

Question and answer for the ICB Board Meeting in Public – Thursday 13 July 2023

Question:

- a) Will the ICB give an update on BSW ICS's plans for the provision of community health and care services in Bath and NE Somerset for the period following March 31 2024, when HCRG Care Group's contract ends?
- b) Will there be any public consultation on the options being considered for service provision?

Answer:

Thank you for your question.

The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System (ICS) has recently published its Integrated Care Strategy which describes the key priorities and ambitions for the ICS. An integral part of this is to increase the focus on prevention and early intervention, and achieving fairer health and wellbeing outcomes by delivering this through the BSW Care Model and providing excellent community-based services for people in BSW.

Some of the existing contracts for community services are expiring soon and this offers a unique opportunity for health and care partners to plan and commission services for a future model of care. This future model will enable better integration of local services to meet the needs of our communities, helping to address the challenges facing health and care services including increasing demand, workforce recruitment and retention, and financial sustainability.

The BSW Integrated Care Board (ICB) has established a programme of work called the Integrated Community Based Care Programme (ICBC) to lead the process of securing specific community services from 2025 onwards, working on behalf of the Councils and BSW ICB. The ICBC programme is governed by a programme board made up of representatives from BSW ICB and the BSW Councils.

The ICBC programme will start with ensuring the immediate continuity of service provision for the people of BSW and the workforce for the financial year 2024/25. This allows sufficient time to ensure people and communities, clinicians, professional staff and providers of services are involved as appropriate in the process.

It is expected that the programme will be completed, with new contracts in place by April 2025. Decisions will be made by the respective Councils and BSW ICB in the coming weeks on their plans for ensuring continuity of service provision for 2024/25. The ICBC programme will work to complement and align with the concurrent programmes of work initiated by Wiltshire Council on commissioning Public Health Nursing Services, and the Bath & North East Somerset Council plans for Adult Social Work and Learning Disability services.

Our plan for engaging with the public on this subject is in development and we will be in a position to offer an update on this over the coming months.

We will continue to offer updates as the programme progresses. For further information please contact: bswicb.bsw-icbc@nhs.net