

29 June 2023 ICB Board Meeting - Questions received in advance

All questions raised to the Board will be answered in writing to the individual who raised them and published on the ICB website.

Question Received	Raised by
<p>1) According to the Health Service Journal (2 June “Revealed: the ICSs that refused to set breakeven plans”) Cheshire & Merseyside, with a planned deficit of £51m, is one of 15 ICSs which set deficit plans for 2023-24. The HSJ later reported (12 June “ICB and seven trusts put in ‘recovery’ after refusing to submit balanced financial plan”) that Hampshire & Isle of Wight ICB had been moved from Segment 3 to Segment 4 of the NHS Oversight Framework after submitting a final £24m deficit forecast.</p> <p>a) Why was Cheshire & Merseyside ICS unable to comply with the legal duty to plan and deliver a balanced budget?</p> <p>b) In the absence of additional funding, how would provision of services in Cheshire & Merseyside be affected if expenditure were reduced to deliver a balanced budget?</p> <p>c) The ICB paid Pricewaterhousecoopers £150,000 shown in the January 2023 ICB spending report. The ICB Board papers for 4 August 2022 state, in relation to Liverpool University Hospitals FT: “The Trust is currently working with PWC and the ICB on an in-depth review of its financial plan for 2022/23, with a report expected towards the end of August. The Trust will use the outputs of this report, in conjunction with the ICB and relevant system partners to support the deliverability of a more sustainable financial position moving forward and achievement of its plan for the year.”</p> <p>What were the outputs of this report, who are the relevant system partners and how did the ICB and relevant system partners work with LUHFT on “achievement of its plan for the year,” and on its current deficit of £29.1m and forecast deficit of £60.7m for 2023-24?</p> <p>d) Cheshire & Merseyside ICB spending reports are shown on the ICB website through to January 2023, but not since then. When will the more recent reports be published?</p> <p>2) According to the Report of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee Chair (May 2023):</p>	<p>Greg Dropkin</p>

“The private section of the meeting considered a number of procurement items relevant to ICB Business and was in accordance with the scheme of reservation and delegation.”

a) To which items of ICB Business are these procurement items relevant?

b) When and where will the procurements themselves be published?

c) Are meetings of this Committee held in public, except for designated private sections? If so, why are these Committee meetings not listed on the Upcoming meetings and events page?

According to the latest Register of Interests (April 2023) the following are members of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee: Adam Irvine, Tony Foy, Neil Large, Erica Morriss, Clare Watson (NV), Claire Wilson, Christine Douglas, Mark Wilkinson, Christine Samosa, Anthony Middleton, [vacant for Deputy Director of Finance], Susanne Lynch (NV), Vicki Wilson (NV), Alex Mitchell.

d) Please identify any other person who has attended meetings of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee, whether as a voting or non-voting member, observer, adviser or in any other capacity.

1) According to the Health Service Journal (2 June “Revealed: the ICSs that refused to set breakeven plans”) Cheshire & Merseyside, with a planned deficit of £51m, is one of 15 ICSs which set deficit plans for 2023-24. The HSJ later reported (12 June “ICB and seven trusts put in ‘recovery’ after refusing to submit balanced financial plan”) that Hampshire & Isle of Wight ICB had been moved from Segment 3 to Segment 4 of the NHS Oversight Framework after submitting a final £24m deficit forecast.

a) Why was Cheshire & Merseyside ICS unable to comply with the legal duty to plan and deliver a balanced budget? [Cheshire and Merseyside ICS has an agreed deficit plan for 23/24, which includes a recurrent efficiency target of 5%. The planning process for 23/24 was challenging and identified overdependence on non-recurrent efficiencies to deliver financial balance in previous years, inflationary pressures and emergency pressures across the health service as giving rise to the deficit. The system is currently developing a financial strategy in order to deliver a balanced financial position in future years.](#)

b) In the absence of additional funding, how would provision of services in Cheshire & Merseyside be affected if expenditure were reduced to deliver a balanced budget? [A key objective of the Joint Forward plan is to develop a financial strategy focused on investment in reducing inequality and prioritising making greater resources available for prevention and wellbeing services. It is expected that the financial strategy and recovery plan will be in place by Sept 2023.](#)

c) The ICB paid PricewaterhouseCoopers £150,000 shown in the January 2023 ICB spending report. The ICB Board papers for 4 August 2022 state, in relation to Liverpool University Hospitals FT:

“The Trust is currently working with PWC and the ICB on an in-depth review of its financial plan for 2022/23, with a report expected towards the end of August. The Trust will use the outputs of this report, in conjunction with the ICB and relevant system partners to support the deliverability of a more sustainable financial position moving forward and achievement of its plan for the year.”

What were the outputs of this report, who are the relevant system partners and how did the ICB and relevant system partners work with LUHFT on “achievement of its plan for the year,” and on its current deficit of £29.1m and forecast deficit of £60.7m for 2023-24?

The ICS is working on a 3-year financial strategy to achieve financial balance over this period; the outputs of the PwC report have been factored into this work in terms of identifying an underlying financial baseline, efficiency requirements and opportunities for transformation. All NHS providers are working alongside the 9 Places to develop this financial strategy.

d) Cheshire & Merseyside ICB spending reports are shown on the ICB website through to January 2023, but not since then. When will the more recent reports be published?

The ICB spending reports have now been updated to the end of May.

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/latest/reports/spending-reports/>

2) According to the Report of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee Chair (May 2023):

“The private section of the meeting considered a number of procurement items relevant to ICB Business and was in accordance with the scheme of reservation and delegation.”

a) To which items of ICB Business are these procurement items relevant?

A procurement update paper was presented to the Committee. This included the 2023/24 Non-Healthcare Forward Procurement Decision Plan for the ICB and requested that the Committee consider 3 procurement decisions. The procurements decisions discussed at the May Committee related to 3 specific contracts. These were 2 contracts for mental healthcare services, (1 for Knowsley Place and 1 for St Helens Place) and 1 Non-Healthcare internal ICB service which was confirmation of the ICB Commissioning Support arrangements for the 2023/24 financial year.

b) When and where will the procurements themselves be published?

All high value (over threshold) competitive procurement exercises approved via FIRC are advertised on the Government 'Find a Tender' site which can be accessed via the following link: [Find high value contracts in the public sector - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) Additionally, other procurement / contract decisions made by the ICB, in line with the internal governance framework, are periodically published on the ICB externally facing website in the 'Procurement Decision Log'.

c) Are meetings of this Committee held in public, except for designated private sections? If so, why are these Committee meetings not listed on the Upcoming meetings and events page?

No meetings of the Finance, Investment and Resources Committee are held in public.

d) Please identify any other person who has attended meetings of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee, whether as a voting or non-voting member, observer, adviser or in any other capacity.

The following are members of the Finance, Investment & Resource Committee: Adam Irvine (ICB Partner Member), Tony Foy (ICB Non-Executive Director), Neil Large (ICB Non-Executive Director), Erica Morriss (ICB Non-Executive Director), Clare Watson (Assistant Chief Executive - Non-Voting), Claire Wilson (Executive Director of Finance), Christine Douglas (Executive Director of Nursing and Care), Mark Wilkinson (Place Director – Cheshire East), Christine Samosa (Chief People Officer), Anthony Middleton (Director of Performance and Planning), Jane Tomkinson (Chief Executive – Liverpool Heart and Chest)

Question Received	Raised by
<p>Hello Board, I have a question on the Primary Care Future plan. On pages 189 and 190 of board papers in what ICB have to do it mentions PPG's. In Cheshire West and Chester part in particular it is taking a long time to restart PPG's after Covid in fact I email my practice regularly about starting one up and get no reply usually. Can you investigate how many GP's practices have a PPG set up and Meeting?</p> <p>2nd Question in the Forward plan to 2026 you say no need for consultation with public as it is old CCG stuff rehashed, but it is far from that, and I think a short consultation exercise would give it the populations approval. Will you do that?</p> <p>3rd question is on Co production with patients and carers on all strategies that effect patients and carers. I see non delivered in these plans and strategies.</p> <p>Thanks very much Gus Cairns MBE Board member West Cheshire Autism Hub Co Chair West Cheshire Mental Health Forum Board Member West Cheshire Mental Health Partnership Board Board Member West Cheshire Poverty Truth Advisory Board Community Director Avenue Services (NW) LTD 76 years old and Autistic</p>	<p>Gus Cairns</p>
<p>Thank you very much for your communication to the ICB Board regarding Patient Participation Groups (PPGs)</p> <p>I can confirm that there is a mixture of practice level PPGs and PCN PPGs across Cheshire West.</p> <p>In the Chester Central PCN area the practices have combined to have a PCN wide group where patients from member practices are able to share experiences and ask questions regarding individual practice arrangements. The PPG meets quarterly in person, and there is also the facility for those who are unable to travel to join virtually (specialised equipment has been installed to ensure that those joining virtually are not disadvantaged in any way). There is also an online forum should patients wish to highlight areas to the practices.</p> <p>The next Chester Central PPG meeting is on Thursday 6th July @ 12pm in the 3rd Floor meeting Room, Fountains Health, Delamere Street, Chester CH1 4DS or by joining virtually using the following information: https://tinyurl.com/4dre9tb8 Meeting ID: 349 166 951 14 Passcode: c5mFA4 . For future meetings if you contact the PCN via pcnchestercentral@nhs.net, they can add you to their list and send you a link to the virtual meeting</p> <p>I hope this information is helpful.</p> <p>We will also investigate further and respond regarding your ask about PPG meetings across the ICB area however please note this will take a little bit longer to collate and respond to.</p>	

18.07.2023



Cheshire and Merseyside

With regards the Joint Forward Plan, there will be further engagement on the Plan following publication and ahead of a refreshed iteration in March 2024. We will look to communicate any future engagement opportunities initially via <https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/get-involved/>

With regards co-production, we endeavour to be informed by and involve our public and patients in the design of our strategies and engage via a variety of forms and means. However, we recognise we can always improve and always welcome further suggestions on how we can do this.

Thank you once more for your continued interest in health and care and for contacting the Integrated Care Board.