

19 June 2019

Briefing

Vision and proposals to further join up health and care approved

The application submitted by Chief Executives to become a Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System (ICS) has been approved by NHS England/NHS Improvement.

The BOB ICS will bring together health and care organisations to work more closely to respond to the needs of local communities and the 1.8 million people within the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West area.

The BOB collective ambition is to deliver a person-centred vision for health and care services, making sure services are delivered and planned for as locally as possible. Health and care organisations will work collectively, “at scale”, across and beyond the BOB area when it will bring better health outcomes for people and ensure effort is not duplicated or resources wasted.

All three health and care systems (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West) will continue their focus on delivering high quality, integrated care through local partnerships. The 45 Primary Care Networks set up across BOB will continue to form the core building blocks of more localised health and care in neighbourhoods and communities, bringing together primary and community services, such as GPs, pharmacists and mental health.

The progress made by Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West as early pioneers of integrated care has shown the difference that can be made to care and the health of local communities when NHS providers, commissioners, local authorities and other sector partners work more effectively together. Leaders across the organisations in Oxfordshire are also establishing their integrated care delivery in this way and are moving forward quickly.

The approval of the BOB ICS application marks a significant milestone for partnership working and collective leadership across the area, building on the strengths of each health and care system and close working with Local Government. All NHS Chief Executives within BOB and the three Chief Executives representing local government within BOB (West Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) signed the BOB ICS application.

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