



November 2023

Welcome to the first edition of the Cheshire and Merseyside Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Community (MHLDC) Provider Collaborative newsletter.

This bi-monthly bulletin will keep you informed of the work that is being taken forward by the nine trusts that form the collaborative partnership.

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Meet the Team

The MHLDC Provider Collaborative comprises the nine NHS organisations in Cheshire and Merseyside that deliver MH, LD and Community services. The work is co-ordinated by a small team hosted by Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust but working on behalf of all the provider collaborative trusts for the benefit of Cheshire and Merseyside residents.



Tony Mayer, Provider Collaborative Director



Val McGee, Provider Collaborative Strategy Director



Claire James, Provider Collaborative Mental Health Programme Director



Jo Shepherd, Provider Collaborative Workforce Director



Emma Danton, Provider Collaborative Head of Transformation



Qazeem Faniran, Provider Collaborative Programme Lead



Jane Woods, People Partnerships Programme Director – Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust (CWP) (on secondment to support system leadership and workforce workstreams across MHLDC)



Diane Nolder, Provider Collaborative Support Officer

Provider Collaborative Programmes of Work

After extensive stakeholder engagement the initial MHLDC portfolio of work focusses on seven distinct programme workstreams that can benefit from an “at scale” approach:



Access to Care



Community Urgent Care



Population Health Management



Mental Health Transformation



Workforce



Community Services for Children and Young People



Virtual Wards

Programme News



Access to Care

The access to care programme comprises three projects:

- Community waiting times;
- Fragile services;
- Elastomeric devices for IV at Home.

AIM: To establish a detailed understanding of “hidden” waits for health care services by

- reviewing and standardising community waiting time data,
- increasing the visibility of fragile services and
- identifying opportunities for sharing best practice and collaboration across Cheshire and Merseyside.



Community Urgent Care

The community urgent care programme comprises two projects:

- Urgent Community Response (UCR)
- Optimisation of intermediate care

The Urgent Community Response (UCR) project focusses on optimising the use of UCR services which enable people to remain at home as much as possible during times of crisis. We know that keeping people at home decreases their risk of deconditioning and leads to better outcomes for residents and their families. Initially, the project will focus on ensuring that data collection is accurate and consistent across C&M as this will allow us to compare and benchmark our services and identify areas of best practice.

The intermediate care project has been running since December 2022 and is a high priority, high profile piece of work both within the ICS and across the regional and national teams. The current phase of the project is focussed on establishing a complete and consistent baseline position so that we can confidently report, across Cheshire and Merseyside, about:

- How many intermediate care services are available across C&M?
- How many services provide care in people’s normal place of residence compared to a separate, bedded facility?
- What are the outcomes of the people who use intermediate care services?



Community Population Health Management

As an Integrated Care System, we know a lot about our residents. Using tools like CIPHA and other population health management tools, we know that we can develop targeted interventions with the people who are most at risk. The aim of this workstream is to define the role of community and mental health providers in population health management and to devise a series of interventions that will help our most vulnerable residents receive the care they need. The collaborative hosted a workshop on 4th October to start to explore this area. Our next step is to agree an actionable area of focus for our partnership that will bring about measurable improvements for our residents.



Workforce Programme

AIM: To make our services more resilient to the workforce challenges faced across health and social care, by tackling common issues together.

UPDATE: Seven projects funded by Health Education England are already in progress. A major success has been the 'Beat the Burnout' pilot, an interventional wellbeing programme for staff in our most challenged services. Participants of the programme are reporting significantly higher levels of happiness, motivation, improved sense of wellbeing and lowered levels of stress. We are now looking to scale this up to make it accessible across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Over the coming months, the workforce programme will be working on projects that will improve recruitment and retention, reduce inequalities in our workforce and build a stronger workforce for the future.



Community Services for Children and Young People

This programme is still being defined but is likely build on the work of the Beyond programme and focus on strengthening the resilience of the community and mental health services for children and young people. Project areas are likely to include tackling waiting lists for access to services, including ADHD and Speech and Language therapy services. A workshop was held on 9th October to start to identify opportunities for improving processes, sharing best practice and enabling our providers to work more closely with one another.



Virtual Wards

Virtual Wards are now operational in all nine places across C&M. In the next phase we will be considering how the services can scale up, improve utilisation and continue to provide valuable support to our residents and the wider health and care system.

Over the coming weeks and months, the collaborative team will be working closely with the current programme team, as well as with providers, to understand how we can maximise the benefits of the programme.



Mental Health Transformation

The well-established mental health improvement programme delivered its annual report in August which identified a significant number of achievements that will be covered in future bulletins.

Examples include:

- Maternal and perinatal mental health
 - Achievement of agreed access rate recovery (2,357 patients seen in 23/24);
 - Capital funding secured to support development of Mother & Baby Unit in Chester.
- Children & Young People
 - MH in School Teams implemented in all 9 places & continuing to grow – 26 teams established & coverage exceeds national ambition.
- Community mental health
 - MH Alliances embedded across C&M, enabling co-production with VCSE, LAs & Lived Experience Advisors (Cheshire and Wirral Community Wellbeing Alliance | Working together for mental health - YouTube).
- Crisis Services
 - Actions being addressed to reduce S136 delays:
 - MH conveyance;
 - S12 doctor availability;
 - AMHP availability;
 - Maximising support from MH trusts.
 - MH observational support in acute hospital Places of Safety implemented & acute hospital upskilling project underway.
- Mental Health workforce
 - C&M IAPT supervision hub established to overcome trainee number limitations;
 - MH Workforce data dashboard developed to support collaborative strategic planning.

Contact Us

If you want to know more about the work of the MHLDC Provider Collaborative, please get in touch with one of the team.

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