

Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Tuesday, 5th July 2022

Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board update

The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) came into being at one minute past midnight on Friday 1 July, following a successful transition from the region's former clinical commissioning group.

The new collaborative health and care organisation will have responsibility for providing £1.5 billion of services to the people of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

The new Integrated Care Board replaces Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group which has now been dissolved.

Officials from the new organisation met during a virtual day one meeting in public on Friday 1st July. The next meeting of the ICB will take place on Tuesday 30 August.

As a sovereign statutory body, the ICB will work collaboratively to improve outcomes in population health, provide better joined-up care, reduce health inequalities and enhance productivity and value for money, while also helping the NHS support broader social and economic development.

The board itself will sit within the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System, known as BSW Together.

This is a wider network of local health and care organisations that will plan and organise how health and care services can be delivered across the region, while also committing to give local people and communities a louder voice in how services are provided locally.

B&NES Director of Place appointed to BSW ICB

Laura Ambler has been appointed as Director of Place for the B&NES locality in the new Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board.

Laura joins from the West of England Combined Authority and previously the Local Enterprise Partnership – where she was leading on place-making functions that have a direct impact on wider health determinants including integrated planning and housing, place-making and green infrastructure programmes

She is a collaborative senior leader who brings with her extensive experience from over 20 years of successful partnership working with local councils, their external delivery partners, government agencies and businesses.

Laura's key strength is her ability to bring stakeholders together to effect change locally. She is passionate about the intrinsic role of place in achieving better life outcomes and wellbeing, and actively promotes this at every opportunity.

Laura has been a mentor with the Royal Town Planning Institute, a Board Member of the Local Nature Partnership and Vice Chair of the Sustainable Growth Board for Association of Directors of Environment, Planning and Transport.

New health and wellbeing centre for Radstock and the surrounding area

A new state-of-the-art health and wellbeing centre is set to open in Radstock on Monday 18 July, providing local people with access to expanded GP services, a children's centre and health and wellbeing support.

The Hope House Centre will provide a new home for the town's Hope House GP surgery and children's centre as well as offering a range of other services such as minor operations, chronic disease management and family planning.

It will also offer physiotherapy, a diabetes prevention programme and counselling services which local people would otherwise need to travel to further afield to access.

The Hope House Centre incorporates a Community Health and Wellbeing space supported by the Radstock and Westfield Big Local Partnership, with a Big Local grant administered on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund. This space will allow for local voluntary organisations such as Bath Mind and Southside family project to provide additional mental health support, as well as space for child and parent groups, exercise programmes, family support, general health improvement programmes and a meeting area for the local community.

Covid update

Latest figures for our Covid vaccination programme show that in BSW 2,289, 067 vaccines have been delivered. In B&NES 174,380 people have received first doses and 166,882 received second doses.

Figures show that there were 2169 cases of Covid-19 reported in the 7 days to 25th of June, with 448 of these cases being reported in B&NES.

While the number is much lower than at previous points during the pandemic, a small proportion have still needed medical intervention, with the region's three large

hospitals – the Royal United Hospital in Bath, the Great Western Hospital in Swindon and Salisbury District Hospital – caring for a combined total of 91 Covid-19 patients.

However, local vaccination rates remain strong, with approximately 85,000 people having already had a booster vaccine, which is equivalent to around 82 per cent of all who are eligible.

BSW ICB has been running a public awareness campaign targeting those who are eligible for a spring booster vaccine, but have yet to come forward, to do so.

Having the top-up dose before the end of June will provide protection for these people during the summer month and also ensure the individual will be able to receive the autumn booster jab as soon as the vaccines become available.

Currently, people aged 75 and over, as well as care home residents and those aged 12 and above with a weakened immune system, are eligible for the spring booster vaccine.

Getting the top-up dose, which for most people will be their fourth Covid-19 vaccine, is the best way to prolong the immune-boosting effects of previous vaccinations, which should keep serious cases of coronavirus at bay.

RUH oversees recruitment drive

Diversity in healthcare has been celebrated with the milestone of 300 nurses relocating from overseas to work at the Royal United Hospitals (RUH) Bath NHS Foundation Trust, as part of the hospital's recruitment strategy.

The RUH launched an international recruitment campaign in 2018 and has since welcomed nurses from countries all across the world including the Philippines, India and Tibet.

Filling nursing vacancies is a challenge shared across the whole NHS, and international recruitment is just one important part of the RUH's overall recruitment strategy.

Other initiatives include apprenticeships, supported re-entry routes for qualified nurses and midwives who have left the profession but wish to return, and supervision and mentorship for students taking a traditional degree-led training pathway.