

Ref: FOI/00492/CMICB
04 August 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Personal Health Budget**

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:

1) I would like a copy of the current personal health budget policy. The only information I can find on the website is the 2021 policy. This was prior to becoming an ICB so would be grateful if you could send me the current 2023/24 policy.

Our Response:

1) Please find listed below the Personal Health Budget (PHB) policies in operation in each of the former CCG areas that now make up NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB:

Cheshire

Please find enclosed '*NHS Cheshire CCG PHB Policy*'.

Halton

No local PHB policy in place currently in Halton. Please be advised that Halton currently follow the NHS England guidance on Personal Health Budgets via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/> as well as the relevant sections contained within the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

Knowsley

No local PHB policy in place currently in Knowsley. Please be advised that Knowsley currently follow the NHS England guidance on Personal Health Budgets via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/> as well as the relevant sections contained within the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

Liverpool

Please find enclosed '*NHS Liverpool CCG PHB Guide*' and '*NHS Liverpool CCG PHB Policy*'.

Sefton

Please find enclosed '*NHS South Sefton CCG PHB Policy*' and '*NHS Southport & Formby CCG PHB Policy*',

St Helens

No local PHB policy in place currently in St Helens. Please be advised that St Helens currently follow the NHS England guidance on Personal Health Budgets via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/> as well as the relevant sections contained within the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

Warrington

No local PHB policy in place currently in Warrington. Please be advised that Warrington currently follow the NHS England guidance on Personal Health Budgets via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/> as well as the relevant sections contained within the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-Funded Nursing Care via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care>

Wirral

Information not received from the former NHS Wirral CCG area at the time of this response. Please accept our apologies and we will provide the requested information for the former NHS Wirral CCG area under separate cover to you once it is received.

Your Request:

2) I would also be grateful for information about how to complain following a recent refusal to let me access a personal health and care combined budget which adult social care feel I cannot currently have access to.

Our Response:

2) Complaints regarding the NHS healthcare services commissioned and decisions made by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB can be sent to our Complaints Services, further information about which can be found on our website via the following link:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/contact/complaints/>.

Complaints about adult social care services would need to be redirected to the relevant local authority. Please find listed below the local authorities operating in NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's geographical footprint, along with their contact details for Freedom of Information requests should you wish to contact them directly to obtain information on their complaint processes:

- *Cheshire East Council*
foi@cheshireeast.gov.uk

- *Cheshire West and Chester Council*
foi@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

- *Halton Borough Council*
hdl@halton.gov.uk

- *Knowsley Council*
foi@knowsley.gov.uk

- *Liverpool City Council*
informationrequests@liverpool.gov.uk

- *Sefton Council*
ino.information@sefton.gov.uk

- *St Helens Borough Council*
www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/6525/Raise-a-Freedom-of-Information-request

- *Warrington Borough Council*
foi@warrington.gov.uk

- *Wirral Council*
ww3.wirral.gov.uk/crmservicerequests/scripts/ServiceRequestMain.asp

Your Request:

3) I would also like to know who the manager is that is responsible for individual funding requests.

Our Response:

3) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB commissions Midlands & Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU) to provide an Individual Funding

Request (IFR) service. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on the staffing structure of the IFR service provided by MLCSU. However, you may wish to redirect your request for information on the current staffing structure of the IFR service to MLCSU, who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via NHS England on the following email address: england.contactus@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.