

Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report

2020



Contents

Foreword from the Chairman	3
About Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board	4
Update on governance arrangements	4
The Health and Wellbeing Board aims	4
The Board priority actions for 2020-21	5
New Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	5
Linking with other Boards	5
Health and Wellbeing Board response to COVID-19	6
Update on priority areas in the last calendar year	6
Better Care Fund	6
Start Well	6
Public Health, Early Prevention and COVID-19 Response	7
Integrated Care System	9
Winter Plans 2020/21	12
Healthwatch Bucks	13
VCS (Voluntary Community Sector)	13
Residents Voice	14
What's next?	14

Foreword from the Chairman

Welcome to the annual report of the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board. I have been the Chairman of the Board since September 2019 and I am proud of the Board's development journey during this time and the continued impact the board is having to drive health and wellbeing priorities across the county.

The Board members and I recognise that this has been a very difficult year for our residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact on our populations health and wellbeing has been hugely affected. Many of us have been negatively impacted or know somebody who has, due to this pandemic. During these difficult and challenging times, the Board's focus has been around obtaining assurance from all partners that they are working together across the system in order to ensure our residents are supported through this crisis.



Councillor Gareth Williams

This report summarises the work of the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board over the last year. It provides an overview of some of the work which the Board has been involved in to address its priority areas, meet its statutory requirements, develop its new strategy and direction, and respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Through all these areas of work, the Health and Wellbeing Board has aimed to use partnership working to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.

This year we have benefitted from implementing recommendations from the 2019/2020 governance review, ensuring that we are working closely in partnership to use the Board and its members as a positive force for change. This included inviting voluntary sector members on the board, recognising the pivotal role our VCS (voluntary community sector) play in the health and wellbeing system across the county and supporting the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board has continued to provide space for in-depth critical discussions between partners regarding system-wide change, such as the NHS Five Year Plan and the integrated commissioning agenda, and the future for the commissioning of health and social care services for adults and children. There have also been specific initiatives seeking to improve health outcomes, including for people experiencing social isolation, and our continued emphasis on prevention and supporting our residents to live healthier lifestyles.

This is a short report that provides a snapshot of some of the work of the Board. Our Happier Healthier Plan for Buckinghamshire 2021 – 2024 is due to be published in the spring of 2021 and we are committed to updating residents and our wider partners on the activities of the Board via regular updates following Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Health and Wellbeing Board members for their hard work and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents in what has been a challenging year.

About Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of the new Buckinghamshire Council. The Board is committed to working together with key partners to set the direction and improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a number of statutory responsibilities:

- prepare and publish a [JSNA](#) (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)
- prepare and publish a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (**LINK TO BE ADDED ONCE PUBLISHED**)
- encourage and promote integrated working and joint commissioning across all members on the Board
- approve the Better Care Fund Plan
- assess and publish a [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#)
- respond to consultations from Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England.

The board is also subject to overview from Buckinghamshire Council's Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

Update on governance arrangements

Moving to a unitary authority and changes in the NHS landscape provide an opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Board to make a bigger impact on improving the health and wellbeing of Bucks residents and reducing health inequalities.

Since the inception of Health and Wellbeing Boards, a number of fundamental changes have taken place, most significantly in relation to the NHS landscape and introduction of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). This Plan put a new emphasis on collaboration, population health and integration, including new models of care like Integrated Care Partnerships (previously Integrated Care Systems) and [integrated care systems](#) (previously Sustainability Transformation Partnerships). As NHS footprints have grown bigger there has been a call from recent national policy documents for Health and Wellbeing Boards to strengthen their position as system leaders and owners of 'place'. The Board has been keen to adopt this ethos as it evolves through the new strategy.

At a board development session in January 2020 the Board:

- Reviewed the purpose, focus and remit of the board
- Updated the [Terms of Reference](#) and Membership
- Set out the key agenda items for 2020/21 and a draft framework for the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (which were subsequently impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic)

The Health and Wellbeing Board aims are:

- To make a visible difference to health outcomes and reduce health inequalities across the county
- To support and enable strong, motivated and empowered communities in Buckinghamshire (utilising the new [Community Boards](#))
- To deliver its statutory responsibilities and drive whole system leadership for health and wellbeing across Buckinghamshire

The Board's priority actions for 2020/21 are:

- Developing a '[Happier and Healthier Buckinghamshire Plan](#)' (refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy) for Buckinghamshire
- Visibility of a shared, forward-looking strategy and action plan which are future proofed for growth
- Accelerating the prevention agenda by identifying quick wins, including a focus on broader determinants of health with a community focus as well as the wider workforce

New Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Board is building on the agreed priorities, 'Start Well, Live Well, Age Well'. However, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. In recognition, the Board, for the first year at least, has decided to align its action plan with Buckinghamshire's Health and Wellbeing COVID-19 Recovery Plans. Both have a strong emphasis on three cross cutting priorities:

- Tackling health inequalities
- Mental health, and
- Community engagement

Prior to the pandemic, the Board agreed to focus on a number of shared challenges as part of the refreshed strategy and action plan. These were:

- Ageing population
- Population growth
- Tackling the widening inequalities gap
- Connecting with strategic partners on the wider determinants of health, e.g. education, housing, criminal justice system and planning, and making sure they are linked into the priorities of the Board
- Climate change and the environment

Linking with other Boards

The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board meets regularly with the Chairman of the Health and Select Committee and quarterly with Chairmen from the Adults and Children Safeguarding Boards and the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. The joint chairs protocol, which all chairmen have signed up to, is intended to support effective joint working between the Strategic Partnership Boards in Buckinghamshire. The protocol also accommodates transparency, efficiency and clear process for the sharing of knowledge, skills, information and resources.

Health and Wellbeing Board response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 outbreak in spring 2020 led to a pause in the normal work of the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Many of the organisations represented on the Board were heavily involved in organising Buckinghamshire's response to the pandemic. The March 2020 meeting of the

Board was postponed, in order for members to prioritise COVID-19, to protect the health of Board members and to ensure government guidelines on social distancing were adhered to.

The first meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board took place in July 2020 using Microsoft Teams. At the meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed the impact of the pandemic on the county's residents and communities. It also reviewed how the pandemic had impacted each of the organisations and explored their priorities for recovery. The Health and Wellbeing Board is one of the four partnerships identified in Buckinghamshire's '3R's for Recovery' framework, (Reset, Resilience and Restoration). All four partnerships are playing a leading role in shaping and delivering against the social, economic and environmental priorities for Buckinghamshire.

In addition to this, the Board also undertook some work to ensure that the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2021-24 was still relevant considering the COVID-19 outbreak. The three priority areas in the strategy that the board agreed in early 2020 remain unchanged, but the actions and ambitions for these priorities were refreshed. This ensured that the Health and Wellbeing Board focussed its work in the most effective way during the continued COVID-19 health crisis. It was agreed that the first-year action plan would align with the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Recovery Plan.

Update on priority areas in the last calendar year:

Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund was introduced in 2013 with the purpose of improving the integration between health and social care services to help people manage their own health and live independently. The funding supports integration between the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and local authorities through a pooled budget and agreed integrated spending plan.

Confirmation of the funding allocation for this financial year had been received but the 2020/2021 plan, which sets priorities and directions, was delayed. Below is an overview of the three financial components of the Better Care Fund:

- CCG contribution – approximately £32 million (£10.6 million mandated for Adult Social Care).
- Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF - which now incorporates the Winter Pressures Grant) - approximately £4m.
- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – approximately £5m.

Better Care Fund planning guidance was expected to be published this year but was delayed due to the pandemic. 2020/2021 was to have been a transition year for the Better Care Fund which was expected to move to a three-year cycle to improve planning. This is now expected at the end of February 2021 and an update will be provided to the Board at the April 2021 meeting.

Start Well

The focus over the last year has been on the following priorities:

- Every child has the best start in life
- Children have the right environment and opportunities to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles
- Children in Buckinghamshire are safe and protected

The Board has received regular updates from the Corporate Director for Children's Services on the progress made against these priorities. Some highlights from the October update include:

- There are 16 Family Centres in Buckinghamshire which provide venues for health clinics to support young mothers and children. These clinics enable joint working between Family Support Workers and Health colleagues, helping to identify the support required for each family and agree how this will be provided.
- The Local Offer for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) is continually improving. The Local Offer is an online directory of all the services and support that are offered to families who have children or young people with SEND. This has been developed with parents, carers, young people and professionals, which ensures it remains up to date and relevant.
- Partnership Forums have been set up in three localities to promote multi-agency support for vulnerable children. Collaborative work with FACT (Families and Carers Together) Bucks parent/carer forum and other groups of parents enables co-production wherever possible.
- Council and CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) colleagues have focused on ensuring that they work effectively together and that they have good working relationships at all levels.

Public Health, Early Prevention and COVID-19 Response

The Health and Wellbeing Board continues to oversee a number of prevention strategies, including Physical Activity and Healthy Eating, and has responsibility for other related strategies including Tobacco Control, Sexual Health and Substance Misuse. It is also the lead advocate for the Director of Public Health Annual Report.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has delivered several successful workshops to support the aims of the 2016 – 2021 strategy, covering maternity, mental health, social isolation and alcohol misuse. Each workshop area has resulted in an action plan being taken forward by a supporting group and the Board is keen to use workshop sessions to drive forward the new strategy priorities.

COVID-19 Update

Buckinghamshire Public Health team have been at the forefront of the local response to the pandemic, providing epidemiological analysis and clinical public health expertise across the health and care system. The Director of Public Health has presented an overview of the impact of COVID-19 in Buckinghamshire at all meetings over the last year, including what is known of the current situation and the potential future impact on the health and wellbeing of residents in Buckinghamshire.

Health Impact Assessment

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on every aspect of residents' lives. As well as the direct impacts of COVID-19 disease, the social distancing and lockdown measures have had a huge impact on the lives and livelihoods of people. This in turn can have a profound impact on population health and wellbeing in the short term and for many years after the pandemic has ended. The pandemic has affected groups and communities in different ways. For example, People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities have had higher infection rates and poorer outcomes from COVID-19. Other groups have been more affected by lockdown measures. In the short term, this has had important impacts, for example, for people that need care and their carers. In the longer term, the impact on the economy and the consequences of school closures are likely to lead to a widening of health inequalities for adults and children.

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was carried out which included a residents' survey in August 2020. The key findings were that mental wellbeing was a concern: 25% of respondents felt their physical health had deteriorated; 22% had increased their alcohol intake; 20% were eating a less healthy diet and 20% had finance/debt concerns.

Recovery Plan

Based on findings from the Health Impact Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing Recovery Plan was developed. This Plan identified seven key themes which were presented and agreed at the October Board meeting. The priorities are:

1. Keeping infection rates low and residents safe from COVID-19.
2. Promoting mental health and wellbeing including addressing social isolation.
3. Keeping residents healthy.
4. Addressing the needs of key groups e.g. those living in more deprived areas, food insecure, Black Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, travellers, homeless.
5. Community engagement and resilience.
6. Service redesign and recovery in the new normal.
7. Health in All Policies Approach - Capitalising on plans to reduce the educational gap, drive economic recovery and inclusive growth, reduce debt and financial hardship, improve the built and natural environment to improve health and resilience.

To deliver against these key priorities, all partners will need to work together. The Board has adopted the Recovery Plan as its action plan for 2021/22 and will be monitoring progress throughout the year ahead.

Director of Public Health Annual Report (DPHAR)

Each year the Director of Public Health produces an annual report on the health of the local population. The report is an independent report for all partners in Buckinghamshire. The Annual Report asks the Health and Wellbeing Board and its member organisations to identify the actions they will take in response to the recommendations in the report. The 2020 report was focused around '[A Picture of Health?](#)', Buckinghamshire – Past, Present and Future.

Data shows that 50% of people's health was due to the social and economic environment in which they lived and 10% was due to the physical environment. The creation of the new Buckinghamshire Council has provided opportunities to build health into all the policies and improve the health of the population.

The Board members endorsed the recommendations in the report and agreed to identify how their organisations could contribute to the delivery of these recommendations.

Social Isolation

In 2019, a multi-agency process involving a wide range of partners considered the Buckinghamshire shared approach to prevention and identified social isolation as the area of focus.

Evidence shows people experiencing social isolation are likely to experience poor physical and mental health. They are not only more likely to create increased demand on services due to increased need, but also inappropriately use services as a way of making social contact.

There is currently no screening tool, but across the partners there are many opportunities to identify people at points in their lives where the risk of becoming socially isolated is increased (for example redundancy, retirement, bereavement, becoming or stopping being a carer, moving to a new area).

Any screening tool would need to be multifunctional, adaptable for existing processing and assessments, and able to be used opportunistically via a Making Every Contact Count 'MECC' approach. Through multi-agency workshops it was agreed to set up a task and finish group to consider the potential for developing or sourcing a screening tool, and explore a multi-agency agreed pathway for those 'at risk' of social isolation.

The Board approved the setting up of a project that would enable the sharing, learning and research carried out to date, such as from current community projects, to address social isolation in response to COVID-19. The Board also agreed to establish a multi-agency 'social isolation forum' to enable stakeholders, including community boards, to link in with best practice and seek guidance when considering developing and/or funding local projects. The NHS has supported vulnerable groups during COVID-19 social isolation – practices have been contacting their vulnerable patients and social prescribers working in PCN (Primary Care Networks) teams have been supporting them.

Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory function to encourage integrated working for the planning, commissioning and provision of health and care services, and by doing so, improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in Buckinghamshire.

Since the announcement in June 2017 of Buckinghamshire as one of the first wave of Integrated Care Systems (now Integrated Care Partnership) in the country, the Health and Wellbeing Board has overseen the strengthening of the integration agenda locally and had regular updates on the changes to health and care at a regional and national level. The Board formally agreed and adopted its [Health and Social Care Integration Report: Roadmap to 2020](#) in the same year and continues to have a standing item on health and social care integration priorities at every meeting.

The Board continues to strengthen its role in holding all ICP partners to account while still retaining its unique function in driving action on health inequalities and the wider determinants of health.

Through two development sessions held in 2019/20, the Board identified a number of areas for action, including.

- Health and Wellbeing Board oversight and role in communicating with residents to help improve understanding of services
- Health and Wellbeing Board oversight of the social prescribing approach in Buckinghamshire and links with the voluntary sector
- Digital technology and transformation
- Key worker housing and affordability

The Buckinghamshire ICP also carried out a Community Engagement Programme in 2020 to find out from residents what was working well, and which areas needed improvement. Over 2,800 residents responded to an online survey and community members such as carers, young people and those from the BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) community also took part in focus groups and one to one interviews. The analysis of the programme will inform and shape the future development of health and social care services.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is also prioritising the gaps identified through engagement around the NHS 5 Year Plan, including support to:

- Tackle the inequalities gap, with a specific focus on reaching those people not engaging with services or who identify as presenting late.
- Place equal focus on encouraging healthy behaviours to prevent major health conditions developing in the first place.
- Reduce multi morbidity which is a growing issue impacting on the demand for health and care services.
- A system wide approach to dementia.
- Reducing negative impacts on the environment.

Impact of COVID-19

Integrated Care partners have been crucial in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Partners have worked together to take care of seriously ill patients and support those with COVID-19 infections to keep them safe and well and recover from illness. An overview of the whole system approach to COVID-19 recovery from across Buckinghamshire was provided at the July meeting. Some key areas noted by the Board were:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust (BHT) and Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

- The recovery model focused on working in partnership as a health and social care system on behalf of the communities and patients.
- Work had been undertaken to understand the potential clinical harm of patients not having accessed care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Routine operations had re-started and primary care had continued to operate, with a larger proportion of telephone and virtual appointments alongside continuing face to face appointments.
- Primary Care referral and treatment of urgent and cancer patients had continued throughout the pandemic.
- Community hospitals were re-opening.
- Out-patient appointments were re-starting.
- Support was being provided to the care home sector.
- There was a national campaign to promote that the NHS was 'here and open'.
- The backlog of cancer patients who needed an operation would be cleared by the end of August 2020.
- All patients on waiting list had been contacted, reviewed and prioritised.

Oxford Health Trust

The Service had changed the way in which it worked, and some of the key messages were:

- Very few services had been suspended; all emergency and urgent services had been retained.
- Some services stepped up access, like self help advice who provided pamphlets and videos, more information was provided on the website, increased support for schools.
- There had been an increase in the number of digital assessments.
- There were over 6,700 staff, many of whom had been supported to work from home.
- A 24/7 mental health help line was set up; enquirers were directed to the most appropriate service.

- BHT had provided support for mental health in-patients with COVID19.
- Primary care supported for shielded patients.
- Preparations in some areas e.g. children and young people were being prioritised.
- Set up strategic groups for Mental Health COVID-19 Response and Mental Health Voluntary Sector.

Adult Social Care, Buckinghamshire Council

- The Adults and Health Directorate had responded by setting up a number of emergency response cells covering key areas of work.
- All statutory adult social care services were maintained throughout crisis; the Government did introduce legislation that enabled local authorities to stand down some of the statutory responsibilities (Care Act Easements) but Buckinghamshire Council had not invoked any of the legislation.
- Approximately 1,200 vulnerable clients were supported by regular telephone calls to check their carers had arrived, that they had food and were receiving their medical supplies.
- The day care and short breaks services had been closed but contact was maintained with the vulnerable clients.
- Olympic Lodge had been transformed within three weeks to become a reablement and care centre.
- The Government introduced a requirement to discharge people who were fit for discharge within two hours; this was achieved across the whole system to free up hospital beds.
- Buckinghamshire Council's efforts to support care providers had been identified as good practice by the Local Government Association.

VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector)

- Charities, voluntary and community groups and social enterprises were at the forefront of a place-based, community-led response to the pandemic. From new community groups springing up to provide practical support to neighbours, to long-standing services finding new ways to support their service-users.
- Many VCS organisations adapted their services overnight, switching to delivery online or by phone, or where services couldn't be delivered remotely, maintaining contact with service-users to prevent the worst effects of social isolation and ensure people were accessing support.
- Over 9,000 people in Buckinghamshire stepped forward to volunteer during the first lockdown, and that community spirit has remained high ever since.
- Many charities faced significant cuts in their income streams, although many organisations had found funding from other sources for delivery related to COVID-19; overall the sector in the UK was estimated to have lost approximately £1bn in the first 12 weeks.
- Approximately 12 charities had come together with the council to form a taskforce at the start of the pandemic to coalesce around the needs of residents, co-ordinate and support the needs of communities across the county. This taskforce has now become the VCS Recovery Partnership Board.
- Voluntary organisations have been enthusiastic about "The widespread spirit of collaboration across all health, council and voluntary sector partners", and the opportunities to build on that for the benefit of our communities – and to do so in a way that is making the best use of our collective resources to build that resilience in our communities.

Winter Plans 2020/21

In the October Health and Wellbeing Board meeting the Board sought assurance around system winter planning. The Winter Plan is an annual planning process led by the Urgent Care Board in collaboration with Buckinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership. Due to the pandemic, in 2020 a different approach to winter planning had been adopted with the winter plan developed alongside the COVID-19 Second Surge Plan and the Buckinghamshire Flu Plan. The Board was informed that urgent emergency care had not stopped during the pandemic and that the same triage system continued as normal.

The plan consisted of six key work streams:

1. Pre-hospital (999, 111, pathways)
2. Front door of acute trust (reconfiguration of urgent and emergency care access to ensure the patient saw the right clinician at the right time)
3. Ambulation and acute (how to provide same day emergency care within 24 hours, not admitting to hospital ward)
4. Post-acute (internal process of patient flow to optimise health delivered within BHT)
5. Get me home (ensuring patients were safely discharged home)
6. Anticipate, not react (a move to anticipating and preparing for demand)

The Board noted that Buckinghamshire system's Winter Plan is governed by five principles: patient outcomes, prevention, avoiding attendances, avoiding admissions and rapid discharge.

Vaccination update

At the December Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, assurance was sought on the vaccination roll out programme. The vaccination programme is led nationally and regionally by NHS England with support locally by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System and Buckinghamshire CCG. The update confirmed that the rollout of the vaccine was being prioritised for those at greatest risk of harm. The Joint Committee for Vaccines and Immunisations (JCVI) priority list for the COVID-19 vaccine was as follows:

- 1) residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- 2) all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- 3) all those 75 years of age and over
- 4) all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- 5) all those 65 years of age and over
- 6) all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- 7) all those 60 years of age and over
- 8) all those 55 years of age and over
- 9) all those 50 years of age and over

The delivery of the vaccine was planned via 4 strands: hospital hubs, local vaccination services (GP-led delivery), delivery to 'detained' settings and mass vaccination centres.

Healthwatch Bucks

At the July Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, the Healthwatch Bucks Annual Report, *Healthwatch Bucks Success and Renewal*, was shared and discussed. This provided the Board with an update on the work of Healthwatch Bucks and key elements of performance for the financial year 2019/2020. A key recommendation was to consider how Healthwatch Bucks could further align with and help the Health and Wellbeing Board and health and social care providers in improving people's health and wellbeing, especially during and in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In July, Healthwatch Bucks updated the Board on activities undertaken in response to COVID-19 including:

- initial offer of support to commissioners and providers on advising citizens on staying safe and reducing their anxiety on local services
- gathered feedback on COVID-19 issues and escalated them to commissioners, providers and Healthwatch England
- reviewed Healthwatch Bucks' programme to include projects on people's experiences during the pandemic with new surveys undertaken as follows:
 - overall impact of pandemic
 - assessment of information from Trusts, GPs and Pharmacies
 - impact survey on routine appointments
 - two surveys of how COVID-19 had affected care home residents and staff

In response to the Chairman's suggestion of a regular update report at every Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, in December Healthwatch Bucks updated the Board on their continued work during the pandemic as aligned with priorities of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Publication of two reports arising from the above listed survey were covered: *Open for Business* and *Care Homes Report: Residents and Relatives*.

In 2020-21 Healthwatch Bucks responded to the Health and Wellbeing Board's consultation *Happier Healthier Lives-Health and Wellbeing Priorities 2021-23* and played an active part in the review process towards the draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

VCS (Voluntary Community Sector)

Community Impact Bucks and The Clare Foundation work collaboratively with other charities across Buckinghamshire and provide information, advice and strategic support to charities, voluntary organisations and not-for-profit organisations in the county. Their Chief Executive Officers joined the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2020 to ensure the voluntary sector plays a pivotal role in the county's health and wellbeing agenda.

Both Chief Executive Officers provide a key link between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the VCS Recovery Partnership Board. They have hosted roundtables bringing voluntary sector organisations together for planning, collaboration and insight-sharing. Through 2021 they will be working to increase the involvement of local communities and voluntary organisations and build on the widespread spirit of collaboration across all health, council and voluntary sector partners to support Buckinghamshire communities' recovery and resilience.

Residents' Voice

The Health and Wellbeing Board encourages engagement with residents to ensure their voices and concerns are heard. Members of the public are welcome to attend the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings, held four times a year, which are streamed via a live webcast. There is an opportunity for residents to ask the Board members questions, which do have to be submitted prior to the meeting so that a full response can be provided during the meeting. Responses are also later captured in the minutes of the meeting.

What's next?

Challenges and opportunities for 2021

The Board faces several key challenges, particularly with the national and local desire to accelerate the integration agenda. However, the impact of COVID-19 has transformed the health and care landscape, with staff across all agencies working hard to meet local demands whilst adhering to guidance from national Government. The Board will need to continue working alongside partner agencies, the wider VCS and Buckinghamshire communities to prioritise a range of responses that support residents during the pandemic.

The full impact of COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of people living, working and accessing services in Buckinghamshire is still being uncovered. It is likely that for the next 6 months the skills, experience and focus for the Buckinghamshire health and wellbeing system will be primarily focused on the huge undertaking of mass vaccination roll out for residents. This will be in addition to ensuring care is provided for those who need it, while supporting the clinical extremely vulnerable and the general population in adhering to guidelines.

The Board will need to agree a revised set of indicators to support and monitor its work throughout 2021 and beyond, to ensure that its key priority areas reflect the impact of COVID-19 and the pre-existing health inequalities it has highlighted in its strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to ensure that Buckinghamshire maximises the benefits of work happening at a regional level through the Integrated Care Partnerships and Integrated Care System, and focus on those areas where health outcomes for Buckinghamshire residents are not as good as they could be.