

Background

NHS Aylesbury Vale and NHS Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups formally merged to become NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (Bucks CCG) in April 2018.

Our aim

Our priority is to improve health outcomes by working together. We aim to close any gaps between health and wellbeing, care and quality, by:

- Reducing inequalities in access to health services. This contributes to differences in life expectancies and outcomes
- Providing the best quality care for patients as close to their homes as possible
- Healthcare professionals working with patients and carers so that the right decision about treatment and care is made
- Ensuring our local hospitals use innovations and technology to meet the changing needs of our patients
- Preventing people being unnecessarily admitted to hospital or having to use A&E services. This will be achieved by increasing the offer of care in the community.

Working at a strategic level

NHS Buckinghamshire CCG is part of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). The approach taken across the STP is to do things at the scale so their focus is on workforce, specialised services, digital and estate.

Challenges

The key challenges facing the Buckinghamshire health and social care economy are:

- Growing demand for healthcare with an increasing population
- Financial sustainability across the health and care system
- The need to secure effective leadership and a change in culture. This is to ensure our new model of care will work
- The need to engage health and care teams across primary, community and secondary care
- The pace of change
- A primary care system that is under strain and requires radical change to become sustainable

Working at a local level

Health and social care is struggling with rising demands, rising costs and variable quality. To be able to commission better value care for patients, we are shifting from a supply-driven system that focuses on volume and units of care to a joined up approach. The focus will be on what outcomes patients need to achieve. We plan to deliver on our vision of, "everyone working together so that the people of Buckinghamshire have happy and healthier lives."

A summary of our Operational Plan refresh for 2018/19

Main priorities 2018/19

- Integrating care locally to provide better support in the community for people with long term conditions, complex needs and frailty
- Improving urgent and emergency care services
- Improving resilience in primary care services
- Improving survival rates for cancer
- Improving outcomes for people suffering mental illness
- Reducing variations in quality and efficiency of planned care
- Using digital transformation to create IT platforms that support integrated care

Overcoming challenges

We are going to overcome these challenges by working strategically and locally. Preventing ill health will be a priority across both levels.

Working on prevention

Preventing ill health is a priority for the CCG. The CCG plans to specifically tackle obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and increase physical activity. This will reduce the risk of major diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, mental illness and chronic obstructive airways disease.

We recognise the importance of promoting employee wellbeing across both NHS organisations and businesses in the county and for patients to gain far greater control of their own care.

When people do require health and care services, we want them to expect local, joined up care from family doctors, community teams, and only when necessary, hospitals.

Working with our communities

We will involve patients and the public as each of our priorities are developed. We have several mechanisms to do this. These include:

- An online engagement platform www.letstalkhealthbucks to host discussions, online forums and surveys
- Social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, plus the support of partners channels
- Regular newsletters to engage and inform member practices of updates from the CCG and the wider NHS
- Patient Participation Groups (PPGs)
- A PPG network meeting that meets bi-annually
- 'Patient Representatives' that sit on various groups and committees
- An Engagement Steering Group to advise the CCG on engagement opportunities. This group consists of representatives from PPGs
- A Health and Social Care communications group that consists of representatives of the wider health and social care community
- An Inequalities Advisory Group to help us to widen our reach within the community

Transformation of primary and community care services

As multi-disciplinary "teams without walls" community care staff will actively remove any barriers between organisations and bridge any gaps to improve the quality of care. These teams will contribute to a reduction in emergency admissions by reviewing the top 2% of patients who are at highest risk of admission. Instead they will provide them with community based care closer to home. In some cases, this care will be complemented with a visit to a community hub for assessment and treatment. This model is being piloted in Thame and Marlow and this pilot will continue for another two years.

The General Practice Forward. Views sets out plans to enable clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to commission and fund additional capacity across England to ensure that, by 2020, everyone has improved access to general practice services. This will include extra routine appointments at evenings and weekends to meet locally determined demand.

Our finances

The control total (the financial target for 2018/19 as agreed with NHS England) for NHS Buckinghamshire CCG is a deficit of £15.5m. NHS Buckinghamshire CCG is also eligible for the Commissioner Sustainability Fund (CSF) and has been allocated £15.5m from the fund as long as the conditions of the fund are met. If the conditions are met, it will bring the in-year position back to break even. To achieve this position, the CCG has instigated a Financial Recovery Plan.

In Summary

Our operating plan refresh for 18/19 aims to start the change that brings about the Integrated Care System vision of, 'Everyone working together so that the people of Buckinghamshire have happy and healthier lives.'