

Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Tuesday, 8th November 2022

Delegation of accountability for commissioning of pharmaceutical services, general ophthalmic services and dental services to BSW ICB from April 2023

As part of its role to plan, buy and monitor local healthcare services on behalf of everyone registered with a GP in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW), BSW Integrated Care Board (ICB) has the delegated responsibility for commissioning primary medical services and GP contracts.

Following the granting of Royal Assent to the Health and Care Act in April of this year and the formation of Integrated Care Boards, responsibility for commissioning pharmaceutical services, general ophthalmic services, and dental services will be delegated to the BSW ICB from April 2023.

For BSW this covers: 147 community pharmacies, 83 ophthalmic services contracts and 126 dental services contracts.

To support the transition of commissioning services for these groups and to provide stability, a new Commissioning Hub called the Southwest Collaborative Commissioning Hub is being formed which will provide the daily operational commissioning support for Prescription Ordering Direct services from April 23 for two years. The Commissioning Hub will be staffed by the existing NHSE commissioners for these services.

BSW ICB with NHS England and Improvement has carried out a pre-delegation assessment to determine readiness to assume responsibility for these services and to set out the minimum criteria BSW ICB will be expected to meet prior to delegation. This has now been signed off by the NHS England National Moderation Panel, and this will now make the appropriate recommendations to the NHSE National Board for final approval on 1 December 2022.

BSW ICB has formed a Delegated Steering Group to provide oversight and assurance in completing the nationally set Safe Delegation Checklist which will be about our approach to assuming responsibility for these services from April 2023 and to assure NHS England of its capability and competency to fulfil its responsibilities safely.

The Steering Group's membership includes representatives from across the ICB including primary care, finance, quality, digital, medicines optimisation, estates, contracting as well as NHSE and Local Medical Committees.

The benefits for local people of BSW ICB taking on responsibility for commissioning these additional services include improved care quality, reduced health inequalities, improved health prevention, improved use of resources and clinical leadership in place to lead and collaboratively work to identify and oversee clinical improvements in services.

Temporary ward at St Martins Hospital for recovering patients to provide extra winter capacity

A temporary ward has opened at St Martin's Hospital in Bath to support people who are well enough to leave hospital but not ready to go home.

The ward has opened to help relieve pressure on local acute hospitals and free up beds for the most ill patients.

The community ward, which also opened to help provide extra capacity to the local health and care system during the winter of 2021-22, has twenty three beds and offers a peaceful and relaxed environment in which patients can take time to recover before being discharged to home or to a care home.

The beds are only offered to patients who no longer require urgent care, but who need a few extra days of therapeutic or nursing support or who are waiting to receive a care package or reablement assistance before they can return home.

The initiatives have been put in place by the Royal United Hospital, HCRG Care Group, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board and other partners including the third sector to tackle high demand for hospital beds now and to help add extra capacity during the coming winter which is expected to be extremely busy.

Integrated Care Partnership update

The newly-formed Integrated Care partnership for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire met in public for the first time at the end of October.

The meeting followed the recent appointment of Richard Clewer, the leader of Wiltshire Council, as its Chair.

The BSW ICP is a statutory committee formed by the Bath and North East Somerset Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB), which became a legal entity on 1 July, and local authorities in the BSW area.

The BSW ICP brings together the NHS, local government, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and other partners to focus on prevention, wider social and economic factors affecting people's health and reducing health inequalities.

It will develop an Integrated Care Strategy for local health and care services and advocate for innovation, new approaches and improvement to the way services are provided and run.

It will also make sure that local people have a key role in the design of the services they need now and in the future.

Bid submitted to Barnardo's Health Equity Collaboration

BSW ICS has submitted a bid for the Barnardo's Health Equity Collaboration to design a Children and Young People's Health Equity Framework, with support from children and young people, and VCSE partners in the ICS region.

This will gather the right information to focus resource on the development of emotionally, mentally and physically healthy children.

The tool will provide a practical solution to addressing wider determinants of health, which lay the foundations of good health.

Barnardo's and the Institute of Health Equity will lend their expertise in developing supporting interventions to take evidence-based action on equity indicators over a three year programme.

Paulton Hospital receives donation to fund new X-ray facility

Paulton Hospital League of Friends group recently donated £115,000 to fund a new X-ray facility at Paulton Hospital.

The new facility has also received funding from the NHS who are covering the cost of building work to accommodate the new machine.

The new facility is due to open in Spring 2023 and will be available for use by both patients at Paulton MIU and those referred to the service by GPs and from the wider community.

Winter planning and virtual wards

As our System continues to experience unrelenting demand challenges and operational pressures, we are continuing to work with our partners to deliver existing demand management and capacity improvement plans.

We are monitoring the impact of these plans at both a System and Place level and will take the learning into the development of our plans for the coming winter.

One important aspect of our future plans is the delivery of a Virtual Ward model.

A virtual ward is a safe and efficient alternative to going into hospital for people who are unwell. By being in their own home, people are enabled to recover and rehabilitate in familiar surroundings, which can be a benefit to people who become less orientated or less mobile in a hospital environment.

People are regularly reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team to ensure they receive the highest levels of care. Where appropriate, personalised digital technology such as healthcare apps, wearable symptom tracking devices and telephone or video consultations may also be used by the team to remotely manage monitor the person's condition until they are well.

The virtual ward service in BSW will deliver a range of interventions, tailored to meet the needs of the individual, to help prevent hospital admissions and to accelerate discharge from hospital.

This is a developing model with pilot programmes currently underway across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire.

In BANES this will build on the successful Hospital at Home model which is already in place and currently focuses on those already in hospital, enabling them to be treated at home.

Vaccination update – Covid and Flu

More than 2.5 million Covid-19 vaccinations have now been given out to people living across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Local vaccination teams hit the milestone achievement at the end of last month after thousands of people aged 50 and over received their autumn booster.

However, many people currently eligible for their latest top-up dose are still yet to come forward.

Locally, only around half (44 per cent) of all those eligible for the Covid-19 autumn booster have so far taken up the vaccination offer.

Vaccines for Covid-19 continue to be available from a range of local venues, including Bath Racecourse, the Steam Museum in Swindon and Salisbury City Hall, and can be booked quickly and easily online at www.nhs.uk or over the phone by calling 119.

In terms of Flu vaccines, uptake has also been low, particularly among people with learning disabilities, at risk groups and those aged 50-64. This situation is being addressed over the coming weeks through communications activity.

Flu vaccinations are available at GP practices as well as independent high street locations, such as a chemist or large supermarket.

Keep up to date

Those wanting to keep up to date with developments with the BSW Integrated Care System can sign up to receive The Triangle - a monthly newsletter about the work of BSW Together. The public facing publication contains a mix of news and updates showing how the BSW ICS is working to improve the health and wellbeing of local people, tackle health and care inequalities and improve services for everyone.

A sign-up form is available here <https://bswtogether.org.uk/news-events/the-triangle/>