

Date: 8th December 2020

Dear Colleagues,

### **Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

You will recall I wrote to you in October after our successful Partnership Assembly, following which I committed to develop a simple draft memorandum of understanding which sets out the proposals for revised governance arrangements taking into account the points captured as outputs of our discussions.

We have completed this work and discussed a draft at our November Partnership Board. Following some initial feedback, I share this document with you, now, for your consideration and discussion within each of your organisations.

My hope is that you will now review and feedback any observations or comments on this draft by no later than Wednesday 20 January 2021. While tight such a timetable should allow for consideration to be given and a recommendation made by our January Board meeting resulting in proposals which I hope each Partner organisation will be able to adopt in February 2021.

The value of the MoU and the benefit it brings to our work includes setting out the principles and objectives of the Partnership, bringing clarity to the way we organise ourselves and interact with each other. Critically we recognise the statutory responsibilities of each of the established organisations in our system. We have agreed that the Partnership will only act where it adds value and we continue to place significant emphasis on Place based working.

Our system is interwoven, mutually dependent and complex. However, through alignment and a tight focus on priorities in *Place* we believe we can, as a whole, ensure everyone in Cheshire and Merseyside has a great start in life, and gets the support they need to stay healthy and live longer.

I do not anticipate that the MoU will be installed in one “big bang”. We will need an introductory period when, for example, the supporting structures are put in place to enable representatives on the Board to properly represent their constituency.

Ben Vinter ([ben.vinter@nhs.net](mailto:ben.vinter@nhs.net), 07767246103) is available as a resource to support your discussions and Jackie Bene and I will be available to discuss with senior leaders.

Finally, let me direct your attention to Partnership microsite:

<https://www.cheshireandmerseysidepartnership.co.uk/partnership-assembly>

Regards



**Alan Yates**  
Chair, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership