

Response to Mr Etkind's question which was read out at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 22nd July 2021

Dear Mr Etkind

Thank you for the question you submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board and I apologise that a full response was not provided at that meeting.

I am sure you appreciate that there are some major changes taking place nationally that will impact both the national and our local health and care system. In light of the Health and Care Bill currently going through Parliament, the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS) is looking at the organisational arrangements needed at both the ICS and the Buckinghamshire 'Place' level. The Health and Wellbeing Board is expecting to play a significant role in these Buckinghamshire arrangements and will be seeking to influence discussions as opportunities arise through formal consultations and through its meetings.

In relation to your questions about public consultation, NHS colleagues have confirmed that the ICS will be developing an overall vision and strategy and that partner and public engagement will be a vital element of this work. I have been informed that the engagement will help the ICS to address the two commitments that you highlighted in your question. The ICS will be conducting any consultations in line with national guidance relating to significant service change.

In terms of the voice of local people, as Chairman of Health and Wellbeing Board I believe that the Board has a key role to play in making sure that decision-makers across health and social care hear, listen to and take account of the views of Buckinghamshire residents. For example, with Healthwatch Bucks the Board will be seeking to ensure people's voices are at the heart of health and social care services and commissioning in Buckinghamshire. We will also be looking at ways in which to better explain the work of the Board and its meetings.

We also recognise the importance of Community Boards in improving health and wellbeing in local communities, and in helping to shape and deliver the Health and Wellbeing Board's future strategy. As part of this, the Health and Wellbeing Board is looking at the way that it works with Community Boards and in particular, how we can work more closely together to support engagement with local communities, not least through the local health and wellbeing action groups.

As a first step, a workshop is being held with Community Boards and their health and wellbeing action groups later in the year. This workshop will be an opportunity to explain the Board's ambition for improving health and wellbeing in Buckinghamshire and to develop a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing issues that affect our communities. We will consider ways in which the Board and local Community Boards can work together to address local issues, and how together we can improve health and wellbeing across the County.

I hope this is helpful.

kind regards

Angela

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