

Health and Wellbeing Board Briefing Note

June 2025

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BOB ICB Board meetings

The most recent BOB ICB Board meeting took place on 13 May 2025. The papers can be found on the [BOB ICB website](#) where details of future meeting are also published.

BOB ICB Capital Resource Use Plan 25/26

The National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Care Act 2022 (the amended 2006 Act) sets out that an ICB and its partner NHS trusts and foundation trusts must before the start of each financial year, prepare a plan setting out their planned capital resource use.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System plan outlines NHS capital and estates activity across the system and is available on [BOB ICB's website](#).

Update on Key Priorities

Following the recent NHSE and ICB running cost reduction announcements, the ICB's Medical Directorate has reviewed and refreshed priorities for 2025/26, in line with the BOB ICS strategy and our current statutory functions.

These priorities will be subject to further change as part of the ICB's transition programme, but currently include functions to enable the 'left shift' of care, support population health approaches, increase the prevention of ill-health, improve health

service accessibility, support and enable digitalisation, optimise clinical effectiveness and embed continuous quality improvement in everyday patient care.

The ICB has identified two key strategic work priorities for 2025/26; to establish sustainable foundations for neighbourhood health and for effective clinical practice with focus on the following key areas to directly support these aims:

- The strategic commissioning of effective and sustainable Primary Care in a modern, neighbourhood health context (including locally accessible GP, pharmacy, optometry and dentistry services)
- Developing a more resilient infrastructure plan for sustainable community-based health and 'closer to home' care
- Optimising the use of medicines and ensuring the cost-effectiveness of prescribed treatments, including high-cost drugs and devices
- Growing and enabling clinical research, innovation and use of digital technology to improve everyday healthcare
- Targeting health inequalities and reducing unwarranted variations in care
- Preventing ill health and enabling more people to start, live and age well by co-producing more streamlined, integrated care pathways
- Keeping our staff well and supporting them through the coming period of change.

Urgent Dental Appointments

In January 2025 BOB ICB implemented the Government's urgent dental care provision pilot. This now been continued from 1 April as the Urgent and Non-Urgent Unscheduled Care Dental Access Appointments Scheme.

- Urgent unscheduled care: patients who may need clinical care within 24 hours or as soon as practically possible, unless the condition worsens; or
- Non-urgent unscheduled care: patients requiring dental care within 7 days, unless the conditions worsens.

The ICB has agreed with 36 dental practices across BOB to provide this service in 2025-26. [Details of the practices in the scheme](#) and of the days they are providing these sessions have been forwarded to NHS 111. In addition, the ICB will be promoting these sessions directly to residents across its geography to increase access.

Berkshire West Place-Based Partnership Update

Executive leads from across the partner organisations in Berkshire West continue to meet regularly to progress shared priorities and consider any implications of ICB changes. Following agreement of funding, the Community Wellness Outreach programme will continue into 2025/26 during which time a full evaluation will be undertaken to inform future commissioning decisions. The programme involves a

range of organisations from across Berkshire West, including voluntary sector partners, and aims to deliver enhanced NHS Health Checks in community settings to people who might not otherwise access these. Approximately 7,500 people have had enhanced health checks to date. Around 41% have been found to have high blood pressure, blood glucose or cholesterol levels and have been referred on to other services and/or offered lifestyle advice.

As part of our joint work on same day access, the Urgent Care Centre currently located at the Broad St Mall will be re-located to the Royal Berkshire Hospital from 1st July. By being closer to the RBH's Accident and Emergency department, the Urgent Care Centre will be able to treat those patients who need to be seen on the same day but who don't need the specialist support of the A&E team. The service will ensure patients are treated by the most appropriate healthcare professional, resulting in shorter waiting times and enabling A&E staff to treat patients who most need emergency and specialist care. Anyone who needs same day urgent care is always advised to phone 111 or use 111 online to be directed to the most appropriate service; this may include their GP practice or local pharmacy as well as the urgent care centre or A&E where appropriate. The Broad Street Health Centre GP practice will remain open for all registered patients

These developments form part of our local approach to neighbourhood health services as part of delivery of the strategic priority workstream described above.