

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board report

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Date: 20 September 2023

Purpose of Report:

This report summarises key items of business from the BLMK Integrated Care Board and BLMK Health and Care Partnership (a Joint Committee between the local authorities and the ICB) that are relevant to Milton Keynes City Council.

1. Recommendation

The Health and Care Partnership is asked to **note** the report and to **agree** next steps in relation to the report and actions from the health and employment seminar which can be reported back to the ICB and ICP at their next meetings (ICB 29 September, ICP 31 October).

2. Introduction

2.1 The following summarises items of interest that have been considered by the BLMK Health and Care Partnership and the Board of the ICB since the last meeting of the MK Health and Care Partnership.

3. Board of the BLMK ICB Decisions

3.1. Specialised commissioning – ICB Board 28 July 2023

An extra-ordinary meeting of the ICB Private Board took place on 28 July to consider 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 acute provider in its area (although both MKUHFT and 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.

The Board supported BLMK ICB hosting 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 The Board of the ICB met on 30 June, the communications from the meeting are [here](#). Key areas of note are as follows:

3.3 **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, 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, the VCSE, University of Bedfordshire and the NHS came together to agree the foundations for the study, 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 VCSE partners led engagement with different communities to understand in-depth the lived experiences of these seldom-heard groups. In MK, this work was undertaken by Healthwatch MK, Community Action: MK and the YMCA the reports can be found [here](#). (a joint summary report of the MK findings starts on page 204).

On publication of the Healthwatch and VCSE 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 widening and entrenching 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 progress the recommendations, and to making resources available 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.

- 3.4 **Health Inequalities funding** – The Board of the ICB 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.
- 3.5 **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 onto the BLMK Health and Care Partnership website ([here](#)).
- 3.6 **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.
- 3.7 **Financial and operational reports** – members received formal updates from quality and performance, finance and governance, and approved Section 75 agreements with Luton Council and MK City Council.
4. **BLMK Health and Care Partnership and BLMK ICB Health and Employment Seminar - 21 July 2023**

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

voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors for a day of action planning on tackling poor health and employment outcomes. Councillor David Hopkins, Milton Keynes City Council, Ross Graves Chief Strategy and Digital Officer, CNWL, Vicky Head, Director of Public Health, Danielle Petch, Director of Workforce and Sue Milner from MKUH and Maria Wogan, Milton Keynes Place Link Director, BLMK ICB were amongst the MK representatives who attended the seminar.

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 of 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 to be taken forward by those working at Place, with support from the ICB. A summary of the discussion and action planning is [here](#), with Milton Keynes Place group actions detailed on slides 33-39.

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

5. Integrated Care Partnership - governance

The Council has reviewed its representatives on the BLMK Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) following the election and Milton Keynes City Council members are Cllrs Peter Marland, David Hopkins and Robin Bradburn. 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.

6. Update on Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism (MHLDA) Collaborative

Since late last year, ELFT, CNWL and BLMK ICB have been working with system partners to progress the scoping and design of a MHLDA Collaborative for BLMK, with a particular focus on engaging with service users, carers, residents and health and care partners, whilst continuing to focus on the shared delivery of system priorities.

The goal of the Collaborative will be to support and enable the delivery of local Place priorities for MHLDA – including in Milton Keynes the priorities of the

Deal – whilst having a strong, shared vehicle to tackle system level challenges that require a joined-up response across multiple Places.

The team will be bringing an update to the September Integrated Care Board that summarises work to date and the emerging design of the Collaborative and proposes that the programme move into a six-month mobilisation phase including more formal oversight of the programme via a mobilisation group.

Key deliverables over this period of time will include the development of a MHLDA partnership agreement and strategic plan; rolling out of a new approach to the agreement of contracts and financial planning; and the development of collaborative functions and their supporting processes and resources.

Alongside this development work, the programme continues to oversee delivery against operational priorities including improving the all-age crisis pathway across BLMK, and delivering better outcomes for patients requiring complex mental health placements.

7. ICB – new Target Operating Model (TOM)

The ICB has completed its formal consultation with staff on its restructuring and has published its revised organisational structure (attached for information at Annex A). The ICB is grateful to the feedback received from MK partners as part of this process. The ICB's structure, once implemented will include a place team to support the implementation of the MK Deal priorities.

List of Annexes

Annex A – TOM consultation feedback and organisational structure

List of Background Papers

None