



Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

Integrated Care System

Central Brief: January 2019

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News



NHS Long Term Plan

The NHS Long Term Plan was published on the 7th January and can be viewed [here](#) in full.

The plan endorsed the Integrated Care System (ICS) way of working and said that it wants all parts of an England to have an ICS by 2021. The focus now is not on how well individual organisations do, but how they contribute to an effective health and care system. It's great that in BLMK we already have the ICS in place, having been chosen as one of the first ten ICSs.

Many of the core elements of the long term plan, such as the creation of primary care networks (bringing together GP practices with community, mental health and social care staff) and the expansion of social prescribing are key programmes that we have been focusing on in BLMK in 2018/19. We are currently carrying out a gap analysis to identify where current initiatives will enable us to meet the long term plan commitments, where we will need to increase or accelerate work and where new programmes are needed.

Long Term Plans for our System

BLMK is now developing its own longer term plans which will be submitted in Autumn 2019. The CEOs of the partner organisations have agreed that the best way to do this is to create long term plans at place (i.e. for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes), recognising the different needs of our constituent Local Authority areas. These can then be aggregated into a BLMK plan, identifying where there are opportunities for doing things once to make best use of resources.

Director of Resourcing

Lesley Macleod has joined the Integrated Care System as Director of Resources, taking over from Sophia Aldridge who is on a career break. Lesley has extensive finance and ICS experience, having recently worked in the Greater Manchester and Suffolk systems. She also knows the area well having previously been Chief Finance Officer at Milton Keynes CCG.



GP Practices Free Up 3,000 Extra Patient Appointments Through Primary Care Network

GP practices in Luton have worked together to provide more than 3,000 extra appointments a year including halving the number of appointments lost due to patient non-attendance.

As well as freeing up appointments, the Primary Care Network (PCNs) model has led to friends and family satisfaction with services being positive nine times out of ten, while complaints have fallen by 12 per cent and £50,000 has been saved.

A new [video](#) from NHS England shows Luton patients benefitting from the PCN as part of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System.

In Luton's PCN, groups of GP practices pool their skills and resources to provide patients with access to more health professionals including GPs, pharmacists, paramedics, physicians associates and specialist doctors.

They can treat patients for a wide range of illnesses, ensuring they see the right person from the start and freeing up the GPs to spend more time with patients who have complex needs.

Transforming cancer services

In 2018, BLMK helped to deliver new tools to GP practices to aid early diagnosis of bowel cancer, improve communications between hospitals and GP practices, improve the treatment of prostate cancer and improve packages of care and support for patient's living with and beyond cancer. Furthermore, BLMK is working with cancer alliance colleagues to develop a one-stop shop for cancer diagnosis and care in BLMK - an initiative that has already been working well for urological cancer care in Luton since 2015.

Catching it early

Early diagnosis is a key to improving survival rates from many of the more common cancers. In BLMK, the funding is allowing partner organisations to work together to introduce FiT testing in primary care as well as developing innovative one-stop shop diagnostics for urological cancers.



FiT stands for Faecal Immunochemical Test. It is a type of faecal occult blood test which uses antibodies that specifically recognise human haemoglobin (Hb) and is used as a diagnostic test for suspected lower gastro intestinal (GI) cancers, with a view to identifying more patients at risk of colorectal cancer with otherwise low-risk symptoms.

It is hoped that by enabling GPs access to FiT it will help patients visiting their GP with symptoms to find out much quicker if cancer can be ruled out before they go onto a cancer pathway.

To support the roll out of FiT testing and ensure GPs across BLMK understood the test, how to advise patients and why this new test is important a short video was produced. This can be viewed [here](#). In addition, a new leaflet was also produced to help patients understand the test and what they need to do.

Funding agreed for key new facilities

In December, BLMK learnt that two proposed schemes submitted for Wave 4 funding from NHSE had been approved – a new stroke unit based at Bedford Hospital and a pathway unit at Milton Keynes University Hospital.

The centralised stroke unit will help stroke survivors to achieve a good quality of life and maximise independence, well-being and choices. This new model of care will enable people to reach and maintain their optimal physical, sensory, intellectual, psychological and social functional levels. Rehabilitation provides disabled people with the tools they need to attain independence and self-determination. The model is built on the premise that rehabilitation should begin as soon as possible after a person has a stroke, and continue for as long as is clinically appropriate, to ensure the best possible recovery.

The new £9.9m Pathway Unit will incorporate an ambulatory assessment unit and a frailty unit designed to reduce admissions to the hospital, provide better integrated care supported by clinicians from primary care and the community. This will both manage the direct referrals from primary care into a frailty assessment service as well as improving the flow of complex patients presenting to A&E who may not need to be admitted. Overall it should better meet the needs of the ageing population in Milton Keynes. The unit will be located next to the Trust's A&E, but is expected to form part of a network of primary care hubs across Milton Keynes.



Opportunity



Secondment opportunity at Central Bedfordshire Council

An exciting secondment opportunity has arisen for a Project Manager. Salary (£36,363 – £41,007 per annum pro rata)

This position lasting to November 2019 will form part of the Service Development Team responsible for delivering services to the Social Care Health & Housing Directorate in relation to project management, business analysis and change and communication management.

Supporting the Head of Service for Integration, the post holder will be responsible for delivering a diverse range of projects in support of the Integration and wider transformation agenda across the Social Care Health & Housing Directorate and with key NHS partners. For more information see the job description [here](#).

If you are interested please contact: [Tolly Arbury](#) or [Patricia Coker](#)



Next Generation GP

We are proud to announce the details of our very own **Next Generation GP**, starting on the 5 March 2019 for GPs working across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

This nationally expanding and fully-funded programme seeks to inspire emerging future leaders in General Practice, and this year is no exception, with a fantastic line up of workshops and interviews by foremost leaders in healthcare as shown below. The programme will consist of 5 evening events, held at Rufus Centre, Flitwick and a meal will be provided. See full details within the flyer attached, application information and follow the links within to apply or read more about our chosen speakers.

Next Generation GP aims to:

- **ENERGISE:** through access to the stories, perspectives and expertise of inspiring leaders at the forefront of primary care.
- **ENGAGE:** through a supportive network of like-minded Trainees and early-career GPs
- **EMPOWER:** through a series of workshops to increase your ability for shaping care within and beyond your organisation.

Please note applications need to be submitted by Friday 22 February, so please act quickly and do spread the word with GP colleagues who may want to take part in this fantastic opportunity.

The application form can be found here - Bit.ly/NGGPFflitwickapply

Applications are open from Wednesday 30th January and close at 5pm on Friday 22nd February. If you have any questions, please email:

nextgenerationgp@gmail.com

Engagement



Staff engagement events

Last year, a new website was created for all staff across BLMK. Throughout the year opportunities to learn and upgrade your skills are available. To find out more visit the dedicated [website](#).



Changing the relationship between public servant and person; between citizen and state

When: 19 February, 9am to 4.30pm

Where: Milton Keynes Academic Centre - Milton Keynes Hospital, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Come and hear about these original and innovative perspectives and consider what this means for revolutionising relationships between public services and residents within our 4 places:

Donna Hall: Chief Executive of Wigan Council will come and share the experiences of the Wigan Deal; a community-based demand-management social experiment. It's not a project or pilot. It applies just as much to the chief executive of Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust as it does to the leader of the council, the chief police officer and the GP chair of our CCG, and all our staff working across the borough. As a result Wigan people are among the happiest in the UK. Council tax has been kept low for the last five years, while outcomes for people have improved. Looked-after children numbers are reducing year on year. Adult social care made a surplus last year – one of the few not to be in an overspending crisis. Wigan have one of the lowest levels of delayed transfers of care and the only “Outstanding” CQC reablement service. And both the hospital and council are rated by staff as the best organisations to work for in their sectors. Donna retires at the end of February so this is the last opportunity to learn from her experiences. You can get a taster of Wigan's experience [here](#).

Ben Collins: Projects Director, Policy, Kings Fund. Sharing learning and evaluation from Montefiore Health System; a 'safety net' health system in the heart of the Bronx, which has found ways of helping even the most deprived, while contributing to the recovery of a struggling community. It has done so, in large part, by stepping beyond the bounds of conventional health services.

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