



# BOB

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire  
and Berkshire West  
Integrated Care System

## NEWS BULLETIN

Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### ICS Executive Lead and Joint CCG Accountable Officer Appointed

Dr James Kent has been appointed to the combined role of BOB ICS Executive Lead and Accountable Officer for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

James has over 25 years of healthcare experience as a doctor, management consultant and government adviser. Most recently he has been working with the NHS X leadership team on their priority areas for the recovery COVID-19 phase.

He will start work formally on 18<sup>th</sup> May, although will be meeting colleagues as part of his induction during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Fiona Wise will step down from her ICS and CCG roles on 17<sup>th</sup> May. She will continue to work within the BOB ICS patch until the end of May. Her focus will be on supporting James as he takes on his ICS and CCG responsibilities, and continuing the joint health and care effort to combat COVID 19.

Dr Cathy Winfield will step down from her role as Berkshire West CCG Accountable Officer on 17 May. Sam Burrows will be returning to the role of Deputy Accountable Officer for Berkshire West CCG on 18<sup>th</sup> May - Cathy will provide transition support to both Sam and James through to the end of May. In addition, Cathy will help the new lead for BOB Primary Care, once identified, through to the 12<sup>th</sup> June, after which she will take up a role with the National NHSE/I Primary Care Team working on primary care strategy.

Dr Abid Irfan, Clinical Chair of Berkshire West CCG thanked Cathy for all her work on the Berkshire West patch since 2007; "I would like to thank Cathy for her dynamic leadership in Berkshire West since 2007 and as Chief Officer for the CCGs since 2013. Highly respected and with over 40 years NHS experience she has been committed to partnership working and innovative transformation of healthcare. She is always ahead of the national curve and successfully led Berkshire West to become one of the first Integrated Care Systems in the country. We wish her well for all her future ventures"

David Clayton-Smith, BOB ICS Independent Chair, welcomed Dr Kent's appointment; "I am delighted to be able to welcome James to this new joint ICS/CCG role - he brings with him a wealth of clinical and managerial experience. I look forward to working with him as we continue our joint health and care effort to combat COVID-19 and develop plans to help our local communities as we address the impact of this unprecedented situation. Our recent and continued experience will undoubtedly help us as we look to restore and reset the system and continue our progress towards a fully integrated care system.

“My thanks to Fiona Wise for all she has achieved with her senior leadership colleagues. Together they have developed a strong collective approach while ensuring a continued focus on our counties, towns and neighbourhoods.”

Dr Kent added; “I’m excited to be joining the BOB system in this newly created role. While the management and recovery from Covid-19 will inevitably shape the immediate priorities, I am looking forward to working with partners in the NHS, local authorities and others, as well as engaging with patients and communities, to join up care and improve the outcomes and experience of healthcare for the people of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West.”

Dr Kent will head up a single management team working across the three CCGs. The move to a single team was agreed by the three CCG Governing Bodies in January this year, following an engagement exercise ran at the end of 2019 to gather views on the future of NHS commissioning arrangements.

Proposals for the structure of the single management team and associated HR consultation process were put in pause last month, so that all staff could focus their efforts of the COVID-19 response and other priority programmes of work.

This decision will be considered in May by Dr Kent, together with the BOB ICS Independent Chair David Clayton-Smith, the CCG Clinical Chairs and Vice Lay Chairs.

As you are aware, the engagement exercise that was run towards the end of 2019 also asked for feedback on proposals for a single CCG across Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. In line with recent national guidance, this work has been put on hold to help release capacity to support the response to COVID-19.

Therefore a merger by April 2021 is not being considered. Until any decision is made each CCG will continue as a statutory organisation. This does not affect the plans described above for a single management team.