

Board of Directors (in Public)

Item 6.1.1

Subject: CMAST Leadership Board CiC Key Issues Report
Date of Meeting: 25th March 2025
Presented by: Liz Bishop, Chief Executive Officer
Meeting Held: 7th February 2025 and 7th March 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 Friday 7th February and discussed several system wide issues.

The Leadership Board heard an update on, and discussed, the system's response to this year's NHS Planning Guidance. Several actions are already underway, and the necessity for a system wide, multi-year strategic response was also considered.

An update was presented on the management arrangements, procedures and methodologies for specialised commissioning across Cheshire and Merseyside.

There was also an update on the national nursing role profile review, and recommendations presented regarding a collective system wide approach. The board heard a summary of ongoing discussion and progress on the move to a single Cheshire and Merseyside provider collaborative. Subject to further discussion, and agreement on governance arrangements, potential commencement dates are under consideration.

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The Leadership Board received an update on the work progressed through the CMAST Cardiology Alliance, as part of the clinical pathways programme. Dr John Morris, who had been asked to lead this work, presented progress toward agreeing a sustainable model that delivers sufficient access to both invasive and non-invasive diagnostic facilities while ensuring that Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratories are both fully utilised and equipped/enabled to deliver timely treatments for patients. Potential configurations have been considered and assessed by clinicians who have determined a preference to convert all applicable invasive angiography to non-invasive alternatives and consolidate remaining activity into PCI capable sites only. The Leadership Board heard that the only site that, currently, met with best practice guidelines (a minimum of 2 colocated PCI labs) within C&M is LHCH. The Leadership Board commended these conclusions and the focus on patient outcomes, minimising the number of invasive procedures

experienced by patients and the opportunities for system efficiency as an associated benefit. The Board noted that the response to the work had been considered by the CMAST Medical Directors and would be progressed via that forum. The Board also noted, notwithstanding the current system capital constraints, that the Alliance had expressed a preference for two PCI enabled sites within C&M, LHCH and another. The work to progress this and to identify a clinical recommendation in this regard would soon commence.

The Leadership Board also received an update on Medicines Optimisation opportunities in particular with relation to high-cost drugs. Programme delivery for the year was summarised which included: NHSE and the ICB investing jointly in NHS provider homecare teams to support delivery of recommended staffing models, which in turn supported drug switches (medicines optimisation). These changes and the investment are significant and have delivered a projected saving for the system of £10.2m in year. A figure in the region of 40% higher than projected. To further consolidate progress in this area the Leadership Board were asked to encourage the universal C&M deployment of Blueteq (a web based prior approvals software system) which supports consistency in the management, authorisation and procurement of high-cost drugs across the region. This approach is already used for NHSE commissioned drugs and a staged approach to wider roll out was socialised with the Board.

The Board also discussed the current parameters of financial planning with a discussion initiated by the ICB and followed this up with a discussion on the best way to support a provider response, develop consistency and share learning, identify and enact radical opportunities and solutions and to begin to define a longer term approach to planning and structuring services within C&M.

Update papers were also provided on the following areas:

- System financial report
- System performance update

2. Recommendations

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