

Health & Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire

Report from Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

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Consideration: **Information** **Discussion**
 Decision **Endorsement**

Please indicate to which priority in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, [Happier, Healthier Lives Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#) your report links to.

Start Well	Live Well	Age Well
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving outcomes during maternity and early years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing the rates of cardiovascular disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving places and helping communities to support healthy ageing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for children and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for adults particularly for those at greater risk of poor mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for older people and reducing feelings of social isolation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing the prevalence of obesity in children and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing the prevalence of obesity in adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increasing the physical activity of older people

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The report provides an update on strategic items in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the BLMK Health and Care Partnership. Councillor Angela Macpherson is a member of the BLMK Health and Care Partnership (the Integrated Care Partnership in BLMK).

2. Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board

2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to **note** the report.

Start Well

Live Well

Age Well

3. Content of report

3.1. The following summarises items of interest that have been considered by the BLMK Health and Care Partnership and the Board of the ICB.

3.2 The Board of the ICB met on 30 June and the communications from the meeting are attached as Appendix A. Key areas of note are as follows:

- 3.2.1 **Denny Review** - The Denny Review into Health Inequalities across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes will be published in September 2023 and will be available on Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICB website [here](#). It is a landmark study that will guide work over the next five years and beyond, with its findings embedded in everything the Integrated Care Board, and wider Integrated Care System (ICS), does.

For the last three years, Reverend Lloyd Denny from Luton has been working with health and care partners and residents in all four places to undertake a root and branch review of health inequalities. The review sought to understand:

- Which communities in our area experience the greatest health inequalities;
- What the barriers are in this and other communities to accessing health and care services;
- What the lived experiences of health inequality are; and
- How we can remove barriers, improve experience, and support good health.

Partners from local authorities, public health, Healthwatch, voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) partners, University of Bedfordshire, and the NHS came together to agree the foundations for the study to anchor it into existing work programmes, and, based on Revd Denny's findings, support the development of the final report and its recommendations.

A Literature Review from the University of Sheffield analysed all published material about health inequalities in BLMK and identified the populations most affected by health inequalities. These included Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, people who live in deprived neighbourhoods, people with learning and physical disabilities, people who experience homelessness, migrants, and LGBTQ+ people.

Based on these insights, population health data was used to map where the health inequalities were most prevalent in our four places, and our four Healthwatch organisations and the VCSE partners led engagement with different communities to understand in-depth the lived experiences of these seldom-heard groups.

On publication of the reports, a Quality Improvement approach was developed to analyse feedback and develop recommendations.

From the interviews and surveys undertaken with hundreds of residents, four main themes emerged:

- the accessibility of services;
- communication and language;
- culture/faith and the cultural competency of health and care organisations; and,
- unconscious bias, homophobia, and racism.

Analysis established that the absence of a person-centred approach to health and care risks widens and entrenches health inequalities as people feel that services are “not for them.”

Reverend Lloyd Denny will publish his independent report in mid-September, setting out the recommendations based on the insights gathered. The ICB will then provide a formal response to outline how the recommendations will be taken forward.

The ICB looks forward to the publication of the report and to working with all Places and Partners, including Revd Denny, to take forward the recommendations, and to making available resources to do this successfully.

Our ambition is clear: the findings of the Denny Review must be well understood across BLMK and recommendations taken forward with partners to support people from all backgrounds to live longer lives in good health.

- 3.2.2 **Health Inequalities Funding** – The Board agreed a paper which included approval of the allocation of £500K to each of the four places in BLMK for the current year (2023/24) to ensure that funding is available to meet the greatest needs of the population locally, noting that this did not set a precedent for the delegation of other funds.
- 3.2.3 **BLMK Joint Forward Plan** – The Board formally approved the Joint Forward Plan for 2023-2040 following extensive engagement with partners. The report has been published on the BLMK Health and Care Partnership website [here](#).
- 3.2.4 **Memorandum of Understanding with Healthwatch** – A Memorandum of Understanding between the ICB and Healthwatch was approved, recognising the important role that Healthwatch has as a strategic partner to the ICB. It also reflects the important role Healthwatch has in representing the resident voice, as well as their statutory function.
- 3.2.5 **Financial and Operational Reports** – members received formal updates from quality and performance, finance and governance, and approved Section 75 agreements with Luton and Milton Keynes Councils.

3.2.6 Health and Employment Seminar 21 July – the first joint seminar of the BLMK Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership took place on 21 July 2023 and around 80 people from local authorities, the NHS and other public services, including the Prison Service and the Department for Work and Pensions, were joined by representatives of the VCSE sectors for a day of action planning on tackling poor health and employment outcomes.

Attendees also included residents with relevant lived experience, several of whom shared powerful stories of the positive health impact of finding employment.

A [2022 study by the Health Foundation](#) found that unemployed people were more than five times as likely as those in employment to be in poor health, whilst [NHS figures from 2021](#) indicate that people with a long-term condition have an employment rate of 64.5%, compared with 75% of the population as a whole, a gap of 10.5%. The employment gap is even wider in Luton (16.1%) and Central Bedfordshire (14.4%).

The event's keynote speaker, Professor Donna Hall CBE, is chair of the community-focused think tank, New Local, and an advisor on Integrated Care Boards to NHS England. She was formerly Chief Executive at Wigan Council.

Detailed planning sessions were held throughout the afternoon, with individual group discussions for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, to identify key priorities and agree actions that will be taken forward by those working at Place, with support from the ICB. A summary of the discussion and action planning is attached at Appendix B, with Milton Keynes Place group actions detailed on slides 33-39.

The next programmed joint seminar is on 24 November 2023 and will focus on Children and Young People and the ICS Strategic Priority 'Start Well.'

3.2.7 Specialised Commissioning - An extraordinary meeting of the ICB Private Board took place on 28 July to discuss the delegation and hosting of 59 specialised commissioning services which will be delegated to ICBs from 1 April 2024. The specialised commissioning services are the more high-volume specialised services that affect a good proportion of the population (e.g. chemotherapy/radiotherapy, dialysis). NHSE is retaining the low volume and high complexity services and it is not known if it is planned to delegate the responsibility for these services in future.

BLMK does not have a tertiary provider in its area (although both Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (MKUHFT) and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) do provide some services under the specialised banner), and this affects access to the services and outcomes for our residents. The East of England is also the NHSE region with the lowest spend on specialised services, which may suggest that our population are not benefitting as much as they could be from these services. The delegation of services provides a real opportunity to bring services closer to home where clinically appropriate and increases the ability to influence decisions on service provision and financial investment.

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The Board supported the BLMK ICB hosting of specialised commissioning in the East of England in a joint venture with other ICBs in the region and NHSE, subject to certain conditions and assurances.

- 3.2.8 **Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)** - Buckinghamshire Council is represented by Cllr Angela Macpherson on the ICP. The Councils in BLMK can nominate the Chair of the ICP and it is proposed that Cllr Martin Towler, Bedford Borough Council, and Cllr Khtija Malik, Luton Council, Co-Chair the ICP. This arrangement will be proposed at the next meeting of the ICP which is planned to take place on 31 October 2023.

4. Background papers

None