



Cllr Jane Hanna OBE
Chair, Oxfordshire Joint Health
Scrutiny Committee

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7 July 2022

Dear Jane

Re: BOB ICBs Strategy for Working with People and Communities

Thank you for your letter of 18 May and I apologise it has taken so long to reply. As you stated in your letter, we are going through a very busy time of change with the requirement to close down three CCGs whilst simultaneously establishing the Integrated Care Board (ICB), the new NHS Body.

We have an opportunity to discuss this in more detail at the Oxfordshire JHOSC meeting on 14 July. Ahead of that meeting, I would like to provide some context and respond to your key points.

The guidance we received from NHS England required the Integrated Care Board (the NHS statutory Body) to develop a “Working with People and Communities Strategy” (Engagement strategy) prior to the new body being established.

Before writing the initial draft, we held a workshop with representatives from the five Healthwatch’s, the VCSE Alliance and NHS Trusts’ lead governors to get input from them on principles and approach. Alongside this, we have had ongoing engagement with our local authority partners about the overall approach and development of the ICB as part of the wider Integrated Care System (ICS). Once we had a draft, we informed our partners about the development of our initial plans and sought their feedback. These partners will be statutory members of the Integrated Care Partnership, whose task will be to draft the overall strategy for the ICS.

The strategy was deliberately ‘high level’ and designed to meet the requirements set by NHS England. Feedback from this initial engagement has shaped our principles for our future work, which will involve listening, understanding, engaging, informing, enabling and co-production, and embracing all elements of diversity, equality and inclusion. The first

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meeting of the ICB Board on 1 July received and noted the draft strategy that we submitted to NHSE England.

Given the range of feedback we received and our partners willingness to work with us, we wish to have further discussions prior to finalising our strategy. We wish to work closely with our local authority partners, including Scrutiny Committees, to draw on your knowledge of the local populations and your experience of how best to tailor methods of engagement and participation. This engagement will help us to provide improved and integrated health and care services across the ICS area. As I indicated above, we can use the meeting on the 14 July to start this.

In terms of some of the specific points you and the Committee raised:

- 1. Website, information availability and url:** The website for the ICB is now www.bucksoxonberksw.icb.nhs.uk and we have worked hard to develop the structure and content to ensure information is available. The site is still in development so we welcome any further comments and suggestions. We had limited influence on the url for the engagement microsite (it had to include "engagementhq.com") but it is linked from the ICB site (as it was through the previous bobstp.org.uk). As we develop our approach to engagement, our use of digital tools will evolve.
- 2. Metrics:** We agree we need to develop quantitative and qualitative metrics to measure success. We need to think about what we use to develop the strategy and consider how we continue to use metrics to inform individual areas of focus. We see this as part of the next phase of the development work that we will be discussing with you and other partners.
- 3. Resources and capacity to work in this way:** We recognise your point that working in this way requires commitment and resources. The ICB is currently considering how to resource each function. The development of the ICP as a partnership between the ICB with local authority, NHS and other partners will enable us to make best use of our combined experience and resource.

I look forward to discussing this further with the Committee on 14 July.

Best wishes

Catherine Mountford

Catherine Mountford
Director of Governance