

Health & Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire

Report from Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System

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Report Sponsor: Felicity Cox, Chief Executive, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB)

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 the 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 ICP in BLMK).

2. Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board

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

Start Well

Live Well

Age Well

3. Content of report

3.1. The following summarises items which may be of interest to the Board and which were considered at meetings of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on 29 September 2023 and the Health and Care Partnership on 31 October 2023.

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

3.2. The ICB met on 29 September 2023, the communications summary from the meeting is given below.

3.3. The Integrated Care Board meeting followed the Annual General Meeting. Felicity Cox provided an overview of work underway to prepare for the planned industrial action from consultants and junior doctors week commencing 2 October 2023 and informed the Board that, following inspections, there was no reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in BLMK's NHS estates. The Board celebrated the news that Head of the BLMK Cancer Network, Kathy Nelson, had been named Ground-breaking Researcher of the Year Award at the national BAME Health and Care Awards in London on 28 September 2023.

3.4. There was one question from the public about how the ICB plans to fund the East of England (South) Integrated Stroke Delivery Network. Chief Nursing Director, Sarah Stanley outlined that the ICB is committed to the concept of Integrated Stroke Delivery Networks and is working with partner ICBs, and regional and national colleagues, to consider how these could best be supported in an affordable and sustainable way. She acknowledged the hard work of all local health and care staff who provide direct or indirect support to those affected by strokes.

3.5. The following items were discussed:

- a. **Resident's story** – members watched a video from Catherine, a resident from Bedford who is deaf. She shared her powerful story in British Sign Language. She explained the challenges that people who are deaf face when accessing health and care, including being able to make or change an appointment and engage with health and care professionals. The Board reflected on the need to think about and change how we communicate to ensure easy and fair access for everyone – a key part of the Denny Review of Health Inequalities.
- b. **Health and Employment Outline Strategy** – The Board heard how Places are taking forward the action plans arising from the ICB's Health and Employment Seminar in July. These include efforts to maximise the support from Anchor Institutions, make full use of the Apprenticeship Levy and broaden volunteering opportunities. The Chief People Officer for the ICB outlined what the ICB will be working on to support residents in applying for work in the health and care system. The Chief People Officer also shared examples of recent work, such as a campaign to support residents without easy access to

the internet to hear about job opportunities. It was confirmed that VCSE organisations would be central to supporting the development and implementation of new Health and Employment Strategy for BLMK, an outline of which will come to the BLMK Integrated Care Partnership meeting on 31 October.

- c. **Mental Health, disabilities and autism** – The Board supported work to develop a new Mental Health, Disabilities and Autism collaborative in BLMK that would encourage more joined up working across the system, with focused work at place to deliver care closer to those who need it. The Board heard how a model for new ways of working was in development and asked for more information on how Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and GP surgeries would fit into the model. The Board asked for more detailed work to be undertaken around the governance and membership as the collaborative emerges.
- d. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** – the Chief People Officer for BLMK took the Board through six areas where focus is needed to help us retain our health and care workforce. Providing a living wage for staff and creating the right culture was the focus of the discussion, including ensuring that all people are empowered to ‘speak up’. Partner organisations were invited to reflect on the culture of their organisations and endorse the action areas to support their people in thriving at work.
- e. **Financial and operational reports** – members received formal updates from quality and performance, finance and governance, as well as an update on Section 75 agreements from local authority chief executives, which were agreed by the Board. The Chief Transformation Officer provided assurance on urgent and emergency care and the Board approved the plan, in line with NHSE requirements and thanked partners for their efforts in working together to maintain system flow. Clinical members asked that officers continue to work to a prevention agenda to support people in keeping well and encouraged neighbourhoods to lead the way on this work. The roll out of virtual wards was commended as among the best performing in the England. The Board added a strategic risk to its register to respond to the challenge of health literacy in our population as highlighted by the Denny Review.

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership

1.1. The following items were discussed:

- a. **Health and Care Partnership Governance, Work Programme and Approach for 2023/24.** The Health and Care Partnership agreed to change its terms of reference to reflect a move towards fewer formal meetings enabling more time for joint working with members of the Board of the ICB.

- b. **Denny Review.** The ICP discussed the findings of the review carried out by the Reverend Lloyd Denny into health inequalities and partner members committed to the actions outlined in the report to tackle inequalities.
- c. **Delivering our Strategy at System and Place – Reports from the Health and Wellbeing Boards and ICB.** Updates from the ICB and each Place Board were received.
- d. **Health and Employment Outline Strategy Framework.** Following the joint seminar between the ICB and the ICP in July (as reported above), the ICP supported an outline strategy framework for system-wide working on employment and skills.
- e. **Right Care, Right Person.** Across BLMK, partners are aiming to ensure that the right agencies are involved in provided appropriate levels of healthcare support and, in particular, working to reduce the need for police services to get involved in health-care issues.
- f. **NHS Operational Planning 2024/25.** The ICB's Chief Transformation Officer outlined changes to operational planning in 2024/25 which seeks to take a system wide approach to addressing financial and operational pressures and to shift resources towards supporting admission avoidance and discharge from acute settings.

4. Background papers

None