

## Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 12 September 2024
<b>Report Subject</b>	Joint Funded Care Packages – Update Report
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a quarterly update on the work being undertaken to address long standing CHC invoices. Officers within the Social Services portfolio continue to work closely with the Finance and Continuing Health Care (CHC) teams in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to put in place a number of processes and monitoring actions to address these invoices. Processes have been developed to support the timely processing and payment of invoices

The report also shares information regarding the Nation Framework and the Local Protocol for CHC disputes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To provide Members with an update on the current position regarding outstanding Continuing Health Care invoices raised by the Council for payment by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.
2	To provide Members with information regarding the Continuing NHS Healthcare – The National Framework for Implementation in Wales and its disputes and appeals process.

## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>PROGRESS UPDATE</b>												
1.01	Regular meetings continue to take place between Council Officers and Health Board staff, in these meetings Officers concentrate on filling the information gaps that have previously prevented payment and as a result reduced the numbers of outstanding invoices.												
1.02	Processes have been developed to support the timely processing of current and future invoices, supported by appropriate information to allow for payment within invoicing terms.												
1.03	Meetings continue to be held at operational, strategic and Leader/Chief Executive level and the management of outstanding invoices is a standing item on all meeting agendas. The most recent of these meeting was held on the 9 <sup>th</sup> September where the long standing invoices were raised.												
1.04	Meetings to support arbitration between Council Officers and Health Board staff continue every two months – four individuals remain under discussion, with high level of activity continuing to resolution to these outstanding invoices.												
<b>1.05</b>	<b>Debt Levels</b>												
1.06	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 12/10/2022</th> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 31/01/2023</th> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 27/09/2023</th> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 20/12/23</th> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 31/05/2024</th> <th>Outstanding CHC Invoices 21/08/2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£ 1,285,005.01</td> <td>£666,102.57</td> <td>£455,850.09</td> <td>£470,206.79</td> <td>£716,615.00</td> <td>£558,495.98</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Outstanding CHC Invoices 12/10/2022	Outstanding CHC Invoices 31/01/2023	Outstanding CHC Invoices 27/09/2023	Outstanding CHC Invoices 20/12/23	Outstanding CHC Invoices 31/05/2024	Outstanding CHC Invoices 21/08/2024	£ 1,285,005.01	£666,102.57	£455,850.09	£470,206.79	£716,615.00	£558,495.98
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£ 1,285,005.01	£666,102.57	£455,850.09	£470,206.79	£716,615.00	£558,495.98								
1.07	<p>The overall figure for outstanding invoices has decreased to £0.558m since last reporting, this is due to a reduction in the invoice amounts outstanding within 12 months of £0.158m, from £0.294m in May 2024 to £0.136m in August 2024.</p> <p>Of the remaining debt, £0.162m are invoices one year and over, this figure has remained the same since the last report.</p> <p>The remaining £0.261m relates to four individuals whose care costs continue to be progressed through arbitration.</p>												
1.08	Monthly operational meetings continue and the outcome from this work is reported to the Chief Officer: Social Services and the Senior Management Team monthly.												

<b>1.09</b>	<b>Welsh Government Continuing Health Care Appeals Framework</b>
1.10	The Continuing NHS Healthcare – The National Framework for Implementation in Wales document (Appendix 2) sets out the arrangements for the effective and efficient and equitable delivery of Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC) in Wales. This Welsh Government Framework sets out a process for the NHS, working together with LAs and other partners, to assess health needs, decide on eligibility for CHC and provide appropriate care. Local Health Boards and Local Authorities are required to fully implement the requirements of the National Framework. All Local Health Boards and Local Authorities will be required to participate in joint training, thus ensuring a joint and consistent approach across Wales.
1.11	In Flintshire we have delivered in a series of joint (BCUHB and Flintshire County Council) one day training workshops as set out in the Framework.
1.12	The Framework provides a consistent foundation for assessing, commissioning and providing CHC for adults, over the age of 18, across Wales. This is to ensure that there is a consistent, equitable and appropriate application of the process for determining eligibility.
1.13	Section 7 of the Framework is devoted to Disputes and Appeals and outlines the principles and protocols that should be adopted when there is a dispute between organisations. The National Framework requires the Local Health Boards and the Local Authorities to have in place locally agreed procedures/protocols for dealing with any formal disputes about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eligibility for CHC and/or about the apportionment of funding in jointly funded care packages.</li> <li>• where an individual is not eligible for CHC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the contribution of either party to a joint package of care</li> <li>○ the operation of refunds guidance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.14	In North Wales, BCUHB and the six North Wales Local Authorities have agreed to the North Wales Dispute Avoidance-Resolution Process v1.0 (Adult) ( <i>Continuing NHS Healthcare the National Framework for Implementation in Wales 2022</i> ) (Appendix 3). This document sets out the three-stage process to resolve disputes between organisations.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	None as this report is the provision of financial information only.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	Debt levels are monitored monthly, and an escalation route has been established.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	None required at this stage.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Supporting Information - Outstanding Invoices 21.08.24
5.02	Appendix 2 – Continuing NHS Healthcare – The National Framework for Implementation in Wales
5.03	Appendix 3 – North Wales Dispute Avoidance-Resolution Process v1.0 (Adult) ( <i>Continuing NHS Healthcare the National Framework for Implementation in Wales 2022</i> )

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.

<b>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Jane Davies – Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702503 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk">jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	None.