

Board of Directors (in Public)

Item 6.1.1

Subject: CMAST Leadership Board CiC Key Issues Report
Date of Meeting: 26th November 2024
Presented by: Liz Bishop, Chief Executive Officer
Meeting Held: 6th December 2024 and 10th January 2025
Attended by: Liz Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

This report sets out the key assurances, risks and actions from the recent CMAST (Cheshire and Merseyside Acute and Specialist Trust) Leadership Board Committee in Common (CiC) meeting. Areas for escalation to the Board of Directors are included below as required.

1. Summary

CMAST Leadership Board met on 6th December discussing a number of system issues as follows:

The Leadership Board were joined by Trust Chairs for a quarterly update on programme deliverables which covered outputs for the first half of the financial year. A summary of progress to date can be found [here](#). These updates were both widely noted and celebrated by those present.

The Board also received an update on recent system discussions and was asked to feedback, outside of the meeting, on the suggestion that there could be one provider collaborative within C&M. Board feedback was particularly sought on anticipated benefits and any areas which should be subject to wider exploration.

Update papers were also provided on the following areas:

- System financial report
- System performance update

CMAST Leadership Board also met on 10th January and discussed four substantive items as follows:

CMAST Leadership Board met on 10th January discussing a number of system issues as follows:

The Leadership Board were joined by the ICB Medical Director, Rowan Pritchard Jones, to understand the ICB's requirement to begin discussions and to govern approaches to decommissioning services and/or reducing clinical variation. Following a wide ranging conversation the value of at least one provider voice supporting and contributing to the development of these proposals was agreed. This will be taken forward by the ICB.

Mark Bakewell, interim Director of Finance for the ICB, provided an update on the current and aggregate ICS financial position and the moving parts and assumptions

being taken into the planning round for 2025/6. This was shared with the Leadership Board in the absence of any published planning guidance (at that time) and was done with the intent of shaping thinking and preparation for activities to come.

Next Linda Buckley, CMAST Managing Director, provided an overview of the current activity within the sector associated with RTT and the apportionment of these volumes between NHS and Independent Sector providers. Further detail was shared on the specialist mix and caseload and discussions took place on the policy direction in this space and the volumes arising from case mix.

Finally, Ann Marr provided the group with an update on feedback from CMAST members on the merits or otherwise of establishing a different approach to provider collaboration within C&M and the proposals from the ICB that a small working group would be established, including the ICB, in order to agree and define some principles and parameters for this work before discussions could be progressed or taken forward. It was expected that this work will start in late January / February.

Update papers were also provided on the following areas to both meetings:

- System financial report
- System performance update

2. Recommendations

- The Board of Directors is asked to **note** the update.