

Questions and Responses for the ICB Board Meeting in Public – Thursday 16 November 2023

Question 1: How is BSW ICB working with carers and ensuring that their voices are taken into account in decision-making?

Answer:

Carers across the BSW area make a critical contribution not only to the support and care of loved ones, neighbours and friends, but to the very sustainability of services in the BSW Together Integrated Care System. Helping carers to provide better care and to stay well themselves contributes to better lives for those needing care and more effective use of resources across BSW partner organisations.

Because of the central role they play, it is crucial that the voices of carers are taken into account and their views represented in our decision-making processes as we co-create health and care services with our communities.

We engage with carer organisations and carers with lived experience through our BaNES Your Health Your Voice forum and our Swindon Patient and Public Engagement Forum. Through these channels, we capture the views of participants which are fed into our work programmes and decision-making processes.

Health and Wellbeing Boards in each of our places in BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire listened closely to the views of residents, which would include carers and groups representing carers, to inform the development of the place-based Health and Wellbeing Strategies. These, in turn, fed into the development of our own Health and Care Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Our Implementation Plan sets out how we and our partners working together will deliver our Integrated Care Strategy over the period 2023 – 2028. It sets out a clear picture of the programmes and plans that will be delivered in support of our partnership strategy, including several initiatives to support carers.

We will continue to engage with carers and other members of our communities and reflect their views as our Implementation Plan develops and in the co-creation of our future health and care services.

Those wanting to get involved with our engagement channels should please contact our engagement team at bswicb.engagement@nhs.net.

**Question 2: Why is there no paediatric long COVID clinic provision in the area?
Where are children with long-term COVID supposed to get help and support
with their many and variable symptoms?**

NHS England have advised ICBs that long COVID in children and young people will be treated like any other condition with GPs referring into local paediatric teams if necessary for their treatment and management

- However, specialist paediatric post-COVID hubs have been established across England to provide expert advice to local paediatric services supporting children and young people with long COVID. The nearest one to BSW is Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Further information on long COVID is available on the Long Covid Kids website.
<https://www.longcovidkids.org/support-services>