

Ref: FOI/00435/CMICB
30 June 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Palliative and End of Life Care (PEoLC) / Hospice Services**

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:

In light of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the statutory responsibility for Integrated Care Boards (ICB) to arrange for the provision of palliative care for your population, we request the following information regarding Palliative and End of Life Care (PEoLC) in general, and charitable Hospice services in particular, within your system.

1) Where does Palliative, End of Life Care and / or 'Dying Well' specifically feature in your overall planning documents? Please choose one or more of the following and include the document link or attachment and the reference to section or pages where it is significantly mentioned:

- a) Integrated Care Strategy (or Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy)**
- b) Five-year Joint Forward Plan**
- c) in draft or under discussion – please specify where**
- d) not specifically mentioned**
- e) other – please specify what**

Our Response:

1) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's service programme for End of Life Care features in the 'Cheshire and Merseyside Joint Forward Plan 2023-28 and Delivery Plan 2023-24' a copy of which can be found on page 115 via: https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/media/03ufp00n/agenda-papers-v2-icb-board-public-290623_compressed.pdf

Your Request:

2) Where are the PEOLC specific strategies or plans within your system? Please choose one or more of the following and include the document link or attachment:

- a) System level PEOLC strategy or plan
- b) all Places within the system have a Place level PEOLC strategy or plan
- c) some Places within the system have a Place level PEOLC strategy or plan
- d) in draft or under discussion – please specify where
- e) no PEOLC specific strategies or plans
- f) other – please specify what

Our Response:

2) PEOLC specific strategies feature as part of the Cheshire & Merseyside PEOLC Delivery Plan which each Place (former CCG) is using to inform their own local plan.

Your Request:

3) Where are strategic decisions made in your system regarding PEOLC planning and funding? Please choose one or more of the following and include links or an attachment showing the relevant governance structures:

- a) PEOLC is a named ICB sub-committee or sub-group
- b) PEOLC decisions are made at one or more ICB sub-committee or sub-group with a wider remit (please name the sub-committee or sub-group and its remit)
- c) PEOLC is a named ICP or Joint Health and Wellbeing Board sub-group
- d) PEOLC decisions are taken at our Regional NHS England PEOLC Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)
- e) PEOLC decisions are delegated to Place-based ICB structures (please show where in their governance structures)
- f) PEOLC decisions are delegated to provider alliances (please state which ones)
- g) There are PEOLC discussion groups / alliances but they are not formally linked to the ICS decision making structure
- h) other – please specify where

Our Response:

3) Strategic decisions regarding PEOLC are made via a programme board with representation from Place, as well as at one or more ICB sub-committee/sub-groups with a wider remit and collective decisions around the overall Cheshire & Merseyside PEOLC Delivery Plan made via the ICB Board. Please find enclosed 'C&M PEOLC Governance Structure' for more details.

Your Request:

4) How are charitable Hospice providers involved in PEOLC planning and decision-making in your system? Please choose one or more of the following:

- a) member of ICB Board
- b) member of ICP Board
- c) member of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) alliance represented on ICB / ICP Boards
- d) member of relevant sub-committee or sub-group
- e) member of relevant Place-based structure or alliance (please state which ones)
- f) member of PEOLC discussion group / alliance
- g) engaged via community outreach
- h) consulted on proposals as and when
- i) not involved
- j) other – please specify how

Our Response:

4) Charitable Hospice providers are involved in PEOLC planning and decision making as members of sub-committees/sub-groups.

Your Request:

5) The [NHS England PEOLC statutory guidance](#) is based upon the [Ambitions for PEOLC Framework](#). What level have your ICB or Places [self-assessed](#) against these 6 ambitions? Please include the self-assessment link or attachment:

- a) between levels 0 and 2
- b) mostly level 3
- c) between levels 4 and 5
- d) we are planning to start self-assessment (please state when)
- e) we haven't done any self-assessment
- f) other – please specify

Our Response:

5) The Ambitions self-assessment framework was developed by the Cheshire & Merseyside Palliative & End of Life Care Clinical Network in 2016 following the publication of the AMBITIONS framework 2015-2020. The National Palliative and End of Life Care programme adopted the assessment framework and refreshed it with the assistance of the clinical network; this is acknowledged in the introduction to assessment framework and accompanying guidance.

NHS England & Improvement National End of Life team would like to thank the Cheshire & Merseyside Palliative & End of Life Care Clinical Network for their kind permission to use the tool which originated in the North West, their support in updating the tool and contribution to developing the technical and good practice guidance.

The Ambitions framework self-assessment is designed to be completed at Place (former CCG area) level, rather than ICB wide level. Clinical Commissioning Groups across Cheshire & Merseyside undertook self-assessment between 2016-2018 using the information to develop local improvement plans.

The NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB Delivery Plan for 23-24 includes re-assessing at Place using an updated tool Framework for Outstanding End of Life Care. This was developed in the North West as part of the National PEO LC programme clinical excellence workstream and is the next iteration of the Ambitions framework. There is the intention to aggregate the scores for an ICB level overview.

Your Request:

6) Where are charitable Hospice provider contracts held within your system? Please only consider contracts with charitable Hospices not NHS Trust provided hospices, but please include both adult and children's hospices:

- a) all hospice contracts are held by the ICB
- b) some hospice contracts are held by the ICB and some by Place-based ICB structures or provider alliances
- c) all hospice contracts are held by Place-based ICB structures
- d) all hospice contracts are held by provider alliances
- e) other – please specify what

Our Response:

6) All of NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICBs contracts with charitable hospices are held by the ICB itself.

Your Request:

7) What types of contract do you use with charitable Hospice providers? Please choose one or more of the following:

- a) NHS standard contract (full length)
 - i) Is it annual or multi-year
 - ii) Is it block or bed / activity-based funding
 - iii) Does it include risk sharing around activity thresholds
- b) NHS standard contract (short form)
 - i) Is it annual or multi-year
 - ii) Is it block or bed / activity-based funding
 - iii) Does it include risk sharing around activity thresholds
- c) grant or service level agreement – block funding
- d) grant or service level agreement – bed / activity-based funding
- e) fast-track continuing healthcare funding
- f) continuing care funding (children)
- g) other – please specify what

Our Response:

7) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's contracts with charitable hospices are a mixture of NHS Standard Contract (short form), grant agreements and contractual letters.

Your Request:

8) What was the total value of all these charitable Hospice contracts for 2022-23?

- a) for adult services**
- b) for children and young people's services**

Our Response:

8a) £12,866,249.
8b) £2,045,950.

Your Request:

9) What uplift percentage did you apply to these contracts in April 2022? Did all charitable Hospices receive it? Did you pass on the additional 1.7% uplift (as per this [NHSE letter](#)) in July 2022? Did all charitable Hospices receive it? What uplift percentage are you applying to these contracts in April 2023?

Our Response:

9) In April 2022 a 1.7% uplift was passed on to all providers and in April 2023, a 1.8% uplift was applied.

Your Request:

10) Do you have a shared care record or shared care plans across your ICS or Places? If so, do charitable Hospices have access to it? Please choose one for shared care records and one for shared care plans

- a) shared care record – hospices are included**
- b) shared care record – hospices are not included (please state which providers are and whether there are plans for expansion)**
- c) there are no shared care records**
- d) shared care plans (urgent or end of life) – hospices are included**
- e) shared care plans (urgent or end of life) – hospices are not included (please state which providers are and whether there are plans for expansion)**
- f) there are no shared care plans**
- g) other – please specify what**

Our Response:

10) The development of Electronic Palliative Care Systems (EPaCCS) is on the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB PEO LC delivery plan, which includes extending access to shared care records for hospices and care homes

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.