



Cheshire and Merseyside Women's Health Strategy

Final Draft – V20.0

'We want all women, babies and families to have the best start in life and get the support they need to stay healthy and live longer'



Contents

This document is written for local women and girls and describes our plan for improving the health and wellbeing of our communities, our staff and partners across the whole system. It describes our strategy for the next 3 years from September 2023.

1. Foreword
2. Executive Summary
3. Our Partners and Partnership Working
4. Developing our Strategy: Our Engagement and Collaboration Approach
5. Cheshire & Merseyside Context
 - 5.1 Our Population
 - 5.1 Local System Challenges
6. Women's Health: Our Strategy & 12-month Plan
7. Women's Health: Cross-cutting Themes
8. Women's Health: Our Priorities
9. Ensuring Value, Safety and Service Effectiveness
10. Growing, Retaining and Supporting our Workforce
11. Women's Health: Delivering our plan
12. Appendices



Introduction

Aim of our Women's Health Strategy

- To outline the *priorities and actions to improve women and girls' health* and healthcare services whilst *addressing the health and social inequalities* for all women and girls and those in need of women's health services.

- Describes how we will work together with local women and our key partners to *deliver the actions* we will take over the next 3 years. This is a *long-term commitment to reducing health inequalities* for women in Cheshire & Merseyside.

Vision

We want all women, babies and families to have a great start in life and get the support they need to stay healthy and live longer.

Aims

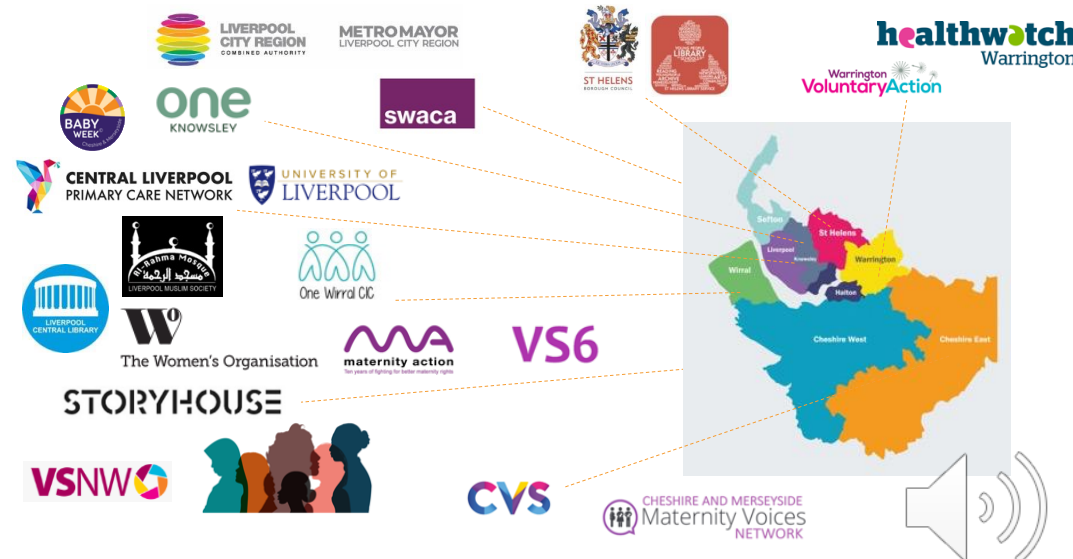
To improve clinical services and provide safer care.
To provide equal access to care and support.
To improve women's health outcomes.
To safely restore services to pre COVID levels.

Role of WHaM

To support the transformation of women's health and gynaecology services.
To continue working with partners to provide system leadership, oversight and assurance of maternity and neonatal services.

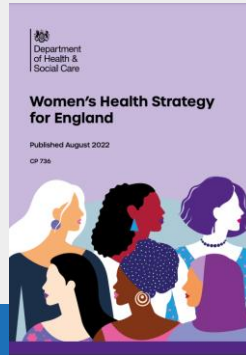
Women's health outcomes impact not only on individual women and their families, but the healthy functioning of society. Everyone has a part to play in achieving this goal.

- Our partners include education, social care, the police, local authorities, housing, third sector, fire and rescue. There is also a strong and engaged Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector supported by local NHS organisations.

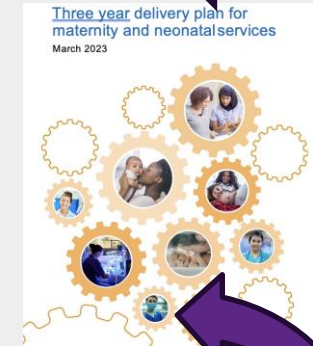


Introduction

National Strategies and Plans



Policy paper
Women's Health Strategy for England
Updated 30 August 2022



ICB Joint Forward Plan

NCP Strategic Objective	Cross reference to the NCP areas of focus	Priorities	Core plans	Metric
Tackling Health Inequalities in outcomes, experiences and access (our eight Marmot principles)	Give every child the best start in life Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives Ensure a healthy standard of living for all Tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together	All our Places are actively engaged in the All Together Fairer Programme Supporting the safety of vulnerable Women and Children	2	Increase % of children achieving a good level of development at 2-2.5 years OR at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage Reduce hospital admissions as a result of self-harm (15-19 years)
Improve population health and healthcare	Improve early diagnosis, treatment and outcome rates for cancer Improve satisfaction levels with access to primary care services Provide high quality, accessible self-care services Provide integrated, accessible, high quality mental health and wellbeing services for all people requiring support	In relation to preventing ill Health we will focus on: • Increase rates of Early detection of Cancer • Work towards MIECC (Making Every Contact Count) • Encourage Healthy Behaviours with a focus on smoking/alcohol/physical activity • Ensure access to safe, secure, and affordable housing	1,2,3	Core2PLUS priorities including cancer, cardiovascular disease and children and young people's mental health services 2.3 Increased sign up to the NHS prevention pledge 2.3 Reduction in Smoking prevalence. Reduction in the % drinking above recommended levels. Increase the % who are physically active.
Enhancing productivity and value for money	Develop a financial strategy focused on investment on reducing inequality and prioritise making greater resources available for prevention and wellbeing services	Deliver our agreed financial plans for 2024 whilst working towards a balanced financial position in future years	1	Financial strategy and recovery plan in place by Sept 2023
Helping to support broader social and economic developments	Embed, and expand, our commitment to social value in all partner organisations Develop as key Anchor Institutions in Cheshire and Merseyside, offering job employment opportunities for local people • Implement programmes in schools to support mental wellbeing of young people and inspire a career in health and social care • Developed focused work in schools around encouraging careers in Health and Social Care • Ensure a Health and Care workforce that is fit for the future Achieve Net Zero for the NHS carbon Footprint by 2040	Develop as key Anchor Institutions and progress advancing all parts of the associated initiatives Embed and expand our commitment to Social Value To be finalised in advance of the final publication in June 2023 Publish a Strategic Workforce Plan by March 2024	2	Grow the number of anchor framework signatories to 25 Support a system-wide approach to embedding the minimum 10% social value weighting across all procurement processes (working towards 20%)
			2	For the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction (from 1990 levels) by 2032.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Women's Health Strategy & Plan



Local System Strategies and Plans

Health Outcomes

- Delivery of improved health outcomes for women and health services for women and girls
- Raising awareness of women's health
- Improving access to health information and healthcare care services
- Reducing inequalities in health outcomes for girls and women, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health
- Demonstrating value for money

Our Commitment

Our cross-cutting principles and themes build on those articulated in the National Women's Health Strategy:

- (i) boosted health outcomes for all women and girls, and
- (ii) radical improvements in the way the health and care system engages and listens to all women and girls.

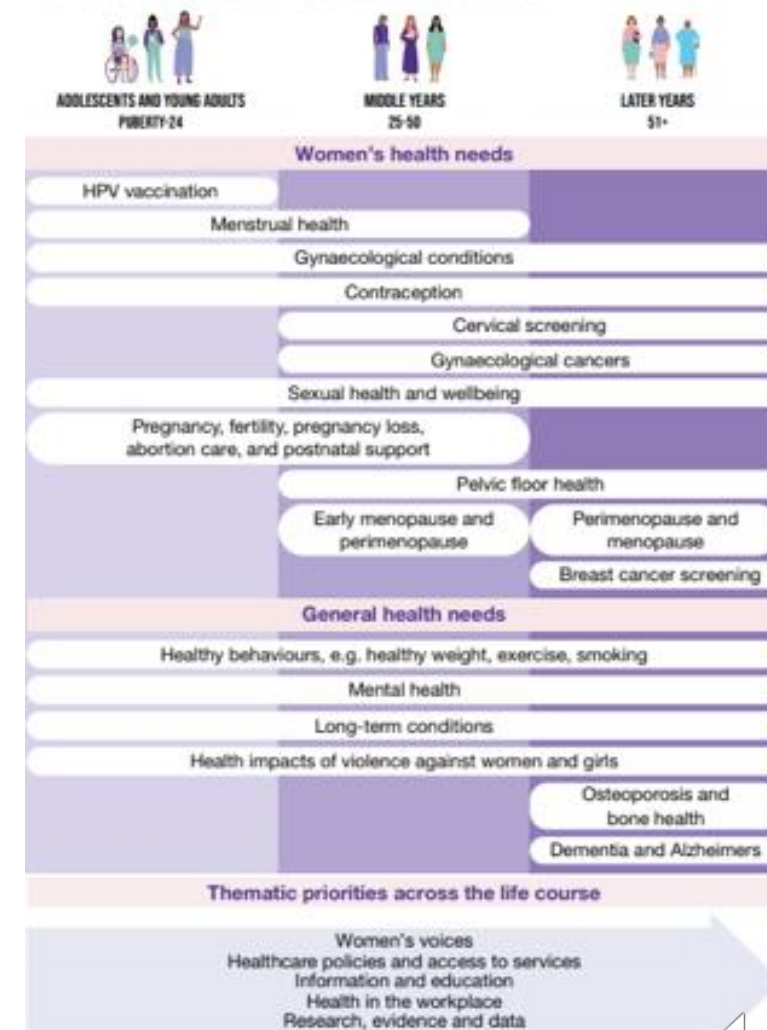
This will be achieved by:

- taking a life course approach
- focusing on women's health policy and services throughout their lives
- embedding hybrid and wrap-around services as best practice,
- boosting the representation of women's voices at all levels of the health and care system

Our underpinning themes over the next 3 years take the above one step further by stating our intended outcomes as:

1. Ensuring what we do is Informed and underpinned by women's voices
2. Increasing and widening access to screening
3. Improving access and reducing delays in diagnosis
4. Delivering a better and more holistic management of conditions

Women's health across the life course

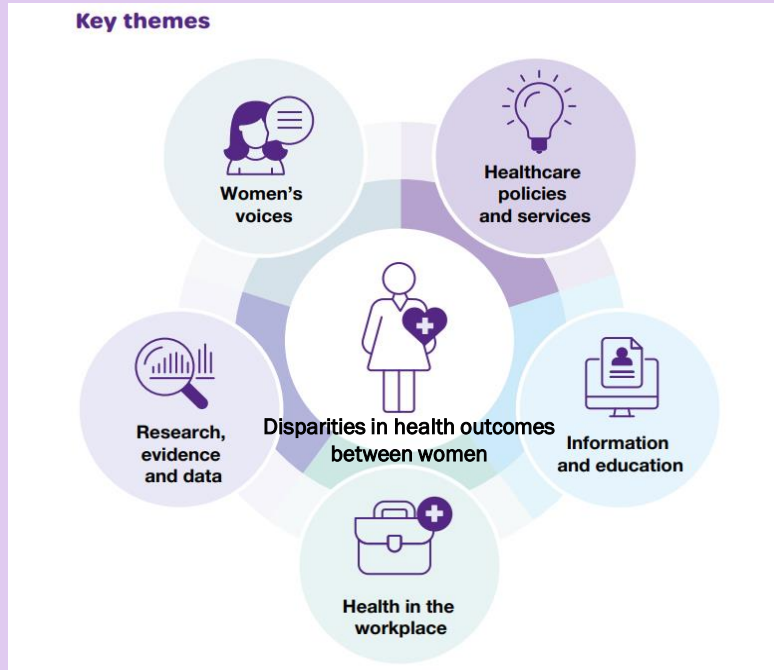


Our Vision

- Through active engagement sessions, we have listened to the concerns and issues raised by local women and girls across our system to identify the key areas of focus.

Key themes

- We understand the status and key facts underpinning each theme.
- We have listened and heard what women think and feel about each theme and feedback on the main areas of improvement and priorities.
- We have captured key successes achieved against each of the themes and have outlined a forward-looking 12-month plan for delivery



Strategy Priority Areas

We take a more holistic approach to women's wellbeing by focusing on clinical conditions linked to reproductive health along with prevention of illness, promotion of wellbeing as well as treatment and management of disease.



Our priorities and actions will be delivered by:

- raising awareness of women and girls' health,
- by improving access to health information and healthcare care services; and,
- our commitment to reducing inequalities in health and socio-economic outcomes for women and girls, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health.



How will we deliver our vision?

- **Engagement and collaboration** - Women's and girls' voices will be central to the development and delivery of our plan.
- Demonstrating and **delivering value** will be essential and will link into the wider system financial strategy, 'Efficiency at Scale' programme
- From a **patient safety perspective**, it is imperative we ensure safe and effective services, and this remains a top priority. The Patient Safety Incident Response Framework will be applied and integrated within the patient safety incident response policy and plan and all elements of the National Patient Safety Strategy will be adopted.
- **Growing, retaining and supporting our workforce** is reflected in our workforce priorities which we plan to adopt, apply, and invest in to develop our culture, workforce, and ways of working as a system. The workforce, cultural and leadership priorities will be built into our workforce delivery plan.



Key Facts:

- The national call for evidence highlighted that 84% of respondents stated that they had experience of not being listened to by health care professionals, throughout their health care journey from initial discussions to diagnosis
- Our local survey responses mirror the national responses. Not being listened to or taken seriously was identified as an issue by over 70% of respondents.

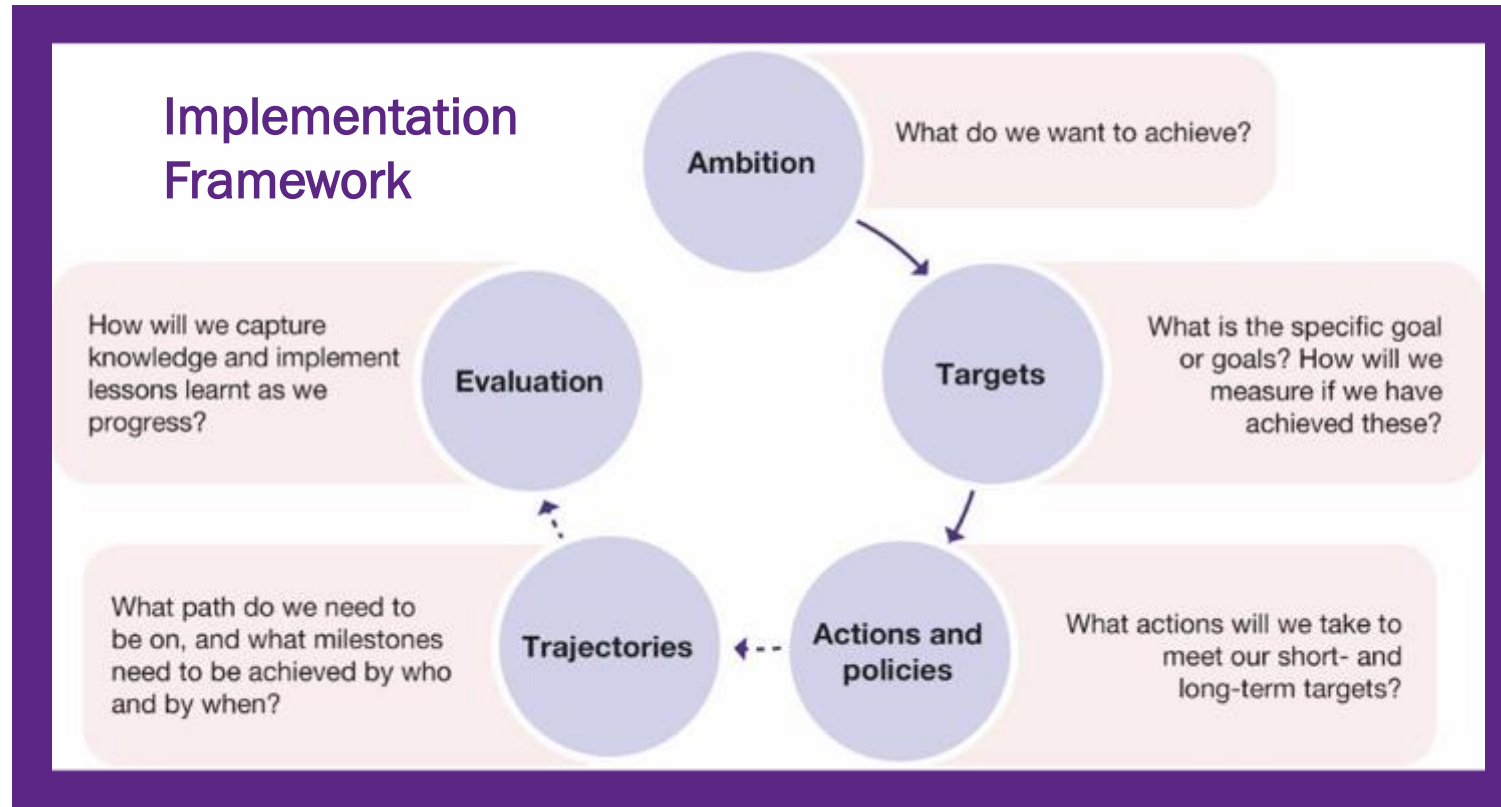


“My daughter developed cancer during her pregnancy and subsequently died. Nobody took her symptoms seriously and she saw a different person every time so they could not see how she was deteriorating before their eyes”.

“As the largest employer of women in Europe, with more than one million amazing women working across every profession and discipline in health and care, the NHS has a vital role to play in the global effort to build a more equal and sustainable future”.



Making this happen: how we will implement our strategy and plan



We will use the framework shown above to implement our Women’s Health Strategy and Plan. This framework will enable us to:

- check activities are being implemented as intended and understand how delivery has worked in reality
- check that key metrics are heading in the right direction
- encourage consistency across data collected by local partners to feed into an overarching picture of the progress being made
- identify data gaps that have the potential to be filled by improving existing data sources or commissioning new research

