

21 December 2020

Dear colleague,

**Next steps for integrated care in BSW**

As you may recall, on 26 November, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) published [Integrating Care](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/261120-item-5-integrating-care-next-steps-for-integrated-care-systems.pdf) setting out next steps towards integrated care and options for legislative change that would mean changes for all parts of our system with significant implications for the CCG and for you as our membership. The Kings Fund has produced a summary of the proposals that includes some more context which we are sending to you with this letter.

We are coming to the end of an extraordinary and challenging year and are now dealing with the roll-out of the Covid vaccine in addition to our usual caseload. We do appreciate that the timing of the publication of this document and fast approaching deadline for the submission of feedback (8 January) is unhelpful for everyone.

The way NHSEI describes the future care model is in line with the BSW direction of travel and builds on the collaborative ways of working we’ve adopted during Covid-19, working together as the BSW Partnership. Indeed collaboration is a strong theme that comes across in these proposals and the importance of partnership between the NHS, local government and other partners at a ‘place’ level (for us this is BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire localities) with a more central role for primary care in providing joined-up care.

We and the CCG clinical leadership are broadly supportive of the proposals. However the Integrating Care document does not go into the detail and leaves many questions unanswered, for example what this means for primary care budgets, how our future Integrated Care System (ICS) model will retain primary care engagement, what level of influence GPs will have at board level and what this means for our current clinical leadership and those with specialist roles working with CCG functions like safeguarding and exceptional funding requests.

There are no answers to these questions yet and we firmly believe we have the opportunity here to shape the future form and function of our ICS. We would like to assure you that our membership will have the opportunity to be involved in this process and will be kept informed of progress every step of the way. We will share more details for a programme of engagement early in the New Year.

Our colleagues at the CCG are preparing a response to NHSEI on behalf of the system which will be broadly supportive of the proposals to be submitted before the 8 January deadline. If you would like your views to be taken into consideration as part of the response or have any other pressing concerns you would like to discuss, please do get in contact any of us by the end of 4 January 2021.

We hope you get the opportunity to rest and recharge over Christmas and thank you again for your support during this challenging year.

Yours sincerely,

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| **Dr Andrew Girdher**  **Clinical Chair** | **Dr Bryn Bird**  **Locality Clinical Lead (BaNES)** |
| **Dr Amanda Webb**  **Locality Clinical Lead (Swindon)** | **Dr Edd Rendell**  **Locality Clinical Lead (Wiltshire)** |