



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

Health Scrutiny Committee update
May 2024

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1. ICB Board Meeting

BOB ICB board meeting 21 May 2024; papers on [the BOB ICB website](#)

2. BOB ICB Primary Care Strategy

The [Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West \(BOB\) Primary Care Strategy](#) has been approved by the BOB Integrated Care Board.

The strategy has been in development since July 2023 by BOB ICB and sets out details of the ambition for a new model of primary and community-based care. It describes how primary care should streamline access, provide continuity of care for those with complex conditions and focus more on prevention.

It is expected that as an Integrated Care System, we will improve health outcomes for our population, tackle variation and reduce inequalities, using the resources available across BOB in the most effective and efficient way.

Integration remains at the heart of the model with the following high-level priorities:

- Everyone who lives in BOB to be able to receive the right support when it is needed and with the right health and/or care professional. Our communities are finding it difficult to get an appointment in General Practice or with an NHS dentist, and this needs to change.

- Integrated Neighbourhood Teams to care for those people who would benefit most from proactive, personalised care from a holistic team of professionals, for example those at most risk of emergency hospital admissions.
- To help communities stay well with an initial targeted focus on our biggest killer and driver of inequalities, cardiovascular disease (CVD).

The development of the strategy has been informed by research, analysis, and engagement. The nine-month journey, with initial support from delivery partners KPMG, has been complex but insightful, providing a glimpse of the challenges ahead for its implementation.

As part of this programme of work, extensive engagement was undertaken with a wide range of partners, stakeholders, and the public. The supporting documents '[Primary Care Strategy Development Public Engagement Report](#)' and '[Our Response to the Feedback Report](#)' provide details of activity undertaken, identify the key themes from all the feedback and how this insight has been used to inform the final version of the Primary Care Strategy.

3. Covid-19 Spring Booster Campaign

The Spring COVID-19 vaccination campaign started on 22 April and runs until 30 June 2024 for the following eligible groups:

- Adults aged 75 years and over.
- Residents in a care home for older adults.
- People aged six months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in the Green Book).

We have been well prepared for the campaign across BOB. Where gaps in coverage have been identified due to slightly lower levels of GP practice participation, we have arrangements in place with alternative providers to ensure local availability of vaccination clinics and visiting services for care homes and housebound patients.

Access and inequality funding was secured for 15 projects, to improve uptake and reduce variation across communities including:

- Communications
- Vaccine hesitancy training
- Maternity events
- Health on the move vans
- Immunosuppressed clinics and outreach through pop-up and roving services.

As a result of our work, we are among the top systems in the country with our uptake of vaccinations in those who are most vulnerable.

4. BOB ICS performance – latest data

Emergency Department (ED) 4-hour performance across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West recovered in February and showed a further small improvement in March. Ambulance handover performance has improved slightly during March and Trusts are continuing to work with SCAS to reduce ambulance handover delays to support ambulance Cat 2 response times.

Within elective (planned care) the system reduced the number of patients waiting more than 78 weeks through February starting at 264 and ending with 208. All three Trusts forecast achieving the system's plan and national ambition to reach zero patients waiting over 78 weeks for elective treatment except for a small number of complex patients by the end of March 2024.

The total number of NHS Provider open pathways (people waiting for care) was 163,664 against the end of February plan of 137,629.

Diagnostics performance is challenged across BOB, however the percentage of patients waiting over six weeks in February was 19%. That is the lowest percentage since October 2022.

The system has been challenged in cancer 62-day performance for some months. However, we are now seeing sustained improvement with all BOB Trusts showing consistent reductions in the number of patients waiting over 62 days. An increase in percentage of patients treated within 31 days of a decision to treat and within 62 days of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer. BOB achieved the faster diagnosis standard in February. Only Buckinghamshire Healthcare (BHT) missed the 75% target (by 1.1%).

In terms of access to Primary Care appointments, general practice continues to improve the percentage seen within two weeks increasing to 85.9% -the highest percentage since February 2023.