# Cheshire and Merseyside Provider Engagement Forum

**12 February 2025 meeting notes**

## Updates

Update given on webpage, how to find it and content being regularly updated with agendas and notes.

Contributions from the group are welcome.

## CQC LA inspection and improving collaboration

Overview shared of recently published report from Wirral LA inspection. Came just below Good on CQC rating.

There is a lot of positive feedback in the content of the report despite the disappointment of the outcome.

Wirral are proud of the relationships they have with adult social care providers and were able to share this as part of the process.

A lot of work is ongoing as part of the continuous improvement process within the council.

Shared some challenges that providers also face and the root cause for some challenges are outside of the control of commissioners and providers. Can be deflating not to achieve a good rating and we share the task of bringing the team back up following a disappointing outcome.

Co-production and collaboration came up for LD and MH Providers who said they weren't aware of what takes place in Older People's services.

Do people make the best of Provider forums and do people engage with them. Recognition in the group that providers and commissioners are in a very difficult position re funding. People are being listened to locally and there is a huge will to work together and support one another but there are issues with funding and capacity.

Following break out room discussions the group shared thoughts on how to improve collaboration and interaction. Barriers in the way and possible solutions.

Providers are keen to innovate and everyone wants to collaborate but it is hard. Proposed exploring ways to support innovation and piloting new ideas.
Agreed to explore further and set up a subgroup to discuss with an initial idea around a Dragon's Den approach. Where commissioners can see if they can provide funding for pilot projects. HA agreed to lead.

This would be a good opportunity also to promote collaboration across different services.

Need to be able to share and evidence examples with clear outcomes and impact.


## Digital and AI

Presentation shared highlighting support and resources available to support the sector when using technology and artificial intelligence. Organisations are at different stages of this journey. Presentation shared.