

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

17 MARCH 2023

QUESTION No. 2 in accordance with Standing Order No 36

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

Primary Care Commissioning

Under the Berkshire West CCG we had regular meetings in public of the Primary Care Commissioning Committee. Investments in primary care, closing and opening of patient lists, additional services, vaccination campaigns and additional clinical roles in primary care networks were discussed in public, attracting public engagement. There was also a strong and developing quality and performance report on primary care.

None of this is now available to the public. It ceased when the Primary Care Commissioning Committees across BOB amalgamated after the meeting of 14th April 2021, almost two years ago.

Will the BOB ICS seek to engage the public with primary care where they experience much difficulty and frustration?

How and when will this be restored? Will provision be covered to the depth indicated above?

REPLY by Belinda Seston (Interim Director of Place Partnership Development - Berkshire West) on behalf of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (Councillor McEwan):

The requirement to have a Primary Care Commissioning Committee (PCCC) meeting in public related to CCGs' status as a membership organisation made up of its constituent GP practices, and was therefore important for managing potential conflicts of interest. The structure and status of the recently formed ICB (Integrated Care Board) is not the same, and we have taken the opportunity to streamline decision-making processes as a result.

PCCCs were not intended as a sole means of involving the public in decisions. Instead, where appropriate, public service user engagement should have occurred prior to matters being brought to the Committee meeting. This remains the case and we continue to ensure that residents' views have been taken into account when considering issues such as those you mention, working with GP practices to link in with Patient Participation Groups, Healthwatch and other forums as appropriate. Our ICB also holds public Board meetings. In addition this Health and Wellbeing Board is also an important link to the public and we thank you for your question.