

# Questions and Answers

## Health and Wellbeing Board

**Thursday, 29 September 2022**

West Berkshire Council is committed to equality of opportunity. We will treat everyone with respect, regardless of race, disability, gender, age, religion or sexual orientation.

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

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**(A) Question submitted to the Interim Integrated Care Board Director for Berkshire West by Mr Richard Westell:**

*“With all these newhouses being built in Newbury, Thatcham and many other areas of West Berkshire, howmany more doctors are being recruited and doctors’ surgeries being built - some doctors have 2,600 patients on their books and are stretched to the point of suicide, what is being done about this?”*

**The Interim Integrated Care Board Director for Berkshire West answered:**

The Council works with the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) with regards to all local plan proposals to ensure that the work done by the Council to provide much needed new homes is also met with the appropriate level of new infrastructure.

In addition, regular meetings are held to discuss planning applications and the actual build out of planning permissions. The information shared at these meetings are fed into the strategic estates discussion for the whole NHS system, including GP surgeries.

There is no nationally recognised formula regarding how many patients a full time equivalent (FTE) GP should cover. It is recognised that there is a national issue with regards to the recruitment and retention of GPs.

To support retention, the ICB offers a number of schemes to support GPs in their roles, including Fellowship schemes for new starters and mid-career GPs, as well as mentoring schemes and return to work schemes.

In terms of recruitment, there is a record number of medical students signed up to training, with 4,001 trainees registering for specialist GP training in 2021, compared to 3,793 in 2020, 3,540 in 2019 and 3,473 in 2018.

Finally, General Practice has access to a national programme called the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS). This scheme provides funding for GP surgeries to recruit staff in a variety of roles, such as Clinical Pharmacists, First Contact Physiotherapists and Community Paramedics who can take on some of the practice workload as part of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT).

The practices in West Berkshire are receiving funding of £2.53m in the financial year 22/23, and are planning to have recruited over 66 FTE staff in a wide variety of roles who can provide support to the GPs in their practices.

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