

Health and Wellbeing Board Briefing Note September 2024

BOB ICB Board Meeting

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Place Update

BOB ICB Board meetings

The most recent BOB ICB Board meeting took place on 16 July 2024. The papers can be found on then [BOB ICB website](#) . The next meeting will take place on 17 September. Please see the website for papers.

GP Collective Action

The British Medical Association's (BMA) GP Committee (GPC) held a ballot of GP partner members during June and July 2024 on taking 'collective action' over the 2024-25 GP contract terms.

The ballot voted in favour of action, which subsequently began across England on 1 August.

When the GP contract was announced earlier this year, there was a 1.9% increase in funding on a contract that has remained static for five years. The BMA argues this increase does not cover staff wage increases and claims GP practices are struggling to balance income and expenditure – financial instability being one of the main reasons that practices hand back their contracts.

Responsibility to deliver the contract is held by GP practice partner(s) who are not NHS employees, but independent contractors to the NHS. Unlike NHS employees, such as junior doctors and consultants, GP partners are not subject to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act. The decision to hold a ballot is not statutory but indicative and the action is termed 'collective action' rather than strike action as contracts are unlikely to be breached.

As part of any 'collective action', GP practices as independent businesses may pick and choose from a list of actions suggested by the BMA's GPC, flexing them over time which could increase their impact on health services. The actions are enduring with no end point until an agreement negotiated with the Government. Further information is available on the [BMA website](#).

A BOB ICB Incident Management Team (IMT) has been established and we are working with partners and stakeholders locally to plan for any disruption and to mitigate this where possible to ensure services continue to be provided for patients. We are continuing to closely monitor any effects and to address issues as they arise.

During this time of collective action, the NHS is asking the public to come forward as usual for care. GP practices are still required to be open between 8am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday and it is vital that patients still attend their appointments unless they are told otherwise. Patients should continue to use 111 for urgent medical help when their GP practice is unavailable and to call 999 in a serious or life-threatening emergency.

BOB ICB Operating Model

In July, BOB ICB shared details with partners of its revised way of working ('operating model'). The new approach aims to clarify and strengthen the ICB's role within the local health and care system and focus on where it can uniquely add value within a changing NHS.

Feedback from ICB staff and system partners has been carefully considered and a final operating model will be presented to the ICB Board for approval on 25 September 2024.

Place update – Berkshire West

Our Place Partnership, made up of the ICB, the three local authorities, the two local NHS trusts, our GP Leadership representatives, and with links to our multi-partner Locality Integration Boards, continues to work to progress our integration programme. One of our key live programmes is the Community Wellness Outreach Programme, an initiative involving all three local authorities, primary care, RBFT and the voluntary sector which aims to deliver 10,000 enhanced NHS Health Checks targeted to people who might not otherwise access such care. 2,028 checks had been conducted by the end of Quarter 1 with numbers increasing significantly in recent weeks as GP practices have started to highlight the clinics to identified patients. Early data shows that a significant proportion of those attending have been found to have high blood pressure, body mass index, blood glucose and/or cholesterol levels with around 23% referred back to their GP for further follow-up and others signposted to other services and programmes which can support them. Without this initiative these residents may not have been receiving the support that they now are. A full evaluation of the service will be conducted with a view to assessing its impact on the overall incidence and management of cardiovascular disease within each local authority area.

Further current partnership projects focus on access to same day care and improving joined up working around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We are also working together to plan future arrangements for the seven Mental Health Support Teams which currently support schools across the local area.

Our work to integrate services is underpinned by the Better Care Fund, which is pooled funding between health and social care overseen by Health and Wellbeing Boards. 2024/25 is the second year of a two-year agreed plan for the use of the Better Care Fund. The Locality Integration Boards, which report into Health and Wellbeing Boards, have worked to

develop refreshed plans in accordance with national guidance (which will have been brought to Health and Wellbeing Boards separately for sign-off) and to update the list of local projects to be delivered during the year. We await further guidance with respect to arrangements for the Better Care Fund in 2025/26 and beyond and are jointly considering further review of specific service lines in preparation for any future refresh.

Within Berkshire West, we have three multi-partner place-based programme boards which report into our Place Partnership but also link with wider BOB-level programmes, locality authority-level partnership boards and other relevant local groups. The Children and Young People's Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Children's Services for West Berkshire Council, last met on 8th August 2024 with the agenda focussing on Mental Health Support Teams (see earlier comment above) and next steps following a recent review of children's and young people's therapy services. The Mental Health and LD Programme Board, chaired by a local GP with a special interest in Mental Health, last met on 31st July 2024. As this is a newly re-formed board, its work programme is still evolving however matters discussed included the BOB-level three-year mental health inpatient transformation plan, voluntary sector commissioning arrangements, data flows and the use of population health management data to target care to people who may have multiple risk factors. Finally, the Urgent and Emergency Care Programme Board last met on 15th August 2024, receiving detailed updates on system performance and progress on key projects as we start to prepare for the winter period. This Board was chaired by the ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West until August 24 and the incoming chair for September onwards is currently being agreed by the Board.

Members are also asked to note that Sarah Webster, ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West Place, will be on maternity leave with effect from 23rd August 2024. Interim arrangements have been put in place for other senior ICB staff to lead key programmes of work and to attend Health and Wellbeing Boards and other meetings as required, with longer term arrangements from circa October 2024 onwards to be determined by the outcome of the 'Development of the ICB Operating Model' discussions referred to in Section 2 above.