



MK TOGETHER

# Health and Care Partnership

## Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board Report

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### **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** this report and the Joint Forward Plan 2024/25 at Annex 1.

### **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 Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board Meeting**

3.1 The Board of the ICB met on 22 March 2024 and 26 April 2024 and the key points from the meeting are below.

#### **3.1 Acting on Resident Feedback**

Resident stories are shared with the Board each quarter to ensure important insights and experiences are heard and considered. Assurance was given to the Board that these insights inform the development of strategies for example, neighbourhood working, the procurement of musculoskeletal services and work to improve health equity.

#### **3.2 Chair's and Chief Executive's reports**

Significant work has been undertaken to influence national policy, to benefit residents in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. The Board was informed about work being undertaken by the Chair, Dr Rima Makarem regarding end-of-life care and Chief Executive Felicity Cox reflected on work with Parliamentary Under Secretary of Health and Care, Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom

MP to influence decisions on capital for primary care estates, including ambitions for the development of a Community Diagnostic Centre in Luton. Information was also provided to the Board about further industrial action by junior doctors, health care assistants and consultants, which is expected to increase pressure on services over the coming months.

### **3.3 BLMK Health and Care Strategy**

The ICS is working to help people live longer lives in good health. To achieve this, a multi-year system Strategy is being developed – a Health Services Strategy. Using population health data and intelligence from communities, it will establish the key principles and commitments that will ensure our Health Services are sustainable in the long term, and responsive to the rapid population growth we are experiencing in BLMK. The ICB Board, when it met in March, welcomed the development of this work, with further engagement with Partners, including at Place, due later this year.

### **3.4 Improving Access to Radiotherapy – Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Review Update**

Up to a third of BLMK residents are treated with radiotherapy following a cancer diagnosis. Residents have told us that travel out of area to access cancer treatment in Oxford or London is a barrier, with some people opting for palliative care instead of travelling. A two-year patient transport pilot to help patients travel out of area for treatment has been established with Luton Council, but the re-provision of cancer care from Mount Vernon gives us the opportunity to bring a satellite radiotherapy centre to our area to serve Bedfordshire and Luton residents. Radiotherapy could be devolved to general hospital sites either at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital or the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. Capital funding is required, and public consultation will be needed to determine the location of the site. The Board endorsed the BLMK Cancer Board's recommendations to bring a satellite site closer to BLMK. MK residents will access Radiotherapy services from the Radiotherapy Centre at MKUH, scheduled to open in September 2024

### **3.5 Place Based Reports**

Following the establishment of place-based teams and collaboratives, the following updates were provided:

- Milton Keynes Place based team is focused on delivering against the priorities outlined by the MK Deal and supporting the development of "Our Vision for Health and Social Care (Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership)". This quarter, work has stepped up the Bletchley Pathfinder work, which aims to tackle inequalities and focus on prevention of ill health.
- Bedford Borough Place team is establishing, with new team members joining over the coming weeks. Connections between the team and the

Council has enabled six Bedford Borough placement students with learning disabilities to join the Oliver McGowan project as trainers with lived experience. Discussions are taking place about the potential of Universal Studios UK being built in Bedford and the impact this will have on local services.

- The One Luton Place team is establishing, with team members appointed into new roles. Some successes include the development of family hubs and the development of the Luton 2040 strategy, which the ICB is supporting with a [Luton 2040 pledge](#).
- Central Bedfordshire Place team is now establishing with a central focus on children's outcomes. It has launched '[Everything OK?](#)' website which is designed to signpost young people between 10 and 18 years old to relevant local and national information, advice, and support.
- Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Collaborative – work is being undertaken to establish the Mental Health Collaborative and the Board endorsed the next steps for the collaborative which includes a shadow meeting of the Board committee in April.

### **3.6 Operational Plans and the Joint Forward Plan**

The Board discussed the operational plan being developed for 2024/25 against a backdrop of significant financial pressure. The Board recognised the need to undertake service redesign on some pathways to deliver efficiencies and asked that due regard be given to the increase in pressure on services following the pandemic, population growth and not losing sight of the progress made to deliver quality care for residents. It was agreed that partners would hold on to the system's mission to deliver equity for all residents and achieve parity of esteem across all services. In addition to the operational plan, the Board reviewed the Joint Forward Plan and agreed that an updated version of the report should be published, see Annex 1.

### **3.7 Delegation of Specialised Commissioning**

The Board received a briefing on the delegation of specialised commissioning, which BLMK ICB will host as part of a six-ICB joint endeavour for the East of England region from 1 April. This will see the six ICBs working collaboratively on decisions for specialised services (including cancer, for example) on behalf of the region. The Board agreed the Delegation and Collaboration Agreements.

### **3.8 Strategic Approach to the Provision of Non-emergency Patient Transport**

The Board was briefed on the new approach being taken by the ICB to develop an innovative new non-emergency transport service that utilises existing arrangements (ambulances) and works with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to create an improved patient transport service locally. The Board recognised the complexity of this work, but welcomed the

opportunity to explore new approaches and how this could work to add capacity and greater flexibility to the system. Further detail will be provided in the Autumn, 2024.

### **3.9 Musculoskeletal (MSK) and Pain Services Procurement**

Following an extensive period of co-design work with local residents from across BLMK, supported by Healthwatch in MK, the Board of the ICB approved a business case and agreed to proceed with its planned procurement of MSK and Pain services across BLMK. The next stage is market engagement prior to formal procurement starting. The proposals are due to be discussed at the BLMK Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June/July and a briefing for scrutiny members was held on 28 March.

### **3.10 Milton Keynes Integrated Autism Service**

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) served notice in Autumn 2024 on the BLMK ICB for the Integrated Autism Service that served residents aged 16 and over. This has been recommissioned as two separate pathways, one for young people, and one for adults (18 and over). The Children and Young People pathway has been recommissioned with Psychiatry UK in the short term, while the long-term plan is collaboratively developed. The pathway for adults is being recommissioned with ELFT, who currently provide the service across Bedfordshire and Luton, and will now include MK to create a BLMK offer. These new arrangements are scheduled to go live from September 2024.

### **3.11 Operational updates**

The Board welcomed the appointment of a Chief Midwife to support maternity services and recognised that Local Maternity and Neonatal System report should in future be received by the Quality and Performance Committee.

Operational updates were provided from primary care, where the Board was appraised on the increase in the number of GP appointments available in the system, and work being taken to boost numbers of people using the NHS app to access primary care services in BLMK.

The latest financial position for the ICS was reported, with the system expected to break even at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. In month 10, the ICB reported that a deficit was reported for the first time (£7.6m), because of increased costs due to industrial action. However, funding has since been provided nationally to support this, which changes our forecast end of year position. The Board was however appraised of the risks that remain in the system.

## **4. BLMK Health and Care Partnership**

The latest meetings of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership (H&CP) took place on 14 March 2024 and the main points covered at the meeting are as follows.

#### **4.1 Resident's story – Collaborative Targeted Outreach Programme**

The Collaborative Targeted Outreach Programme was run in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire aimed at young people in deprived areas of BLMK. The young people were given the opportunity to talk with practitioners, clinicians and trainees to find out more about careers in midwifery, theatre and the ambulance service. Due to technical difficulties the planned video could not be shown of students and their teachers sharing their experiences but was circulated following the meeting.

#### **4.2 Update on delivery of BLMK Health and Care Strategy and priorities for 2024/25**

Examples of the progress made on delivery of the BLMK Health and Care Strategy was given as well as some of the enabling work for future delivery. The BLMK HCP heard that 2024/25 will be a challenging year for all partners with difficult decisions having to be made to provide a balanced financial plan. NHS planning guidance and financial parameters have been delayed and the deadline for submission of the final plans was 2 May 2024.

Two 'golden threads' run throughout the plans for 2024/25 – developing neighbourhoods and responding to the findings from the Denny Review of inequalities.

The Health and Care Partnership agreed that they will meet formally twice per year, with another two in-person seminars held jointly with the Board of the Integrated Care Board.

#### **4.3 Our System Improvement Journey**

The BLMK HCP heard of a partnership with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to work on addressing health inequalities across BLMK. This partnership will help to deliver deliverable, measurable and sustainable programmes of improvement.

#### **4.4 People Plan Update**

In 2023, NHS England produced the first long-term workforce plan which identified the need for a significant investment in training and education and measures to tackle retention and recruitment.

The People Board includes representatives from all partner organisations to oversee the development of work across BLMK on six workstreams aimed at implementing the People Plan.

#### **4.5 BLMK Inequalities Week, w/c 13 May 2024**

BLMK was proud to host the first "BLMK Inequalities Week" w/c 13 May 2024. Many members of the Board and their organisations will have participated in

these activities, and we're grateful for the cross-system efforts to make the events a success. The week started with the University of Bedfordshire hosted conference focussed on research and innovation, followed by the HSJ Tackling Inequalities Summit. Hundreds of BLMK staff and colleagues from partner organisations took part in partner-hosted webinars, including one led by Lloyd Denny, and the week concluded with the Creating a Fairer BLMK 2024 Event at the Rufus Centre in Flitwick. Our hope and expectation is that we will repeat this event in 2025 and annually thereafter as we make progress as a system.

## **5 Future Meetings**

5.1 Board of the ICB – 19 July 2024 at Priory House, Central Bedfordshire Council.

5.2 BLMK Health and Care Partnership – tbc.

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### **List of Annexes**

Annex 1: BLMK Joint Forward Plan 2024/2025

### **List of Background Papers**

Public Board papers can be found on the ICB's [website](#).