

WORKWELL**Report of the Deputy Place Lead for Health & Care****1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report for the Health & Wellbeing Board provides an overview of the issues, aims and proposals for implementing the WorkWell Greater Manchester Vanguard Pilot in Stockport. The report sets out how Greater Manchester has recently commenced its Full Delivery Plan for WorkWell. Each of the ten localities in Greater Manchester is responsible for designing and implementing delivery of this programme until 31st March 2026 within their own areas, as part of the overall GM approach, and this report sets out the approach proposed and recommended in Stockport, that has been jointly developed by NHS Greater Manchester Stockport Locality Team and Stockport Council, along with stakeholder input from a range of local partners in two workshops.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In May 2024, NHS GM received confirmation that it had been named as 1 of 15 national WorkWell Partnership Vanguard sites following an Expression of Interest (EOI) that was co-produced by NHS GM, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, all ten GM localities, and a range of other key stakeholders.
- 2.2 In accordance with the grant agreement, the NHS GM WorkWell Partnership Vanguard has been co-produced to meet the 3 national programme objectives:
1. Design and deliver an early intervention work and health service providing assessment, light-touch holistic support for health-related barriers to employment and a single joined-up view and pathway into services that are available locally to tackle specific individual and cohort needs.
 2. Take forward an integrated work and health strategy.
 3. Be part of a national learning programme.
- 2.3 The Greater Manchester Vanguard is the largest, most complex, and most ambitious vanguard of the national programme, supporting the largest number of people, and covering both the greatest population size and geographical area. As such, it has been co-produced in partnership with the 10 local areas that make up Greater Manchester, and a wide range of other key stakeholders.
- 2.4 The programme will provide low intensity support to 3 key cohorts GM wide:
- Individuals at risk of leaving the labour market, with a Mental Health or a Musculoskeletal (MSK) condition;

- Individuals at risk of leaving the labour market that are awaiting community or elective care services;
- Individuals recently unemployed, and where a health condition has been a major contributing factor to leaving employment.

2.5 Between 1st October 2024 and 31st March 2026, the 'Locality Led, GM Enabled' approach will support 8,000 people from 3 main cohorts listed above, who are at risk of becoming economically inactive through poor health to remain in, or return to, good employment.

3. THE STOCKPORT LOCALITY APPROACH TO WORKWELL DELIVERY

3.1 The Stockport Locality approach has been developed and co-designed following consultation workshops with key stakeholders, and it seeks to be the start of a strategic approach to better integration of work, skills, health and wellbeing services, through a single point of initial contact. The NHS Locality Team and Stockport Council have jointly led this.

3.2 WorkWell formally went live in Greater Manchester on 1st October, although each of the 10 Localities in GM could choose the most suitable start date for them. Stockport intends to start in early December, following completion of recruitment and contracting arrangements. Some localities are starting earlier and some later than Stockport.

3.3 WorkWell will be a community based provision, with the Work & Health Coaches and the Work & Skills Navigator spending their time out meeting people in community settings, in particular Family Hubs and Libraries. It will form a key strand within the Neighbourhood and Prevention, and Connected Communities workstreams and approaches.

3.4 Delivery Details

3.4.1 A Work & Skills Triage service is being developed as part of the separately funded In Work Progression Programme (to be based in Stockport Council). This will be the initial point of contact for accessing Work & Skills services, and will include referrals to WorkWell in Stockport via warm handovers of participants. Referrals can also be direct from GP's / other Primary Care professionals.

3.4.2 Work & Health Coaches are a key element in WorkWell delivery as designed by the UK Government. In Stockport, the Work and Health Coaches will be incorporated into the existing Wellbeing Team at Viaduct Care (contract cost of £320k). 4 Full-time equivalent (FTE) additional Health and Work Coaches to be employed. These will provide alignment with current Health and Wellbeing Coaches/Social Prescribers roles.

3.4.3 Assessments of need and completion of an Action Plan for an individual are required for confirmation of participants starts on the programme.

3.4.4 This is a short-term programme December 24 – March 26. A contract has been developed under delegated Contract Waiver powers for non-healthcare services in the NHS Locality.

- 3.4.5 The total maximum possible funding if 816 people supported (figure based on GM Fair Share modelling of the 8,000 GM wide participants) is £659k (for eligible expenditure incurred).
- 3.4.6 Initial set up costs for the Stockport Locality team of £3k staffing time, have been claimed in Q2 2024/25.
- 3.4.7 There is the potential to commission additional health support capacity e.g. Musculoskeletal (MSK) Pain Clinic, Mental Wellbeing, Leisure activities, counselling from our Reserves Fund, e.g. through services in the VCSE sector as demand identified by customers (up to £335k).
- 3.4.8 There is some targeted focus planned, e.g. Central Stockport and Brinnington, and key priority groups such as Care Experienced young people, but WorkWell is a universal offer across Stockport. Referrals could be from the Work & Skills Triage role, and can also be direct from GP/Wellbeing team
- 3.4.9 The percentage of residents to be supported is limited to 30% in 2024/25 (6 months) and 70% in 2025/26 (12 months). Funding, to be paid quarterly in arrears, is based on the agreed number of people to be supported, and then actual people supported (in terms of Assessment & Action Plan) – this is based as follows:
- 60% basic funding on agreed numbers
 - 40% based on actual participants
 - £800 per participant in 2024/25; £811 per participant in 2025/26
 - in Stockport this equates to 816 participants (245 starts in 2024/25; 571 starts in 2025/26)
 - This would generate maximum funding of: **£197,725 in 2024/25** (£118,635 basic and £79,090 participant starts dependent) and **£461,358 in 2025/26** (£276,814 basic and £184,543 participant depending). **Total £659,083. This is the maximum possible funding and is also only released if eligible expenditure incurred to the value.**
 - The funding would need to cover, Work & Health coaches, additional services for participants based on needs to be commissioned, and locality promotion and engagement
 - Payment from DWP is in arrears.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The Contract is to be signed by NHS Stockport Locality and Viaduct Care.
- 4.2 Formal appointment of the Work and Health Coaches by Viaduct Care following the recent recruitment process, and formal appointment of the Work & Skills Navigator by Stockport Council.
- 4.3 Communications with local communities and Primary Care to continue to raise awareness.
- 4.4 There is a planned start of early December 2024.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Board is asked to:

- Consider the information provided on how WorkWell will operate in Stockport and across Greater Manchester;
- Endorse the approach in Stockport to employ the required Work & Health Coaches within Viaduct Care;
- Agree to receive progress reports

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

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