



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

January 2024

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1. ICB Board Meeting

The BOB ICB held its board meeting in public on 16 January 2024; papers are available on [the BOB ICB website](#) .

2. BOB ICB Primary Care Strategy

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) has published its draft Primary Care Strategy which highlights our ambitions for the future of general practice, community pharmacy, optometry (eye care) and dentistry across BOB.

The draft strategy outlines three priorities to help deliver these ambitions:

1. to improve access so patients get the right support first time to manage their health and wellbeing;
2. to develop proactive and personalised in the community care for patients with complex health needs;
3. to prevent ill health by using and sharing data with our partners about the health needs of local communities.

To help deliver these priorities we are proposing to further develop the following services:

- Non-complex same day care
- Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
- Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

Non-complex same day care

Primary care will better manage patients who require same day support; but whose conditions are not complex. The aim is to improve the patient experience as they get the support they need promptly. This will be achieved by triaging patients more efficiently with an initial contact made with the right health service or professional. This way of working will allow GPs to focus on patients with more complex needs (having more than one health condition).

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

GPs will work with multi-disciplinary teams in the community made up of hospital consultants, district and community nurses supported by care navigators, physiotherapists and the voluntary sector to provide personalised, proactive care to patients with more than one health condition (complex) such as frail elderly people.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention

Primary care will work with health and care partners to reduce the risk of patients developing CVD by tackling smoking, obesity and high blood pressure. CVD is one of the most common causes of ongoing ill-health and deaths across the ICB leading to heart attack and strokes. This approach will rely on using and sharing data (Population Health Management) between partners to understand better the health needs of our local communities.

Stakeholders, patients and the wider public are invited to share the views about our ambitions in the draft strategy via a new online survey at: <https://yourvoicebob-icb.uk.engagementhq.com/primary-care-strategy> – to help further inform and shape these plans. The survey closes on 29 February 2024.

A printed copy of the survey is available by post or by telephone for people without online access. To request a copy please contact 0300 123 4465 or email engagement.BOBICS@nhs.net

3. NHS industrial action

BMA Junior Doctors have undertaken two further periods of Industrial Action since the. The first was for 72 hours from 7am on Wednesday 20 December to 7am on Saturday 23 December 2023. The second was for 6 consecutive days from 7am on Wednesday 3 January to 7am on Tuesday 9 January 2024. It should be noted that this was the longest continuous period of industrial action ever seen in the history of the NHS.

These strikes took place during one of the busiest periods for the NHS and the focus of all Trusts across BOB trusts was to ensure patient safety and maintain critical emergency and urgent care services. The ICB and NHSE supported Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT to ensure patient safety at the John Radcliffe ED and

commissioned additional hours from the Horton and City Urgent Care Centres to redirect GP appropriate patients away from EDs where possible.

During all previous periods of industrial action across the BOB area (excluding January 2024 period) 24,244 acute outpatient appointments, 3,684 elective procedures and 9992 community appointments have had to be rescheduled. It should be highlighted, however, that these figures are an underestimate of the full impact as they do not include the appointments and operations that were not booked at the point strike dates were announced.

4. Covid and flu vaccination programme

The core delivery of the Covid and Flu vaccination programme concluded on 15 December 2024. Currently the programme across the BOB area has delivered 558,503 flu and 394,353 COVID vaccinations representing 54.9% and 59.4% of the respective eligible populations.

A targeted outreach offer of vaccination continues until 31 January 2024 to ensure all those who wish to be vaccinated continue to have access across the system. BOB has worked closely with providers and has delivered the highest uptake among health and social care workers, 49.4%, across the Southeast and significantly above the national average.

5. BOB ICB Stakeholder Newsletter

The BOB ICB [Communications and Engagement Strategy](#), approved by the Board in July 2023, committed to the introduction of a BOB-wide Stakeholder Newsletter. Following engagement with communications colleagues at all Trust providers, local authorities and with Place directors, [the first edition of the monthly newsletter was published](#) earlier this month.

The format of the newsletter includes a section containing news and images relevant to health, social care and public health across the whole BOB system and three Place specific sections with more 'local' interest.

Initially it has been distributed to all BOB MPs, local authority chief executives and leaders, scrutiny committee chairs and Health and Wellbeing Boards, NHS Trust boards, Local Medical Committee chairs, Pharmacy, Optometry and Dental committees, Healthwatches, GP Patient Participation Groups (where possible) and communications colleagues across all NHS and local authority partners for cascade through their networks

There is an option within the newsletter for people to subscribe directly and it is publicised via the ICB social media channels to encourage members of the public to subscribe. The monthly newsletter will be adapted and amended as it develops and receives feedback from recipients.

6. Berkshire West specific updates

- The Community Wellness Outreach Service is now live in Reading and West Berkshire with Wokingham planning to start shortly. This 18-month pilot is funded through ICB inequalities monies and will offer NHS Health Checks and wider wellbeing support to patients most in need, by taking services out into our communities. The pilot will be evaluated against metrics measuring the impact of the service on CVD diagnosis rates and wider patient wellbeing. A full update will be provided to the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- Work is underway to agree key priorities for our Berkshire West Place Based Partnership in 2024/25, building on the areas we have worked on together this year. Children and Young People's Mental Health (including SEND) will remain a focus area, along with a focus on Same Day Urgent Access and also enhancing preventative services for our residents where possible. Implementation of the Primary Care Strategy and continuation of our Community Wellness Outreach will be a priority. It is important to note the challenging financial background that we are working within, and all organisations are expected to work together to ensure we can continue to deliver and improve services within our constrained financial budgets.
- Our plans are being developed alongside the wider ICB planning process and in alignment with the key BOB system goals which are currently being formalised. The ICB also continues to work closely with RBFT and other partners on the Building Berkshire Together initiative, part of the New Hospitals Programme, with a particular focus on formulating integrated care pathways which will inform the associated future estates requirements. We also want continue to work more closely with local authority planning teams to ensure future primary care capacity needs are factored into Local Plans and associated policy documents, and to also work with wider partners to identify shared estates opportunities including through the One Public Estate programme.