

## **Cheshire & Merseyside Feasibility Study Outline - Briefing for CM DsPH and SH Commissioner use**

### **1. Introduction**

Cheshire & Merseyside Directors of Public Health, with Public Health England have committed to working together to explore opportunities for future co-commissioning of sexual health services for the region.

The work will involve a range of commissioners, who are responsible for parts of the Sexual Health pathway, and or connected pathways; namely NHS England (e.g. Primary Care Commissioning – Contraception and STI testing and treatment, Specialist Care - HIV, Cervical Screening, Dermatology and SARC Commissioning), Clinical Commissioning Groups for (e.g. Abortion, Psychosexual, Gynaecology and Maternity services) and Local Authorities for (e.g. Contraception, STI testing and treatment, aspects of psychosexual counselling).

We would hope that this work would help us to identify the opportunities for co-commissioning sexual health services, which would future proof, quality assure and optimise sexual health service pathways, potentially realising system efficiencies where appropriate. The work would also consider the flexibility needed to respond to emerging footprint systems such as Accountable Care Systems (ACS).

This paper summarises the primary reasons for this feasibility work between Cheshire & Merseyside Local Authorities and Public Health England:

- the reasons for the Cheshire & Merseyside feasibility work;
- the case for change;
- and the three feasibility work streams.

This feasibility work will be undertaken between mid-September to mid-February 2018. At this point the work will be reported to the Cheshire and Merseyside Directors of Public Health, to determine whether there is merit in progressing toward an operational phase of this work.

### **2. Cheshire & Merseyside Local Authority Public Health and Public Health England: reasons for this feasibility work**

- 2.1 Public Health England have recently surveyed commissioners of Sexual Health services across the country to gather feedback on their commissioning experiences. This report was published on the 30th August 2017 and the can be found [here](#).
- 2.2 The survey unsurprisingly found fragmentation of commissioning caused by the spread of commissioning responsibilities across three main commissioning bodies (Local Authorities, NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups).
- 2.3 The National Sexual Health Service Specification is being updated by Public Health England and NHS England, along with work to review best practice for the management of Out of Area GUM (Genito Urinary Medicine) payment and Cross Charging arrangements for the open access sexual health services.

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- 2.4 The Greater London Boroughs and the Greater Manchester Local Authorities have all recently completed transformational commissioning of their sexual health services. These pieces of work will be used to inform Cheshire & Merseyside' feasibility work.
- 2.5 Sexual Health is a national priority for Public Health England and this work is supported by Cheshire & Merseyside Directors of Public Health, the Local Government Association, NHS England, and Health Education England.

### 3. Case for Change – Summary

- 3.1 The main focus for this CHAMPs Collaborative feasibility work is to consider the potential for co-commissioning with NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups, to maximise efficiency and service effectiveness. We anticipate that we will identify what could be developed once for the Cheshire and Merseyside footprint, with a range of other options that individual areas could choose from in their commissioning work.
- 3.2 Commissioners working together to transform approaches to the future procurement and commissioning of sexual health services, could realise benefits for those accessing sexual health services, as well as for the public purse. It could enable effective 21<sup>st</sup> century approaches to service delivery as well as leaner mechanisms for commissioners managing contractual arrangements in the future.
- 3.3 The collaboration work would seek to align Clinical Governance, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance arrangements for open access sexual health services across Cheshire & Merseyside, or for individual or cluster Local Authorities commissioning services together in partnership with other commissioners.
- 3.4 This work could also help to address some aspects of the systems financial challenges, whilst securing services commissioners are responsible for commissioning as determined by legislation (Health and Social Care Act 2012).

### 4. Feasibility Work Streams

Work Stream	How we will do this
<b>Work Stream 1</b> - Development of a Cheshire & Merseyside service specification building on the National Document. This would include consideration of Quality Outcomes.	Achieved by holding a workshop with NHSE and CCG Commissioners to explore areas for co-commissioning with C&M SH Commissioners. The C&M SH Commissioners & PHE would then work together on the development of one service specification.
<b>Work Stream 2</b> - To analyse patient flow data to understand the implications of this for the system, future commissioning, the service specification work (Work Stream 1). To identify options that would achieve improvements for patients and reduce the administrative burdens for commissioners and providers.	PHE will support this work by undertaking data analysis, and C&M Commissioners will review this and determine the potential options / opportunities.
<b>Work Stream 3</b> - To explore a Cheshire & Merseyside approach to Prevention of STIs and Self-Help advice, and Self-Service options.	Engagement with wider stakeholders (service providers, commissioners, others) to develop a local area action plan that would support Commissioners and Service Providers when commissioning or developing local services.

**Lead Sponsors for this feasibility work are:**

Julian Brookes - Deputy Chief Operating Officer Public Health England

Ian Ashworth - Director of Public Health Cheshire West and Chester and Lead CM DsPH for Sexual Health

**Key other Contacts**

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