

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER  
JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2023,  
GMCA, BOARDROOM, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor David Sedgwick	Stockport Council (in the Chair)
Councillor Andrew Morgan	Bolton Council
Councillor Zahid Hussain	Manchester City Council
Councillor Patricia Dale	Rochdale Council
Councillor Sammie Bellamy	Salford City Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sophie Taylor	Trafford Council
Councillor Ron Conway	Wigan Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Warren Heppollette	Chief Officer for Strategy & Innovation, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Ben Squires	Head of Primary Care, Greater Manchester.
Jim Rochford	Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board and Greater Manchester Federation of Dental Committees Member
Nicola Ward	Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer
Oliver Fenton	Assistant Governance Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

City Mayor Paul Dennett	GMCA Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Homelessness, Healthy Lives and Quality Care
Sir Richard Leese	Chair, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

**JHSC/12 /23            APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor Eddie Moores, Councillor Elizabeth FitzGerald, and Councillor Naila Sharif.

**JHSC/13/23            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED/-**

No declarations of interest were received.

**JHSC/14/23            MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
12 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**JHSC/15/23            UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER  
INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP (ICP)**

A report was provided by Sir Richard Leese, Chair, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care and Mayor Paul Dennett (GMCA Deputy Mayor), and GMCA Portfolio Lead for Homelessness, Healthy Lives and Quality Care.

The report provided an update on the key issues and challenges for the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System (ICS).

Sir Richard Leese reported that there had been a recently lengthy transition process due to the scale of the task of integrating 12 organisations into the ICS in Greater Manchester, ensuring that there was continued support and full consultation with each of the Locality Boards.

In addition to this, there had also been a governance review which was due for sign off by the ICB (Integrated Care Board) at their meeting next week, which included clarity over the role and function of Locality Boards and decision and resources delegated to them to ensure oversight of health and care in their locations.

In relation to budget and performance, the creation of the Greater Manchester ICB brought with it an inherited deficit of £500m which there was a clear commitment to address through the ambitions of the Integrated Care Strategy (the strategy) and a focus on more efficient joint planning. Improved performance had already been reported which was a reassuring outcome of these significant organisational changes.

Moving forward, the joint Forward Plan sets out the behaviours needed to deliver the strategy, which will also help to identify commonality in values across all organisations.

With regard to the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) specifically, City Mayor Paul Dennett outlined that it had been tasked to develop an integrated care plan which focussed on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, which it had done so in conjunction with the ten place-based districts across GM. It provides a clear set of outcomes including access to health services, improved health outcomes and addressing inequalities, reducing NHS demand, and keeping people active and in their own homes.

A Member enquired about the meeting between the ICP and the NHS England's Chief Financial Officer and requested an update on the meeting held. Officers explained that the meeting did not proceed as scheduled and would take place in October 2023. Furthermore, Officers clarified that they were looking to implement medium-term solutions for the financial challenges rather than short-term ones to aid with financial planning in order to address the inherited shortfall.

A Member commented on the ambitions outlined in the strategy and drew attention to page 24 of the agenda pack, which highlighted one of the core missions of the ICP's: strengthening communities. The Member emphasised that the success of the strategy depended on the effective delivery of services to these communities.

The same Member raised a case from a constituent regarding the challenges faced in attending a diabetic eye test appointment, which was normally undertaken locally however now needed assistance to travel to their appointment outside of their locality. Officers explained that it might not be feasible to have diagnostic equipment in every borough of Greater Manchester, although the ICS tried to keep services close to communities, in some cases, travel might be necessary for the best level of treatment. However, Members were also reminded that the NHS could provide transportation support for such situations.

In addition, it was reported that one of the strategies for elective recovery involved increasing the number of operations performed, and certain sites had been designated as high-volume elective recovery centres, with Rochdale Infirmary being one of them along with Trafford General Hospital. Surgeons from trusts across Greater Manchester were able to use these locations to perform surgeries over the weekends which gave patients the option to choose whether to travel there or not. This arrangement enabled patients to access services more quickly.

Another case was highlighted from a constituent concerning a cancer biopsy and the time to receive the results which was six weeks instead of the expected two. This delay was thought to be due to the laboratory's location being overseas as Officers explained that all genetic testing was sent to laboratories outside of Greater Manchester, but it should not take six weeks to receive results. Additionally, Officers stated that laboratory capacity was an issue that would be investigated. The Member was concerned about public perception as patients experiences in both cases was below expectations.

Members were reassured that both of the issues raised were being picked up in the Joint Forward Plan and Officers also agreed to take up the cases with the Member outside of the meeting. However, were also reminded that the local issue could be reported to the Member's Place-Based Lead.

A Member inquired about Greater Manchester's health inequalities, where they were, and which measures would be most effective to reduce them given the financial pressure being faced. Officers explained that a social model of health and care across Greater Manchester for services such as mental health were being adopted. However, addressing health inequalities required good data to identify service recipients, those in need of services, and whether services were being delivered. Officers highlighted that the primary indicator of health inequalities was economic deprivation, followed by those with learning difficulties and then some specific ethnic groups. Officers ensured they had access to this data and were implementing programmes that addressed those inequalities. It was stressed that a deeper examination was necessary to identify the root causes, with deprivation being a significant driver of health inequalities. Poverty, including unaffordable housing and unemployment, were also cited as contributing factors. Transportation was also highlighted as important in terms of accessing appointments and employment. Furthermore, Officers had aligned the strategy with the Greater Manchester Strategy to further address these issues and take a systematic approach to health inequalities.

A Member asked whether the ICP's financial position could hinder its ability to achieve the ambitions outlined in the strategy and Joint Forward Plan. Officers acknowledged the financial pressure and risk, but Officers were unable to demonstrate value for money at this early stage and therefore unable to secure more funding until the ICS was further embedded. To solve health inequalities and social determinants, it was emphasised that a joint approach and collaboration with localities to understand the underlying causes of poor health, the housing and employment sectors would be needed and where added health value could be sought. Reference was also made to District budget cuts and the impact on their ability to deliver, the social care crisis and the impacts of the pandemic. A long-term plan and financial settlement were needed to deliver the ambitions for improved

health across Greater Manchester and to address systemic challenges. In support of this, Greater Manchester needed a new financial settlement from Government in recognition that 19 out of the top 20 most deprived communities were in the north of England, and poverty was a very real issue.

A Member inquired about the timeline for receiving further updates on the ICP's recovery plan and Joint Forward Plan. Officers advised that they could provide comprehensive updates to the Committee as required. Officers would present the action plan to the ICB on 20 September 2023 in conjunction with the Leadership and Governance Review. Once the action plan had been reviewed by the Board, Officers suggested it might be worthwhile for the Committee to scrutinise the plan and the subsequent steps in the Leadership and Governance Review.

Officers also suggested the Committee examine the workforce and recruitment challenges within the healthcare sector and scrutinise the activities taking place to become more involved in this process with the education sector.

In terms of the Locality Boards, it was suggested that Members scrutinise those at District Health Scrutiny meetings given the arrangements were different in all ten Districts. Members were also reminded to report any local constituent issues to their Place-Based Lead.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Committee noted the report.
2. That it be noted that Officers from NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care would take up the reported constituent casework with the Member from Rochdale outside of the meeting.
3. That updates on the ICP recovery plan be provided to the Committee as required.
4. That the Joint Forward Plan and the subsequent steps in the Leadership and Governance Review be considered by the Committee at a future meeting.
5. That workforce and recruitment challenges within the healthcare sector be considered at a future meeting.

A presentation was provided by Ben Squires, Head of Primary Care, Greater Manchester supported by Jim Rochford, Greater Manchester Primary Care Provider Board and Greater Manchester Federation of Dental Committees Member.

The presentation provided Members with an update on the work to improve access to NHS Dental Services, with a focus on the new Dental Quality and Access Scheme implemented in June 2023.

A Member questioned whether there were any provisions in place to assist ex-service personnel access dentistry. Officers informed Members that, there were no specific provisions in place for ex-service personnel specifically. However, they would be able to access services through the urgent dental care pathway, which included comprehensive dental care.

A Member inquired about the dentists who were not currently participating in the dentist access scheme, whether the reasons for their non-participation were known and if there was any indication of more practices joining the scheme in the future. Officers explained that dentists might be exploring alternative business models which might affect their ability to commit to the scheme. Additionally, practices had expressed initial concern that they would become inundated with work from the scheme, however there was now demonstrable evidence that could be shared to evidence the actual potential impact to a practice. Work was taking place to optimise appointments and manage patients more effectively across the 176 practices who had already signed up.

A Member questioned how Officers would convince dentists who were not currently enrolled in the scheme that it was working effectively. Officers explained that some practices had indicated their intention to join the scheme in the future after seeing evidence and data demonstrating its success.

A Member requested a breakdown of the data on slide 9 (Map of Greater Manchester sign up to Quality of Access Scheme) of the presentation by borough, expressing a desire to identify best practices. The Member aimed to use this information to target their support for participation in the scheme and inform local decision-making. Additionally, the Member inquired why the scheme uptake appeared higher in Manchester and suggested that best practices be shared with other boroughs to increase the number of dentists participating in the scheme in their local areas.

A Member raised concerns about the lack of dental intervention in the residential care settings and asked what more could be done to enhance the oral health of individuals. Officers highlighted the Mouthcare Matters programme, which aimed to collaborate with the residential workforce to integrate oral health into an individual's general care, reducing the reliance on dentists. Members were also informed that Officers would be reviewing the special care dental services delivered by trusts and planned to increase their capacity to provide more special care for adults.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Committee note the presentation.
2. That slide 9 (Map of Greater Manchester sign up to Quality of Access Scheme) of the presentation be broken down by borough and shared with Members.

#### **JHSC/17/23                      WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA provided a draft of the Committee's work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year (Appendix 1 of the report).

The Chair informed Members that there would be one agenda item for discussion: health inequalities for the next meeting to discuss what the Committee could do to improve outcomes. Additionally, the Chair added that Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee would attend the meeting.

Members were reminded that this was a working document which would be updated throughout the year.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the work programme is noted and updated accordingly.

**JHSC/18/23                      DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider health inequalities and will be held in person at the GMCA 10:00 a.m. on 8 November 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**JHSC/19/23                      LINKS TO MINUTES AND DECISIONS**

[NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board 17 May 2023](#)  
[NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board Partnership 24 March 2023](#)