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16 November 2016

Dear Colleague

### **Cheshire and Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)**

We are writing to let you know that the Cheshire and Merseyside STP is being published today on all local NHS websites.

You will be aware that this is an ambitious draft plan to improve the health and well-being of the 2.5 million people living in the region.

The draft plan is one of 44 such plans being developed across the country in response to NHS England's Five Year Forward View (5YFV), a national plan that set out a vision for a better NHS.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) sets out our core purpose, which is to ensure that the people of Merseyside and Cheshire continue to have access to safe, good quality and sustainable services and ensuring that we make the best use of the funding we will receive over the next five years.

Ideas have come together in the Cheshire and Merseyside STP, which sets out four main priorities to address the challenges set out in the NHS Five Year Forward View; health and wellbeing, care and quality, and funding. The STP proposes to address those challenges by focusing on:

1. Support for people to live better quality lives;
2. The NHS working with partners to deliver joined up health and social care;
3. Designing hospital services to meet modern clinical standards and reducing variation in quality;
4. Becoming more efficient by reducing costs and maximising value.

Some of the proposals in the plan will be delivered in an integrated way across the whole region. However, due to the diversity of Cheshire & Merseyside, we are also working in three smaller partnerships called Local Delivery Systems (LDS) – North Mersey; the Alliance and Cheshire & Wirral. They will each deliver the same four key priorities but may tailor delivery to reflect the particular needs of each area and the local health and care system. Each of the Local Delivery Systems are at a different stage in their thinking. For example, plans to transform services have been in

development for some time through programmes such as *Healthy Liverpool* or *Caring Together* in Eastern Cheshire. For the other areas, where partners have been collaborating for a shorter time, ideas are at an earlier stage. This means that there will be opportunities at a very early stage for people to give their views and to get involved in shaping proposals.

The publication of the Cheshire and Merseyside STP on 16th November 2016 marks the start of further engagement on a way forward for local health and social care services. Over the next weeks and months we will be raising awareness and understanding about the need for change and will listen to ideas or concerns about any aspect of the plan.

We are committed to active involvement from patients, public, carers, staff and stakeholders in further shaping our ideas and proposals. Any emerging proposals to substantially change any service would be subject to thorough engagement and consultation with populations affected. We will only take forward proposals that are supported by strong clinical evidence and where we can demonstrate a positive impact in terms of quality, safety and sustainability.

We welcome your views on the content of the Cheshire and Merseyside STP.

Enclosed are additional documents in addition to the full STP document, including a public summary and frequently asked questions.

We expect you will also want to have conversations about the STP with your local clinical commissioning group, hospital trusts and other stakeholders. We look forward to receiving your feedback in order to help inform the next version of this plan.

The STP will be also discussed at all Health and Wellbeing Boards across Cheshire and Merseyside and we will engage with Overview and Scrutiny Committees on their requirements with regard to the plan.

We will continue to keep you informed and seek your views as proposals develop.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support for the NHS and social care system. We hope we can work with you to forge a constructive relationship to secure the best possible future for patients and the population of Cheshire and Merseyside.

Yours sincerely



Louise Shepherd  
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Chief Executive – Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust