

# Report on the Mental Health Investment Standard Compliance Statement

**Year ending 31 March 2020**

NHS South Sefton CCG

March 2021



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3	The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our engagement procedures which are designed for the purpose of expressing our conclusion on the CCG's MHIS Compliance Statement. Our procedures were directed to those matters which, in our view, materially affect the Compliance Statement and were not directed to the discovery of errors or misstatements that we consider to be immaterial. Our procedures were not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose all misstatements, fraud or errors that might exist, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and NHS England and NHS Improvement and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.
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# Headlines

## The Mental Health Investment Standard Compliance Statement

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) has committed to invest in mental health, with increased funds provided for mental health services every year since 2010. Since 2018/19 NHSE&I have set all CCGs a key measure, the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS), to monitor the achievement of their increased investment. In 2018/19 NHSE&I developed a MHIS Compliance Statement. The MHIS Compliance Statement is a statement to the public from NHS commissioners of healthcare (CCGs) stating whether the CCG has met the MHIS. NHSE&I have slightly changed the required format of this Compliance Statement for 2019/20. The 2019/20 Statement includes the CCG's actual MHIS spend and their target MHIS spend (as notified by NHSE&I).

NHSE&I requires CCG's to obtain independent assurance on their 2019/20 Compliance Statement by local CCG auditors by the end of February 2021. CCGs are required to publish their Compliance Statement, which states whether the CCG has, or has not, met the MHIS, in a prominent position on their website alongside an independent reporting accountant's assurance report on this Compliance Statement. This assurance report does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the Compliance Statement.

## Purpose of this report

This report summarises the results of our independent reporting accountant's assurance engagement on your 2019/20 MHIS Compliance Statement, in line with the terms of our engagement set out in our engagement letter dated 8 January 2020. It is issued in conjunction with our signed reasonable assurance report, which should be published on your website alongside your MHIS Compliance Statement. This enables the Governing Body to demonstrate that they have discharged their governance responsibilities by commissioning an independent, appropriately qualified reporting accountant to carry out a 'reasonable assurance review'.

In performing this work, we followed the Assurance engagement of the Mental Health Investment Standard 2019/20 – Briefing for clinical commissioning groups (the "Guidance") issued by NHSE&I.

The output from our work is a conclusion that states whether the CCG's 2019/20 MHIS Compliance Statement is properly prepared, in all material respects, in line with the criteria set out in the Guidance.

## Our approach to materiality

The concept of materiality is fundamental to the reasonable assurance process and our consideration of the monetary misstatements in the expenditure figures on which the CCG's MHIS Compliance Statement is based. We have set out in the table below our determination of materiality for this engagement.

# Headlines (continued)

	£000's	Qualitative factors considered
Materiality	692.55	We have considered the impact of non trivial errors on the CCG's MHIS Compliance Statement
Trivial matters	34.63	

## Conclusion

The CCG's draft Compliance Statement stated:

NHS South Sefton CCG considers that it has complied with the requirements of the mental health investment standard for 2019/20.

Our work on your MHIS Compliance Statement is complete.

We issued an unmodified opinion on your 2019/20 MHIS Compliance Statement.

The text of our reasonable assurance report can be found at Appendix C.

## Key messages

In all material respects, your Mental Health Investment Standard Compliance Statement for 2019/20 has been properly prepared, in accordance with the Criteria set out in line with the requirements of the Guidance. However, we identified a number of non-trivial errors in the CCG's expenditure summary on which the Compliance Statement was based. These are set out in Appendix A.

We have made a recommendation for improvement in relation to improving compliance with the Guidance which we have discussed and agreed with management. These can be found at Appendix B.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank CCG staff for their co-operation in completing this engagement.

# Compliance with the criteria

We applied audit procedures to confirm that the MHIS Compliance Statement (the ‘Statement’) had been properly prepared in all material respects in line with the criteria set out in the Guidance.

Requirement	Work performed	Conclusion
Compliance with the criteria	<p>We have undertaken the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ascertained the method of compilation of the Statement;</li> <li>• Considered the internal controls applied by the CCG over the preparation of the Statement and the actual and target MHIS spend figures included therein, and evaluated the design of those controls relevant to the engagement to determine whether they had been implemented;</li> <li>• Identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the Statement as a basis for designing and performing procedures to respond to the assessed risks;</li> <li>• Verified the target spend included in the Statement to figures issued by NHS England and NHS Improvement</li> <li>• Agreed the actual spend to the CCG’s expenditure summary and supporting records;</li> <li>• Carried out testing, on a sample basis, on the actual spend to check whether it met the definition of mental health spend properly incurred, as set out in the relevant Group Accounting Manual and the Guidance; and</li> <li>• Verified the factual accuracy of the Compliance Statement and whether the total spend is equal to or above the target spend based on the results of the procedures set out above.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of our testing was the MHIS performance and mental health expenditure included in the Statement only and did not cover the reporting of spend against individual service lines or the degree of provider triangulation.</p>	<p>Based on the results of our procedures, with the exception of the matters reported below, we confirm that for the year ended 31 March 2020, NHS Southport and Formby CCG’s MHIS Compliance Statement has been properly prepared in all material respects in line with the criteria set out in the Guidance.</p> <p>Following our testing the CCG amended the following figures in its Compliance Statement to correct the errors we identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of Actual Spend by £3,030k following the removal of material CHC expenditure on dementia and adjustment for other non-material errors</li> <li>Rebasing of 2019/20 Target by £3,422k spend as a result of errors found in 2019/20 work</li> </ul> <p>A full list of all the non-trivial errors we identified from our work are set out in Appendix A.</p> <p>As a result of the errors identified the CCG requested a revised target spend for MHIS for 19/20 from NHS England which was granted. This is shown in Appendix A.</p> <p>Following these amendments, we gave an unmodified opinion on the CCGs Compliance Statement.</p> <p>We have made a recommendation to the CCG in relation to these issues, as set out in Appendix B.</p>

# Fees

## Fees for our work on the MHIS Compliance Statement

We confirm below our final fees charged for this work.

	<b>Proposed fee</b>	<b>Final fee</b>
Assurance on your MHIS Compliance Statement		
<b>Total fee (excluding VAT)</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2019 which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

# Misstatements in expenditure

The Assurance engagement of the Mental health Investment Standard 2019/20 – Briefing for Clinical Commissioning Groups issued by NHSE&I states that “Each CCG must continue to increase investment in mental health services, in line with the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS). For 2019/20 the standard requires CCGS to spend at least their ‘target spend’: defined as their 2018/19 outturn, increased in line with overall programme allocation growth, plus an additional 0.7% to reflect the additional mental health funding included in CCG allocations for 2019/20, plus any shortfall from 2018/19 (incorporating any adjustments from the independent review of the 2018/19 MHIS achievement)”.

All non-trivial misstatements in the Compliance Statement which we identified during our testing are set out below, together with the overall impact on the CCG’s MHIS expenditure in CCG allocations for 2019/20.

<b>Detail</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual Spend £'000</b>	<b>2019/20 Target Spend £'000</b>
1 Removal of expenditure on dementia from CHC for 2019/20	(2,404)	
2 Adjustment for using actual M12 prescribing costs for multiuse drugs rather than estimate	(170)	
3 Removal of expenditure on dementia from Acute SLAM	(397)	
4 Removal of expenditure on learning difficulties from Alder Hey contract	(70)	
5 Looked after Children	11	
6 Rebasing of 2019/20 target spend		(3,422)
<b>Overall impact</b>	<b>(3,030)</b>	<b>(3,422)</b>

# Misstatements in expenditure

NHS South Sefton CCG reflected the following figures in its 2019/20 MHIS Compliance Statement:

	Original figures £'000	Revised figures £'000
Actual MHIS spend for 2019/20	27,703	24,673
Target MHIS spend for 2019/20	25,544	22,122
Exceeded target by	£2,159	£2,551


## Overall impact of misstatements in expenditure

Based on the revised figures the CCG's draft Compliance Statement remained correctly stated.





# Action plan

We have identified 1 recommendation as a result of issues identified during the course of our work on the CCG's MHIS Compliance Statement. We have agreed our recommendations with management and we will report on progress on these recommendations during 2020/21.

Assessment	Issue and risk	Recommendations
1	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We identified multiple instances where non-MHIS expenditure was included with the Actual Spend for 2019/20 figure used in the calculation for the compliance statement which led to material amendments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve compliance with the Mental Health Investment Standard 2019/20 – Briefing for clinical commissioning groups (the “Guidance”) issued by NHSE&amp;I, particularly around the classification of expenditure on dementia care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Management response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCGs have limited ability within the national ledger to disclose MHIS information at the granularity required. Methodologies have been established to calculate MHIS values off ledger in line with the guidance issued.</li> </ul>

## Assessment

-  Significant deficiency – issue leading to qualification of reasonable assurance report or risk of material misstatement
-  Deficiency – issue for improvement in processes or risk of non material misstatement

# Form of assurance report

## Independent Assurance Report in connection with the 2019/20 Mental Health Investment Standard compliance statement to the governing body of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England and NHS Improvement for the year ended 31 March 2020

To the Governing Body of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England and NHS Improvement

This reasonable assurance report (the "Report") is made in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 8 January 2021 (the "tripartite agreement") for the purpose of reporting to the Governing Body of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (the "CCG") and NHS England and NHS Improvement ("NHSE&I") in connection with the CCG's Mental Health Investment Standard compliance statement dated 18 March 2021 for the year ended 31 March 2020 (the "Statement"), which is attached. As a result, this Report may not be suitable for another purpose.

### Responsibilities of the CCG

The Assurance engagement of the Mental health Investment Standard 2019/20 – Briefing for Clinical Commissioning Groups issued by NHSE&I states that:

"CCGs must continue to increase investment in mental health services in line with the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS). For 2019/20 the standard requires CCGs to spend at least their 'target spend': defined as their 2018/19 outturn, increased in line with overall programme allocation growth, plus an additional 0.7% to reflect the additional mental health funding included in CCG allocations for 2019/20, plus any shortfall from 2018/19 (incorporating any adjustments from the independent review of the 2018/19 MHIS achievement)."

Each CCG is required to publish a statement after the end of the financial year to state whether they consider that they have met their obligations with regard to the MHIS (the "Statement"). The format and content of the Statement should be in line with the specified wording in the [Assurance engagement of the Mental Health Investment Standard 2019/20 - Briefing for clinical commissioning groups](#) (the "Guidance") issued by NHSE&I.

The CCG's Accountable Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement for the year ended 31 March 2020 and for the completeness and accuracy of the accounting records and calculations (the "Relevant Information") that forms the basis for the preparation of the Statement. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation of the Statement to ensure that mental health expenditure is correctly classified and included in the actual spend included in the Statement and supporting calculations and that the Statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The CCG is responsible for ensuring that non-financial records can be reconciled to the financial records.

### Relevant Information to be used in the preparation of the Statement

The Relevant Information to be used in the preparation of the Statement is set out in the Guidance. This includes:

- Total spend on mental health in the year ended 31 March 2020 (eligible mental health spend in the year ended 31 March 2020 adjusted for any non-recurrent spend).
- The target spend for the year (which equates to 2019/20 programme allocation growth, plus 0.7%, plus any shortfall from 2018/19) as communicated by NHSE&I.

The Guidance sets out what constitutes eligible mental health spend for the purpose of the MHIS and the Statement.

The CCG's Accountable Officer is required to provide us with:

- Access to all information and documentation of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the Statement, including procuring any such records held by a third party so they are made available to us;
- Additional information and explanations that we may request from management for the purpose of the engagement; and
- Unrestricted access to persons within the CCG from whom we determine it is necessary to obtain evidence.

### Practitioner's responsibilities

Our responsibilities are to express a conclusion on the accompanying Statement. We conducted our engagement in accordance with *International Standard on Assurance Engagements (UK) 3000 (July 2020): Assurance engagements other*

*than audits or reviews of historical financial information*. ISAE (UK) 3000 (July 2020) requires us to form an opinion as to whether the Statement has been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Criteria set out in the Guidance.

We apply *International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 (Revised June 2016)* and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the ICAEW Code of Ethics and the IESBA Code of Ethics which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

A summary of the work that we performed is as follows:

- Ascertained the method of compilation of the Statement;
- Considered the internal controls applied by the CCG over the preparation of the Statement and the actual and target MHIS spend figures included therein, and evaluated the design of those controls relevant to the engagement to determine whether they had been implemented;
- Identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the Statement as a basis for designing and performing procedures to respond to the assessed risks;
- Verified the 2019/20 target spend to figures issued by NHSE&I;
- Agree the actual spend to the CCG's expenditure summary and supporting records;
- Carried out testing on the actual spend to check whether it met the definition of mental health spend properly incurred, as set out in the relevant Group Accounting Manual and the Guidance.; and
- Verified the factual accuracy of the compliance statement and whether the total spend is equal to or above the target spend based on the results of the procedures set out above.

We have examined the records of the CCG, performing such procedures on a sample basis so as to obtain information and explanations which we considered necessary having regard to the Guidance issued by NHSE&I and received such explanations from the management of the CCG in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to form our conclusion on the Statement.

The scope of our testing covered the MHIS target and actual spend included in the Statement only and does not cover the reporting of spend against individual service lines or the degree of provider triangulation.

Our work was directed to those matters which, in our view, materially affect the Statement and was not directed to the discovery of errors or misstatements that we consider to be immaterial. Whilst we perform our work with reasonable skill and care, it should not be relied upon to disclose all misstatements, fraud or errors that might exist.

### Inherent Limitations

Our audit work on the financial statements of the CCG is carried out in accordance with our statutory obligations and is subject to separate terms and conditions. This engagement will not be treated as having any effect on our separate duties and responsibilities as the CCG's external auditors.

Our audit report on the financial statements is intended for the sole benefit of the members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Governing Body of the CCG those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. Our audits of the CCG's financial statements are not planned or conducted to address or reflect matters in which anyone other than such members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, may be interested for such purpose. In these circumstances, to the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the CCG and the members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, for our audit work, for our audit reports, or for the opinions we have formed in respect of those audits.

To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not and will not, by virtue of our reports or otherwise, assume or accept any duty of care or liability under this engagement to the CCG and the members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, or NHSE&I or to any other party, whether in contract, negligence or otherwise in relation to our statutory audits of the CCG's financial statements.

### Conclusion

We have undertaken our review of the CCG's Statement of Compliance having regard to the criteria set out by NHS England and NHS Improvement in its *Assurance engagement of the Mental Health Investment Standard 2019/20 - Briefing for clinical commissioning groups*. Our conclusion has been formed on the basis of, and is subject to, the matters outlined in this report.

# Form of assurance report (continued)

In our opinion, NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group's Mental Health Investment Standard Compliance Statement is properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the criteria set out in the *Assurance engagement of the Mental Health Investment Standard 2019/20 – Briefing for clinical commissioning groups* published by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, and NHSE&I, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our tripartite agreement and solely for the purpose of reporting in connection with the 2019/20 Mental Health Investment Standard Compliance Statement of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Governing Body of the CCG and NHSE&I those matters we are required to state to them in a reasonable assurance report and for no other purposes. Our report must not be made available, copied or recited to any other party without our express written permission. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility or accept any duty of care to anyone other than the CCG and the members of the Governing Body of the CCG, as a body, and NHSE&I, as a body, for our work, for this report or for the conclusions we have formed. We specifically disclaim any liability for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature, which is caused by reliance on our report by any other party who may receive our report.

*Grant Thornton UK LLP*

Grant Thornton UK LLP  
Liverpool  
19 March 2021



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