

Ref: FOI/00439/CMICB
07 July 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
NHS England Flexible Pools Funding Allocation**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

Please send us the following information regarding [NHS England flexible pools funding allocation](#), along with any with any other equivalent initiatives undertaken by the ICB (Integrated Care Board).

- 1) Name of supplier(s) contracted to provide flexible pool solutions for the ICB, and the geographical area covered by each of the contracts.**
- 2) If the responsibility for the provision and/or the funding has been devolved to another organisation the name of each of the organisations and the supplier each of those organisations has contracted with.**
- 3) The value of annual payments paid or payable to each provider noted within (1) and (2) for the financial years ended 31 March 2022, 2023, and 2024.**
- 4) The contract end date for any contracts currently in place with each provider under (1) and (2).**
- 5) In relation to the platforms provided by suppliers identified within (1) and (2) the number of sessions advertised by GP practices and the number of those sessions successfully filled by locum GPs per month, per borough (excluding data for extended access services) in the 6-month period ended 31st May 2023.**

6) The number of locum GPs (by borough) who have filled shifts in the 6-month period ended 31st May 2023.

Our Response:

Please find listed below the information held in relation to the NHS England Flexible Pools Funding Allocation suppliers listed in your request for each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

1 - 2) *Staffbox* hold the contract on the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the the West Cheshire area and *South Cheshire GP Alliance* hold the contract on the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the East Cheshire area.

3 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *Staffbox* (info@staff-box.co.uk) and *South Cheshire GP Alliance* (<https://www.scvr.org.uk/contact-us/>).

Halton

1 - 2) The contract for the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the Halton area have been devolved to the two *Runcorn Primary Care Network* and *Widnes Primary Care Network* (PCN).

3 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *Runcorn PCN and Widnes PCN* (talk2us@haltonccg.nhs.uk).

Knowsley

1 - 6) No Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools suppliers contracted currently. However it is expected that this will be operational in Knowsley during the 2023/4 financial year.

Liverpool

1 - 2) *Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust* hold the contract on the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the Liverpool area.

3 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust* (FOIRequests@lhch.nhs.uk).

Sefton

1 - 2) *Staffbox* hold the contract on the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the South Sefton PCN area.

3) £10,552 (+VAT) per annum.

4) 11 April 2024.

5 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *South Sefton PCN* (<https://southseftonpcn.nhs.uk/patient-feedback/>)

St Helens

- 1 - 2) *One Wirral CIC* are contracted to provide the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools platform for the St Helens area.
- 3 - 4) Fixed contract fee of £24,000 from December 2021 to December 2026.
- 5) Platform not yet rolled out to GP Practices.
- 6) Three (as part of the enhanced access delivery).

Warrington

- 1 - 2) The contract for the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools for the Warrington area have been devolved to *Midlands & Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit*.
- 3 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *Midlands & Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit* (england.contactus@nhs.net).

Wirral

- 1 - 2) During the 2021/22 financial year, *Primary Care Wirral Federation (Orchard Surgery)* were contracted for the Digitally Enabled Flexible Staffing Pools and from the 2022/23 onwards financial year *One Wirral CIC* were contracted.
- 3) Total payments for the 2021/22 financial year were £120,000 and for the 2022/23 financial year they were £15,636.
- 4) Not applicable.
- 5 - 6) Information not held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to *One Wirral CIC* (onewirral.cic@nhs.net)

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.