to represent itself using its place on the Partnership Board. Nevertheless, if I could offer a view, it seems to me, given the formal position of Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) (or their equivalent) in each Place, that if a Local Authority chose political membership of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Board it would make sense for the Chair of the HWB (where political) to be that member.



**Cheshire and
Merseyside**
Health and Care Partnership

If you would wish, I would be most happy to have a conversation about the above. Please feel free to make contact.

Yours sincerely

Alan Yates
Chair, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership