

Questions and Answers

Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday, 22nd February, 2024

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Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Item (A)	Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 22 February 2024
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(A) Question submitted to the ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West by Paula Saunderson:

“The Primary Care Strategy makes no specific mention of the new highest cause of Mortality – a Dementia – yet it mentions Inequalities several times, and on Page 8 where all the roles within your Integrated Neighbourhood Teams are mentioned there is nothing for Dementia as an SMI and no mention of Dementia/ Admiral Nurses, so how will the Dementia Pathway to death be dealt with under this new Model?”

The ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West answered:

Thank you for taking the time to read and provide feedback on our draft Primary Care Strategy. Your comments regarding support for residents with dementia needs in particular are noted, and all feedback will be reviewed by the BOB Integrated Care Board Primary Care team as part of the next phase of developing and finalising this important Strategy.

Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:

‘That didn’t actually answer the question about the Admiral Nurses, which many PCNs throughout the country have attached to them. I was told at the last meeting that you would look at it, but currently there are no plans to have them within their new PCN structure, so how is that progressing please?’

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

I’ll take that away for specific consideration and we will feed that into the next draft of the Primary Care Strategy and make sure that we’ve considered all feedback from the public where specific needs haven’t come across in the current draft.

Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Item (B)	Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 22 February 2024
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(B) Question submitted to the Executive Director – Adult Social Care by Paula Sanderson:

“The Future Actions mentions the Big Dementia Conversation at ShawHouse for all Adult Social Care Staff in February, so please can you outline what contents will be covered in these Training Events and how these will align with formal NVQ Training for Dementias?”

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

Unfortunately, the Big Dementia Conversation events have had to be postponed – take-up was quite low and we want to make sure we do it at a time when people are available to take the best benefit from it.

The Big Dementia Conversation was developed to support staff working across a range of posts in Adult Social Care (ASC) with information about the local impact of dementia and to build on their understanding about dementia across the life course, including preventing well, diagnosing well, living well, supporting well, and dying well in West Berkshire.

A big part of this had been including the lived experience stories from local people living with dementia and their carers. The session seeks to bring a greater awareness of what it’s like to live with dementia or care for someone with dementia in our district.

In addition, the session provides an opportunity for staff to hear from and meet organisations including The BHFT Memory Clinic, Alzheimer’s Society, Younger People with Dementia, Age UK Berkshire and Dementia Friendly West Berkshire. This will enable ASC colleagues to broaden their knowledge of the services and activities available nationally and locally.

It is not intended to be an alternative or replacement for NVQ or other available training but is a complementary resource to provide help people with their continuous professional development and to encourage reflective practice. It will give people who are working with people with dementia a chance to look back and think, ‘Did I do the right thing for this person at this time?’.

Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:

'I think it would be good to try and link it to NVQs training for dementia, because my experience is that there are not enough people taking the NVQ training and going on a career path in this direction. If there could be some kind of link within the training to mention the more formal qualifications, I think that would be helpful.'

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

Thanks Paula – I'll take that away.

Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Item (C)

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 22 February 2024

(C) Question submitted to the Executive Director – Adult Social Care by Paula Saunderson:

“The Big Dementia Conversation will need to overcome a lack of knowledge of interacting NHS Services and associated attitudinal problems towards payment for Services by Families when their Loved One might qualify, referring specifically to Bladder & Bowel Services and the 3 schemes under Continuing Health Care (CHC), how are these being covered in this event?”

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

As I mentioned, we've got this delay in delivering the events. The sessions will look at how statutory services work together as part of the local dementia pathway. The time available will not support detailed review of specific aspects of provision. It's essentially about understanding what is there and how to best to use it, rather than changing what is available. Where feedback or questions are received from staff this will be followed up with the relevant service for their acknowledgement and response, so there is a chance to learn and take away for contributing organisations.

In relation to this and your next question, I would like to say that we continue to work as a system on Continuing Health Care. More work needs to be done, but I'm pleased to have recently been advised that there is some upcoming training on CHC, which will help the local system.

Paula Saunderson asked the following supplementary question:

‘I am hoping that your training is going to be modular, so there will be sessions on some of the interacting services like the Bladder and Bowel Service, where I was told that the family would have to pay when my mother clearly qualified for CHC. It's now over three years since I raised this originally with the Health and Wellbeing Board and a review was agreed, and I still don't think we've had an outcome from that review. So again, my mother was declined CHC and she is now on end-of-life, so I'm hoping that we will get assistance with looking at fast-track.

I don't think a lot of people realise that even if the house is gone, the person under care who is single can have all of their pension taken apart from £28.25 per week, which is not a lot to provide them with their personal needs. My biggest challenge is the budget for my Mum.'

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

On your modular point, all of the people working in this sector need to have a range of opportunities to develop their skills across everything they are going to come across.

Public Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Item (D)

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 22 February 2024

(D) Question submitted to the Executive Director – Adult Social Care by Paula Saunderson:

“When a Patient with a Dementia is diagnosed with terminal Cancer and placed on a Cancer Palliative Care Pathway how will Adult Social Care staff help families qualify for Fast Track Continuing Health Care in the last few weeks of their life, and is this covered in the training event?”

The Executive Director – Adult Social Care answered:

This has been covered in the previous response.

Paula, you know my contact information if you'd like me to pick up other stuff, do just drop me a line and we'll do what we can.

Member Questions as specified in the Council's Procedure Rules of the Constitution

Item (E)

Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting on 22 February 2024

(E) Question submitted to the ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West Place from Councillor Vicky Poole:

“Can the board please advise what actions can be taken regarding the serious and significant decrease in service levels at the only pharmacy within our village, Burghfield Common?”

The ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West Place answered:

Thank you for your question. We will investigate the matters that you have raised in relation to the Burghfield Pharmacy and will write to update you in due course.
