

Questions and Answers for Meeting of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board - Board Meeting – 30 August 2022

Two questions were submitted in advance of the meeting.

Question 1:

The BSW Integrated Care Board's (BSW ICB) Standards of Business Conduct Policy sets out clearly how the ICB should manage conflicts of interest.

Is this policy also to be adopted by the BSW ICS and all of its members, including private companies such as HCRG Care and Medvivo?

Although the BSW ICS will not be commissioning services, it will be responsible for 'setting strategic direction' and making decisions on health and care services, therefore the public must be assured that the commercial interests of private companies will not have undue influence in the planning and delivery of services.

Answer 1:

BSW ICB's Standards of Business Conduct Policy details the expectation regarding standards of business conduct for the BSW ICB including the management of conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality, and sponsorship.

Our partner organisations each have their own robust policies concerning the management of conflict of interest within their own organisations.

The BSW Integrated Care System, known as BSW Together, is a partnership of health and care organisations, local government and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations. It is made up of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).

The ICB has taken on Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group's functions and broader strategic responsibility for overseeing healthcare strategies for the system, while the ICP will provide a forum in which leaders

from our NHS organisations and our three local authorities can come together as equal partners with other stakeholders from the broader health and care landscape here in BSW.

Please be assured that the NHS and our Local Authority Partners have robust measures in place for managing conflicts of interest and these will continue to be used by the BSW ICB and the wider ICS in line with best business practice.

Full details of how the BSW ICS manages conflict of interest can be found on our website in the BSW ICB Constitution <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/36-nhs-bath-and-north-east-somerset-swindon-and-wiltshire-icb-constitution-010722.pdf>

Further information can be found in the BSW ICB Standards of Business Conduct policy which is also on our website <https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/07/Standards-of-Business-Conduct-Policy-1.pdf>

Question 2:

Is there any specific provision in the area for those with bipolar? And, can you see a need for more services such as peer support groups? (Bipolar UK would be happy to collaborate to set up these services if it was suitable).

Answer 2:

We understand that mental health is a very broad term, and that there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to ensuring people living with a mental health condition, such as bipolar disorder, have access to the correct help and support.

Through our close working relationship with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, our system's dedicated adult mental health provider, we have ensured that there are a range of secondary support services available in the community specifically for people suffering with bipolar disorder.

This includes peer and wellbeing practitioner support for a range of conditions including bipolar disorder provided in partnership with our third sector partners. This offer will be further extended as part of our implementation of the Community Mental Health Framework, which will transform the way we deliver support to people close to home and has been co-designed with people with lived experience, families and carers and staff from all our provider partners. This will help us ensure that we simplify access to services, so that when individuals need support, we provide joined up care that makes the best use of our collective skills and expertise.

Additionally, dedicated school-based support is also in place in for young people in our region who experience mental health struggles. Four mental health support teams are based at schools in Swindon, with a further four in Wiltshire and another two in Bath and North East Somerset. These specially trained teams support children and young people with mild to moderate mental health and emotional wellbeing issues, including bipolar disorder and are linked to Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, who provide our secondary child and adolescent mental health services.

We would be delighted to talk to Bipolar UK about this work and explore any other opportunities.