

Date: 15 June 2023



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Democratic Services
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WH

Dear NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

BOB JOINT FORWARD PLAN

Wokingham Wellbeing Board understands that the Joint Forward Plan (JFP) outlines how the Integrated Care Board (ICB), working with partners across health and care, will deliver health and care services to people living within Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West, including Wokingham, over the next five years.

The Wellbeing Board welcomes recognition of our local Wokingham Strategy into Action and Berkshire West Joint Wellbeing Board Priorities within the JFP. Areas of joint recognition include a focus on prevention and inequalities specifically people with learning disabilities, children with special educational needs and unpaid carers as well as socially isolated and excluded groups. We further recognise the shared priorities of supporting children to achieve the best start in life, children and young people's mental health, long term conditions (cardiovascular disease), cancer and adult mental health.

In discussion of the JFP, the Board would like to note the different use of the word 'joint'. Within the Wokingham Wellbeing Board 'joint' is used to represent the partnership working and governance at the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board and the strategic direction set by the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This refers to a joint partnership board between Local Authority, ICB, health providers, the voluntary and charity sector and Healthwatch. The 'joint' in the Joint Forward Plan refers to a plan between the ICB and health providers. This implies a level of joint participation across partnership organisations in the preparation of this plan which is not the case. We understand that the JFP is reviewed and revised annually, and we therefore welcome the opportunity to take a more 'joint' approach going forward, building on the improving partnership working here in Wokingham and across Berkshire West.

A large proportion of the work of this Board is focused on the wider determinants of health and these are also referenced within the Integrated Care System strategy. These broader determinants of health are not included as an area for action by the NHS within the JFP. This is disappointing given that, as well as the reach to patients and their families, they are large employers of residents within our area and therefore influence the determinants of health and wellbeing beyond the traditional health services.

This Board provides oversight of the work to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Wokingham. Our priorities are informed by the data and local intelligence that indicates our areas of highest need. The JFP outlines the use of Population Health Management to

transform the NHS approach to inequalities. The Board would like to assert that data alone (as outlined in the JFP) cannot determine the need associated with inequalities. Local understanding and intelligence of populations and communities, deemed through partnership working with local government and local voluntary sector, must complement a data led approach to ensure that communities are not lost or missed out of this transformation.

Finally, this Board would like to make a request. The complementarity between our priorities and that within the JFP means that outcomes monitored within the Plan will be directly relevant to the work of our Board. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to enable the outcomes achieved within the JFP to be directly reported to the Wokingham Wellbeing Board to enable a full oversight of all work related to Health and Wellbeing across this partnership Board.

Yours sincerely

Councillor David Hare
Chair of the Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board