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# HWB response to BOB Joint Forward Plan

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**Report being considered by:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**On:** 28/06/2023

**Report Author:** Paul Coe

**Report Sponsor:** Alan Macro

**Item for:** Decision

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

This report introduces the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Forward Plan and proposes a formal response on behalf of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board for inclusion in the final Plan.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Board is asked to note the contents of the Joint Forward Plan.
- 2.2 The Board is asked to agree the contents of Appendix A for inclusion in the final Plan or suggest amendments to the response.

## 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Joint Forward Plan sets out the way in which the BOB ICS Strategy will be delivered.
- 3.2 It has been developed through a consultative process, engaging partners across the Health, Local Authority, Voluntary and Independent sectors.
- 3.3 Partners have been able to attend events and/or submit comments at key stages through the process.
- 3.4 It is a statutory requirement that the Plan must include a statement from each relevant Health and Wellbeing Board as to whether it properly takes into account their Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This report proposes a statement for the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board's approval.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 A requirement of the Health and Care Act 2022 is that before the start of each financial year, each Integrated Care Board (ICB) and their partner trusts must prepare a Joint Forward Plan setting out how they propose to exercise their functions over the next five years. For this first year, the deadline for publishing and sharing the Plan with NHS England is 30 June.
- 4.2 In addition to setting out how the ICS Strategy will be delivered, it must also set out any steps that the ICB proposes to take to implement the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies of its constituent Health and Wellbeing Boards.

- 4.3 ICBs and their partner trusts must involve each relevant HWB in preparing or revising their Joint Forward Plans. In particular, each HWB must be provided with a draft of the Plan, and the ICB must consult with them on whether the draft takes proper account of their Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.4 Following consultation, any HWB within the ICB's area has the right to respond to the ICB and may give its opinion to NHS England.
- 4.5 Joint Forward Plan must include a statement from each HWB as to whether their Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been properly taken into account within the Joint Forward Plan.
- 4.6 The BOB ICB has involved all key partners throughout the development of the BOB ICS Joint Forward Plan, and has incorporated feedback wherever possible. As we develop as a system it is expected that future joint forward plans may reflect more fully the wider partnership activities including the role of primary care, social care, public health, voluntary and community groups.
- 4.7 Appendix C of the Plan will include the Opinions of the five Health and Wellbeing Boards.

## **5. Options Considered**

The HWB may choose not to express an opinion but this would not be consistent with its stated aims.

## **6. Proposal(s)**

The Board is asked to note the contents of the Joint Forward Plan and agree the formal response set out in Appendix A of this report or suggest amendments to the response.

## **7. Conclusion(s)**

It is considered that the BOB ICB has taken account of the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy in developing the Plan and there no significant concerns have been raised by HWB Members. However, the response recognises that the Joint Forward Plan will be updated annually, and that there are aspects that would benefit from further development, particularly in relation to prevention.

## **8. Consultation and Engagement**

All Health and Wellbeing Board Members were invited to submit their comments on the draft Joint Forward Plan by 14 June for inclusion in the formal response, and a copy of the draft response was circulated prior to publication of the agenda.

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix A – Proposed response from HWB to ICB

Appendix B – Joint Forward Plan Summary

Appendix C – Joint Forward Plan Feedback Themes and Responses

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**Background Papers:**

[Health and Social Care Act 2022](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Boards – Guidance, DHSC \(November 2022\)](#)

[Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

[BOB ICS Strategy](#)

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**Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:**

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by ensuring that the BOB ICS Joint Forward Plan takes account of the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

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## Appendix A

# West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board response to the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Joint Forward Plan

For the attention of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (ICB),

West Berkshire's Health and Wellbeing Board (the Board) has met to review the Joint Forward Plan (the Plan) and has agreed this formal response. It is anticipated that partner agencies may have already submitted a response on their own behalf.

The Board is pleased to note the progress which has been made in setting out this new plan and acknowledges the significant efforts which the ICB has made to encourage contributions from a range of partner agencies.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge the particular challenge of the BOB ICB in meeting the requirements of the Berkshire West place, given that it includes three distinct Local Authority areas, each with their own requirements and priorities.

The Board sees the Joint Forward Plan as an early phase within a long process to deliver genuine and meaningful integration in order to best serve the interests of the local population. In the light of that position, the Board is supportive of the Joint Forward Plan and seeks ongoing commitment to further build on the contribution of partner agencies to achieve genuine integration. Overall, it is considered that in developing the Joint Forward Plan, the BOB ICB has taken account of the priorities set out in the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated Delivery Plan as set out below:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.

The Board wishes to assert its commitment to the principle of subsidiarity, under which decisions will be made at the level of Place and/or Locality as the default position and issues should be escalated to System level only where that adds clear value. The Board also wishes to assert that each local Health and Wellbeing Board remains the key forum in which the needs of the local population can be addressed through an integrated approach. However, there will be some actions that can best be taken at Place and it is recognised that some services are provided on that footprint, particularly by NHS Trusts. It will be essential to ensure that governance structures are fit for purpose and have appropriate levels of accountability and transparency of decision making.

The Board considers that the needs of the community can best be met by utilising data and intelligence at the level of Locality, Neighbourhood and Ward to help inform our system response.

The Board wishes to assert its commitment to taking a proactive and preventative approach to the health needs of the population as far as possible, while of course recognising that acute needs must still be met.

The Board recognises the challenging financial position of the ICB but notes equally the equivalent challenges facing Local Authorities and other partner agencies. The Board believes that, by properly investing in prevention, future financial challenges can be better managed.

The Board considers that further development of the strategy is needed around the area of communications, engagement and behaviour change, which are seen as critical components of the prevention agenda. Moving the dial on prevention will require a completely different approach. It should not simply involve more communications, instead activity will need to be better coordinated, with closer working between partners, and particularly between health and public health services, and communications should be informed by principles of psychology, as well as business intelligence.

The Board welcomes the consideration given within the Plan to the need to address Health Inequalities and the even-handed approach taken in the Plan to Health needs across the life course. The Board considers that more could be done in the future regarding end of life care.

The Board notes the approach to managing workforce challenges. The system cannot function without a strong, capable and resilient workforce, and investment in securing a sufficient workforce in the coming years is a fundamental enabler.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Macro". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

**Cllr Alan Macro**

On behalf of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board