

**13th October 2021**

**Announcement of Chair-designate of the Integrated Care Board for Greater Manchester**

I am pleased to be able to tell you that following a robust process, NHS England and NHS Improvement have recommended, and the Secretary of State has agreed, that Sir Richard Leese is the new Chair-designate of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Greater Manchester.

Sir Richard will be ready to take up the post from April 2022 should Parliament confirm the measures to establish Integrated Care Systems (ICS’) in the Health and Care Bill 2021.

We feel incredibly lucky to be welcoming Sir Richard into the NHS after working with him as the Greater Manchester portfolio holder for health and care and Chair of the Partnership Board for the last 18 months.

Sir Richard has a strong record in health and care. Since its inception, he has chaired Manchester’s Health and Wellbeing board, which plans health and social care services for the city; and in the early 2000s, was chair of Manchester, Salford, and Trafford Health Action Zone, which brought together partners to tackle health inequalities.

He has been with us since the beginning of the devolution journey and signed the deal with Government in 2015 which meant Greater Manchester became the first English region to gain control of its health spending. Previously a teacher and youth worker, Sir Richard is a strong advocate for addressing the wider determinants of health and is resolute that partnership working is key to this.

This is a hugely important and challenging role. The new statutory nature of an ICS will formalise the arrangementswe have in place. It will allow us to build on the ambitious and ground-breaking ways we have been working over the last five years and continue to evolve to deliver even better health and care for the people of Greater Manchester.

The next step is to recruit ICB CEO Designates for all 42 ICSs and more information will be announced on this in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Price, Interim Chief Officer, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership