

Health & Wellbeing Board
Buckinghamshire

Rob Bowen
Director of Strategy and Partnerships
BOB Integrated Care Board

Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
c/o Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway, Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire

23 June 2023

Dear Rob

Thank you attending the Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board on 22nd June 2026 to present the BOB ICB 5-Year Joint Forward Plan (JFP).

The Board is able to confirm that the JFP has clearly taken proper account of the Buckinghamshire Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy and is able to see clear alignment with its strategic objectives.

The Board acknowledged the engagement with the Board during the development of Joint Forward Plan and the collaboration with officers from across our partner organisations in formulating the JFP.

Yours sincerely



Neil Macdonald

Vice-Chair, Buckinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board

Start Well

Live Well

Age Well

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Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

29th June 2023

Appendix A – Proposed Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) Response to Joint Forward Plan (JFP)

Dear Mr Bowen

I am writing on behalf of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to provide our formal response to the Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board's Draft Joint Forward Plan. I note we are required to comment as to "whether the draft takes proper account of the Joint health and wellbeing strategy published by the health and wellbeing board that relates to any part of the period to which the JFP relates".

Firstly, we have welcomed your regular updates at our HWB in regard to the development of the JFP and also the formation of the overarching Integrated Care System Strategy. I know that in addition to these discussions, senior Officers from the Local Authorities and our other partners organisations have worked with yourself and NHS colleagues in the formation of these documents.

Our current JHWBS states the following priority areas which we see alignment to within some specific parts of the JFP.

- Agreeing a coordinated approach to prevention and "healthy place shaping"
- Improving the resident's journey through the health and social care system (as set out in the Care Quality Commission action plan)
- Agreeing an approach to working with the public so as to re-shape and transform services locality by locality
- Agreeing plans to tackle critical workforce shortages.

We should note that our current JHWB Strategy is in the process of being updated and therefore our key priorities will be updated. We are committed to the JHWB Strategy to be the primary strategy at Place that drives our collective effort to improve residents' health and wellbeing in Oxfordshire. This will have more of a focus on the wider determinants of health - that we know drive so much of the health status of local residents - than there is within the JFP. We know action at Place can only be done in partnership and look forward to working with NHS colleagues in developing and implementing this strategy.

Councillor Liz Leffman, Chair, Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

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Cllr Ruth McEwan
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

Robert Bowen
Acting Director of Strategy and Partnerships
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
Integrated Care Board

Mob: 07772 720499
Tel: 0118 937 2287 (Cllr Services)

Email: ruth.mcewan@reading.gov.uk

**Lead Councillor for Education
& Public Health
Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board**

My Ref:
Date: 28 June 2023

Dear Robert,

Reading Health and Wellbeing Board formal opinion about the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board and NHS partner Trust's Joint Forward Plan.

Thank you for providing the details about the new Joint Forward Plan and thanks also to you and colleagues for the work in bringing it to this level of development.

Following a discussion with John Ashton the Interim Director of Public Health for Reading I set out below the formal opinion on behalf of the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board about the Joint Forward Plan.

- The Board agrees that the Joint Forward Plan has taken proper account of the Berkshire West Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and is aligned appropriately with the Strategy.
- The Board endorses the principles of integration and collaboration; it embraces its partnership role within the integrated care system and the avoidance of a 'you and us' approach.
- The Board acknowledges that rather than being excessively Local Authority-focused 'Place' would be the appropriate level at which to focus on some of the health priorities. We note that the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Boards will need to collaborate to form a coherent overview and the Berkshire West Local Authorities and their system partners will need to re-orientate their thinking and delivery to the Place-Based level in order to make the system work.
- We are of the opinion that how the NHS as an anchor institution engages with the system to drive change around the wider determinants of health is underdeveloped. For example, the plan has little to say about housing and education. We look forward to future iterations of the plan that will address the role and responsibility of the NHS in the wider determinants of health.
- The Start Well section of the Joint Forward Plan in our view is more superficial than is ideal and not as detailed or clear as the Live Well section. Again, we look forward to

future iterations of the plan that set out how the NHS will work with its integrated system partners in the delivery of national and local ambitions around early years development.

- In our view the quality of the delivery plans is varied. Some include good examples of co-production, services for people and language and culture being reflected in the maternity area. However, there are some which were not as good, for example assuming that GP access is about phone answering.
- Over the next few years, it would be good to be able to build health strategies from the neighbourhoods upwards, for example by educating the public about when they did not need a GP consultation, building homes to enable people with dementia to stay at home as long as possible, etc.
- We think that the publication of an Easy Read version of the plan should be produced, starting with the summary, with versions in other languages. It also needs a glossary to improve transparency and to help communicate with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector and community stakeholders about how the plan will be delivered and where accountability for the delivery plans will fall.
- We understand that the Joint Forward Plan will be reviewed and refreshed each year, and as the Place Based Partnerships develop, we expect that there will be opportunities to refine how it addresses local needs.

Yours sincerely

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Cllr Ruth McEwan
Lead Councillor for Education & Public Health
Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board

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Mr Rob Bowen
BOB ICB
Sandford Gate
East Point Business Park
Littlemore
Oxford OX4 6LB

Strategy and Governance

Council Offices
Market Street Newbury
Berkshire RG14 5LD

Our Ref: HWB-2023-001

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Gordon Oliver

Direct Line: (01635) 519486 | Ext 2486

e-mail: Gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk

Dear Rob

West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board response to the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Joint Forward Plan

Please find below the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board's formal response to the BOB Joint Forward Plan, as agreed at today's meeting (28 June 2023).

'West Berkshire's Health and Wellbeing Board (the Board) has met to review the Joint Forward Plan (the Plan) and has agreed this formal response. It is anticipated that partner agencies may have already submitted a response on their own behalf.

The Board is pleased to note the progress which has been made in setting out this new plan and acknowledges the significant efforts which the ICB has made to encourage contributions from a range of partner agencies.

The Board also wishes to acknowledge the particular challenge of the BOB ICB in meeting the requirements of the Berkshire West place, given that it includes three distinct Local Authority areas, each with their own requirements and priorities.

The Board sees the Joint Forward Plan as an early phase within a long process to deliver genuine and meaningful integration in order to best serve the interests of the local population. In the light of that position, the Board is supportive of the Joint Forward Plan and seeks ongoing commitment to further build on the contribution of partner agencies to achieve genuine integration. Overall, it is considered that in developing the Joint Forward Plan, the BOB ICB has taken account of the priorities set out in the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated Delivery Plan as set out below:

- *Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people*

- *Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives*
- *Help families and children in early years*
- *Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people*
- *Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.*

The Board wishes to assert its commitment to the principle of subsidiarity, under which decisions will be made at the level of Place and/or Locality as the default position and issues should be escalated to System level only where that adds clear value. The Board also wishes to assert that each local Health and Wellbeing Board remains the key forum in which the needs of the local population can be addressed through an integrated approach. However, there will be some actions that can best be taken at Place and it is recognised that some services are provided on that footprint, particularly by NHS Trusts. It will be essential to ensure that governance structures are fit for purpose and have appropriate levels of accountability and transparency of decision making.

The Board considers that the needs of the community can best be met by utilising data and intelligence at the level of Locality, Neighbourhood and Ward to help inform our system response.

The Board wishes to assert its commitment to taking a proactive and preventative approach to the health needs of the population as far as possible, while of course recognising that acute needs must still be met.

The Board recognises the challenging financial position of the ICB but notes equally the equivalent challenges facing Local Authorities and other partner agencies. The Board believes that, by properly investing in prevention, future financial challenges can be better managed.

The Board considers that further development of the strategy is needed around the area of communications, engagement and behaviour change, which are seen as critical components of the prevention agenda. Moving the dial on prevention will require a completely different approach. It should not simply involve more communications, instead activity will need to be better coordinated, with closer working between partners, and particularly between health and public health services, and communications should be informed by principles of psychology, as well as business intelligence.

The Board welcomes the consideration given within the Plan to the need to address Health Inequalities and the even-handed approach taken in the Plan to Health needs across the life course. The Board considers that more could be done in the future regarding end of life care.

The Board notes the approach to managing workforce challenges. The system cannot function without a strong, capable and resilient workforce, and investment in securing a sufficient workforce in the coming years is a fundamental enabler.'

If you have any questions in relation to the above response, then please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

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Cllr Alan Macro

On behalf of the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board

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Date: 15 June 2023



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Democratic Services
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WH

Dear NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

BOB JOINT FORWARD PLAN

Wokingham Wellbeing Board understands that the Joint Forward Plan (JFP) outlines how the Integrated Care Board (ICB), working with partners across health and care, will deliver health and care services to people living within Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West, including Wokingham, over the next five years.

The Wellbeing Board welcomes recognition of our local Wokingham Strategy into Action and Berkshire West Joint Wellbeing Board Priorities within the JFP. Areas of joint recognition include a focus on prevention and inequalities specifically people with learning disabilities, children with special educational needs and unpaid carers as well as socially isolated and excluded groups. We further recognise the shared priorities of supporting children to achieve the best start in life, children and young people's mental health, long term conditions (cardiovascular disease), cancer and adult mental health.

In discussion of the JFP, the Board would like to note the different use of the word 'joint'. Within the Wokingham Wellbeing Board 'joint' is used to represent the partnership working and governance at the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board and the strategic direction set by the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This refers to a joint partnership board between Local Authority, ICB, health providers, the voluntary and charity sector and Healthwatch. The 'joint' in the Joint Forward Plan refers to a plan between the ICB and health providers. This implies a level of joint participation across partnership organisations in the preparation of this plan which is not the case. We understand that the JFP is reviewed and revised annually, and we therefore welcome the opportunity to take a more 'joint' approach going forward, building on the improving partnership working here in Wokingham and across Berkshire West.

A large proportion of the work of this Board is focused on the wider determinants of health and these are also referenced within the Integrated Care System strategy. These broader determinants of health are not included as an area for action by the NHS within the JFP. This is disappointing given that, as well as the reach to patients and their families, they are large employers of residents within our area and therefore influence the determinants of health and wellbeing beyond the traditional health services.

This Board provides oversight of the work to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Wokingham. Our priorities are informed by the data and local intelligence that indicates our areas of highest need. The JFP outlines the use of Population Health Management to

transform the NHS approach to inequalities. The Board would like to assert that data alone (as outlined in the JFP) cannot determine the need associated with inequalities. Local understanding and intelligence of populations and communities, deemed through partnership working with local government and local voluntary sector, must complement a data led approach to ensure that communities are not lost or missed out of this transformation.

Finally, this Board would like to make a request. The complementarity between our priorities and that within the JFP means that outcomes monitored within the Plan will be directly relevant to the work of our Board. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to enable the outcomes achieved within the JFP to be directly reported to the Wokingham Wellbeing Board to enable a full oversight of all work related to Health and Wellbeing across this partnership Board.

Yours sincerely

Councillor David Hare
Chair of the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board