

Place based working

The MK Deal

Our first six months

The place-based partnership arrangements within Milton Keynes progressed into the delivery phase in October 2022 with the establishment of the MK Deal. The Deal is the first of its kind across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) and is a formal agreement between the Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership and the BLMK Integrated Care Board with three key aims:

- Closer working
- Drive forward change in key local priorities
- Establish a clear remit and resourcing

Closer working

The MK Deal formalises the commitment of the main local NHS partners in MK and the city council to work more closely together. This includes forming and sustaining a Joint Leadership Team.

Joint Leadership Team, or JLT for short, reports directly into the MK Health and Care Partnership. It has been in place for a year and widened its membership to include the ICB Place Link Director in October 2022. After initially meeting fortnightly, the JLT now meets every three weeks and the relationship between the partners has matured into one where they assist and encourage each other by providing candid and constructive support and challenge.

“The MK Deal has really brought partners together and we are seeing issues as our collective challenges, rather than the problems belonging to individual organisations. Having a shared view of what’s on the horizon is refreshing and there is much less scope for inaction on the basis that somebody else must be leading on a topic.”

**Dr Ian Reckless, Medical Director,
Milton Keynes University Hospital**

To broaden knowledge and understanding of each sector JLT has covered a range of briefings and presentations on topics including general practice funding model, primary care estates, digital innovation, and virtual wards.

Drive forward change in key local priorities

The MK Deal focuses on areas which the local area wants to improve, as endorsed by the MK Health and Care Partnership and fully in line with the BLMK Health and Care Partnership's strategic priorities. It's also informed by evidence of population health needs and a pragmatic assessment that the areas are ones where progress can be made.

“The four priorities in the MK Deal were identified by each partner at place highlighting a particular issue that needed the wider Place system partners to help address. From a primary care perspective JLT has been a very collaborative meeting of MK partners from inception, with all partners equally recognised.”

**Dr Tayo Kufjeji, GP and PCN
Clinical Director**

Improving system flow

The first two priorities of the deal went live on 1 December 2022. **Improving system flow (ISF)** focuses on urgent and emergency care services for older and/or frail and/or complex service users. This priority also covers End of Life services. The JLT lead is the Medical Director of Milton Keynes University Hospital, Dr Ian Reckless.

An ISF Steering Group was established in December to provide strategic oversight with senior clinical and managerial members from across health and social care providing their time. All parties recognise that large scale transformation of Urgent and Emergency Care services, if it is

to be successful and sustained, must take place at a local level with providers working together to reshape demand, and the delivery of care.

A core project team made up of staff seconded from MKCC, MKUH, CNWL and the ICB is now in place to ensure there is sufficient dedicated staff capacity to deliver the assessment, planning, securing services and review process. Established in time for the busy winter period, an operational focus group leads the ongoing operational management of urgent and emergency care services. Mapping of existing hospital admission avoidance and hospital discharge schemes has been completed with this review showing complexity of the current system. The development of the business case for an integrated multi-disciplinary team 'without walls' is in production and is due to be brought for review to JLT shortly.

Tackling obesity

Tackling obesity was the second MK Deal priority to start on 1 December 2022. Primary care identified Tackling Obesity, with its potential link to other co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension and depression as a MK Deal priority to help reduce the burden of disease across the MK health system. Jointly led for JLT by Vicky Head, Public Health and Dr Omotayo Kufjeji, Primary Care this priority is focused on helping people lose weight and maintain a healthy weight through easily accessible

Drive forward change in key local priorities

weight management programmes, use of technology, pharmacological therapies and education/prevention work.

Within the steering group and working groups, system partners are both reviewing capacity and demand for commissioned weight management services and developing tailored opportunities to support people to lose weight. Part of this approach will be through a digital incentive scheme to promote physical activity to at least 600 people with type 2 diabetes in Milton Keynes. This ambitious clinical trial consists of three components: a wrist worn watch; a phone app that monitors physical activity, sets physical activity goals tailored to the individual and provides nudges and tips to increase activity; and a set of vouchers as a reward for being physically active.

The procurement process concluded in March with a digital provider selected. The next milestone is the completion and submission of a full research protocol for the necessary approvals to proceed. The trial will run for 24 months to test whether the effects on physical activity and health measures are sustained.

“I’ve been impressed with the way the ICB has recognised that to bring about improvements in the local health and care system it is essential that local leaders are empowered and encouraged to take the initiative.”

**Michael Bracey, Chief Executive
Milton Keynes City Council**

The third strand of the tackling obesity priority is to locally create a societal shift in eating habits and physical activities by changing cultural, social, economic, and environmental factors. JLT members have supported this approach and a ‘call to action’ proposal for system partners to make specific commitments within a focused time scale, currently under development.

“The MK Deal has given us a clear focus to make improvements for the city's residents. It’s exciting and inspiring to be part of a team that brings such wide-ranging skills, perspectives, and experience together to deliver the Deal.”

**Maria Wogan, Milton Keynes Place Link
Director BLMK ICB**

Children’s mental health

For the third priority, **children and young people’s mental health** a development proposal was taken to Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership in February and permission was obtained to move to a go live date of 1 April 2023. The JLT lead is Jane Hannon, Managing Director Diggory Division CNWL. The four key themes of this priority are closer working, getting help and advice, neurodevelopmental pathways and crisis response.

Closer working between system partners including sharing data, prioritisation and exploring co-location of teams has made good progress. Development of the local ‘getting help’ offer in Milton Keynes is underway and will provide appropriate

community-based support, including more face-to-face options. We are building shared oversight of mental health input for looked after children, to ensure that we prioritise this at-risk group in line with their needs.

Complex care

The fourth priority is **complex care**, led by Victoria Collins, the council's Director of Adult Services. An integrated approach to the funding and case management of children, young people and adults who have complex needs is being developed. A proposal targeting the 14 to 25 age group is due for consideration by JLT shortly.

"It's been such a positive experience being involved in this process. Meeting regularly face to face has enabled us to focus on our positive intent to make improvements, tussle with challenging questions and even tap into some creativity. I'm grateful to all partners and I am looking forward to the next steps in the journey. It is a big time investment but it is the right thing for local people that we do this."

**Jane Hannon, Managing Director
Diggory Division, Central and North
West London NHS Foundation Trust**

Establish a clear remit and resourcing

The MK Deal sets out the remit and resources that the ICB agrees to pass to the local partners in the MK Health and Care Partnership (both formal and informal) to both help with the delivery of the specifically agreed improvement areas and to the general effective running of the local health and care system. Over the last five months we have achieved a good awareness of the MK Deal and, in turn, our shared local commitment to taking more responsibility and accountability.

As part of the development of the Deal each of the agreed priorities identified existing capacity and resourcing which could be allocated to place from the ICB. There has been some successes in this regard, for example establishing and resourcing a MK co-ordinator role and funding a budget to help pay for improvement work.

However, it is recognised that there is more to do to ensure appropriate resources and support are provided by the ICB for our work on our key local priorities.

In addition to the support from the ICB, each of the local partners have identified experienced colleagues with dedicated time to focus on our local priorities. This is in addition to the significant leadership time and energy that the partners are giving to the MK Deal.

For more information on the work going on in Milton Keynes, please contact:

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