

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

19 MARCH 2021

QUESTION No. 1 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

Tom Lake to ask the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board:

Place-Based Planning

The recent NHS White Paper envisages statutory reshaping of Integrated Care Systems such as BOB, including absorbing CCG functions.

Section 5.11 states:

"The ICS will also have to work closely with local Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) as they have the experience as 'place-based' planners, and the ICS NHS Body will be required to have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies that are being produced at HWB level (and vice-versa). ICSs will also want to think about how they can align their allocation functions with place, for example through joint committees, though we are leaving this to local determination. NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts (FTs) will remain separate statutory bodies with their functions and duties broadly as they are in the current legislation."

At present the detailed knowledge, resource and skill to be a "place-based planner" for health resides with Berkshire West CCG rather than with the Reading HWB. If the Reading HWB or the grouping of Berkshire West HWBs are to take on the role of 'place-based planners' of health a completely new level of working with NHS capacity, usage and finance data will be needed as well as close cooperation with the main NHS providers for Reading.

How do you foresee the Borough Council taking on these new functions and resources?

Will there be a place within the new Health and Wellbeing Board for local GPs, who have driven much innovation in the lifetime of the CCGs, not least in their own primary care arena?

REPLY by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor Hoskin):

Thank you for your question Mr Lake. First of all, we do need to remember that we are still talking about a white paper, a report that lays out the government's proposals for future legislation. Whilst there maybe thing we like or don't like in the White Paper we will have to await the government's 1st draft of legislation and further guidance to get a better understanding of more specifically what the future reorganisation of the NHS will look like.

The Health and Care White Paper sets out proposals for future partnership working between the NHS and local government through Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). The stated intention is that local authorities will be involved in both ICS NHS Bodies and ICS Health and Care Partnerships, to support health and social care integration and encompass preventative approaches.

The ICS NHS Body will take over the functions and funding of CCGs, and will be able to delegate funding to place level. The ICS Health and Care Partnership will have responsibility for developing a plan to address the system's health, public health and social care needs.

Further national guidance is expected on how the new ICSs will operate, including how to align partners' practices and cultures. However, there is local experience of collaboration and planning which we will be able to draw on in Reading. For example, the production of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently a shared responsibility of the CCG and the local authority through the Health and Wellbeing Board. Through these functions, and also from our experience of collaborating on Better Care Fund plans, Reading Borough Council has established a strong foundation for collaborating with the NHS to share data and expertise.

Reading is currently working with our Berkshire West neighbours on the production of a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This aims to recognise cross-border travel and use of services within the Berkshire West area whilst also reflecting the particular issues relevant to each of the three boroughs.

In addition to the feedback gathered through the recent public engagement exercise to shape the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, there is additional feedback we can draw on regarding local views on place-based planning for health. The CCGs within the BOB ICS established an Architecture Oversight Group, which oversaw an engagement exercise with a broad range of stakeholders towards the end of 2019. Through this exercise, people were invited to comment on how different structures would support delivery on commitments in the NHS Long Term Plan, provide appropriate oversight and accountability, and take advantages of opportunities to share expertise and resources between organisations. These will remain important considerations in designing the new ICSs for this area.

Our own Health and Wellbeing Board does, of course, include strong GP representation in the form of our Vice Chair. The question also refers to new joint committees, which are referenced in the White paper, and suggested members of these committees include primary care networks and GP practices, as well as community health providers, local authorities and voluntary sector representatives. Again, further detail is awaited at a national level on how these will operate.