

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

Sustainability and Transformation Plan

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News



Update on the proposal to merge Bedford Hospital and Luton & Dunstable University Hospital

Following the announcement in September of their proposal to merge, teams at Bedford Hospital and Luton & Dunstable University Hospital (L&D) have been working closely and at pace to develop a shared vision and to consider what an integrated Trust would look like.

Work has been in progress to develop a Full Business Case for national regulators NHS Improvement (NHSI) which will outline the clinical and financial benefits the proposed merger will bring. With input and support from staff, volunteers and other stakeholders, plans were submitted on 22 December following approval by both Trust Boards.

A due diligence exercise, overseen by external advisors, has been undertaken for both organisations (Bedford and L&D) to look at the risks, issues and liabilities involved with the proposed merger. This provides reassurance for internal and external stakeholders that there is a full understanding of the existing risk - reputational, clinical, financial, contractual, compliance or operational – before entering into a transactional agreement.

Clinical engagement is crucial in the planning process and a number of clinical engagement sessions have been held, bringing colleagues from both Trusts together to think about the opportunity to improve services for patients through more collaborative working.

The team has also been actively seeking input from staff through ongoing briefings and from the public, patients and other stakeholders who attended a series of information events in November.

As part of the merger, both hospital sites will retain their individual names; however the integrated NHS Foundation Trust will have a new name. Given that the integrated Trust will enhance services for the whole Bedfordshire population,

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is being considered and a decision will be taken later in the year. As in the case of Addenbrooke's which is officially called Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bedford Hospital and the L&D will continue to be known by these names to their local communities.

A campaign to recruit Foundation Trust members to ensure that the integrated Trust will have the right representation across Bedfordshire has also been launched. For more information on becoming a FT Governor you can [click here](#) or to sign up, please [click here](#). Information about the proposed merger can be found on both hospital websites www.ldh.nhs.uk and www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk. If you have any questions or would like to know more, you can email merger@ldh.nhs.uk

East London NHS Foundation Trust announced as new provider for Bedfordshire's Community Health Services

East London NHS Foundation Trust (ELFT) has been announced as the preferred bidder to provide Community Health Services in Bedfordshire for the next five years. The annual value of the contract, which is due to commence 1 April 2018, is £39m and covers a range of Community Health Services for children and adults. For children this includes the Health Visiting and School Nursing services, community paediatricians, the Looked After Children's Health Team and allied health professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists. For adults this includes specialist nursing, community geriatricians, rapid response and rehabilitation and step-up / step-down beds.

The jointly commissioned services are a great example of partnership working to ensure the quality provision of services for patients and the public in Bedfordshire.

Dr Andrew Edwards, GP and clinical lead for Community Health Services, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "ELFT is a leading provider of Community Health Services and provided assurance of its track record for delivering services to a high standard and its ability to drive change, transform services and achieve excellence.

"The new contract means patients will receive care that is centred on their needs, co-ordinated through integrated multi-disciplinary teams and delivered within the community closer to home.

"As part of our work to develop the new model of care we engaged service users and carers. In addition, users, carers and Healthwatch representatives met the bidders to provide feedback on their ideas, helping them to fine-tune the plans they submitted as part of the procurement process. ELFT demonstrated that it puts the service user

at the heart of everything it does and ensures that they have a strong voice in continuous service development.”

Dr Edwards added: “This new contract enables us to continue delivering high quality health and social care services to local people that will be safe, fit for purpose and sustainable.”

Dr Navina Evans, Chief Executive of ELFT, said: “We are delighted to be the preferred provider of Community Health Services for Bedfordshire. We feel this is a reflection of our excellent reputation for delivering high quality clinical services in East London, Luton and Bedfordshire.”

Engagement



Clinical Conversation

The first BLMK Clinical Conversation of 2018 will focus on the health and wellbeing of young people. The evening will be chaired by Professor Chris Ham, Chief Executive, Kings Fund, and feature a key note speech from Professor Monica Lakhanpaul, Professor of Integrated Community Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Details of the event are below:

Save the date for the next BLMK Clinical Conversation

When: Monday 29 January 2018

Time: from 6pm to 9pm at the

Where: Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1AH

Spaces are available to staff of the 16 BLMK partners and associated voluntary organisations. To book your place email communications@mkuh.nhs.uk

Food and refreshments will be provided at the event. Places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. A full agenda will follow in the coming weeks.

Primary care newsletter

A new newsletter for colleagues in primary care has been produced. The first was published at the end of November and the publication will enable us to report across the STP on progress in developing primary care and to signpost you to what support and development is available to practices and networks of practices within BLMK. This complements and aims to enhance the existing support from your CCG primary care teams and other sources such as the LMC. The newsletter can be downloaded [here](#).

You said, we did

Throughout 2017 a series of events have been held to engage with stakeholders across BLMK. This kicked off in January with Workforce in Focus, an event to look at what workforce opportunities could be as a result of new models of care and service redesign.

At this event and others held across the year we took feedback from those who attended and below is a summary of the feedback and what has happened in response:

Workforce in Focus – 25 January 2017 – Luton

During the event we heard from Dr Patricia Oakley, a national workforce development expert, on the national picture for staff in health and social care, alongside local speakers who looked at the Primary Care Home model and how the wider workforce can be used effectively when re-designing services in primary care.

You said: Attendees had the opportunity to hear updates from each of BLMK five priorities and feedback on what they thought of the plan for the region and whether we were moving in the right direction. The large majority told us that they liked the plans and wanted more opportunities to be involved in its development.

We did: The STP team explored ways of better involving staff in the development of plans and the role of GP Lead was created to ensure we strengthen links with colleagues in primary care.

The ideas captured from our speakers were taken forward by the Workforce Lead for BLMK STP and played a part in the development of the plans for the workforce.

The Local Workforce Advisory Board which has broad representation is leading on the development of a workforce strategy that is informed by the workforce needs for all the priorities.

Best practice in primary, community, mental health and social care – 3 May 2017 – Milton Keynes

We heard from the senior clinical advisor for Primary Care Home at the National Association of Primary Care and local leaders about the opportunities to share best practice in out-of-hospital care.

Following presentations, attendees had the chance to sit on three different tables of a choice of 16 different working groups. Each group discussed a different element of care and was chaired by an expert in that field.

You said: Attendees fed back on the discussions from each table and had the opportunity to request support in certain areas so they could affect positive change and implement best practice in their own areas.

We did:

- Following the event a number of localities have, with STP and CCG support, applied for the NAPC Primary Care Home community of practice. NAPC have also indicated the potential to work with us to develop this model further locally.
- We issued an 'offer' to practices and localities/clusters setting out the support available in implementing Primary Care Home / Enhanced Primary Care. This included support for:
 - organisational development;
 - leadership and learning;
 - recruitment initiatives;
 - targeted investment opportunities.
- Mental Health in primary care and multi-disciplinary team working were others areas attendees highlighted featured in our 'offer'.
- We are beginning to coordinate our recruitment efforts across the STP and in the next few months we will be looking at bids for international GP recruitment and clinical pharmacists.
- The General Practice Five Year Forward view workforce submission was made to NHSE at the end of October 2017 following information gathered on the requirements for Primary Care home across BLMK.
- The transformational nature of creating Primary Care Home's is to network GP practices, including the sharing of workforce and infrastructure, supported by the wider multi-disciplinary team, to support populations of approximately 30-50k. £1 per head of population has been allocated to provide incentives for GPs to create the clusters, to enable a new model of working and enhance primary care services.
A further £200K has been allocated for primary care initiatives proposed in Milton Keynes which include respiratory outreach, community heart failure nurse and the management of medicines in care homes.

Mental Health in BLMK – 3 August 2017 – Central Bedfordshire

Keynote speaker Sir Sam Everington, Chair of Tower Hamlets CCG and King's Fund trustee, discussed some ground breaking innovations in mental health care in one of the most economically deprived areas of London. His talk was followed by a live interview and Q&A with Dr Navina Evans, Chief Executive of East London

Foundation Trust, and one of her trust's patients about how BLMK can deliver effective and compassionate mental health care.

Attendees then had the chance to sit on one of seven different working group discussing different forms of mental health in various different care settings.

You said: Feedback told us that attendees wanted to see mental health feature more heavily in the plans for BLMK.

- Use of digital solutions to assist people in crisis and self-care e.g. Twitter, telehealth.
- There is an opportunity for dual diagnosis commissioning - wrapping services around GP surgeries to enable the public to access mental health services in the community.
- Strengthening the link with the Police both in respect of people with mental health issues accessing appropriate services and support for victims of crime.
- The development of social prescribing and support for carers.

We were also told that the input from a patient speaker was invaluable and that should feature more in all of our discussions about the development of plans.

We did: There has been a renewed focus on mental health in our plans and the STP team are developing a series of patient stories and asking patient speakers to attend key meetings to offer advice and guidance to the leaders to ensure:

- External funding has been secured to programme manage the mental health work programme and implement projects to deliver the Five Year forward view for Mental Health.
- Innovative projects which have been piloted by Vanguards are being evaluated and considered for BLMK e.g. Crisis Café.
- Mental Health services are being considered as part of the services which will be wrapped around GP clusters.
- Social prescribing is a workstream in the prevention priority and has received transformation funding in 2017/18 to deliver locally driven service for the community.
- The digitisation priority has undertaken an options appraisal for shared care records which will be accessible by health and care professionals. Part of the solution being considered is telehealth and signposting to appropriate services.