



NEWS BULLETIN

Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System

21 May 2020

Second Phase of COVID-19 Response

Health and care leaders are working together to deliver the second phase of the response to COVID-19. For health services, the ICS System Leaders Group is focussing on three priorities:

- Continuing the COVID-19 response and being prepared for any further peaks
- Increasing non-COVID urgent services, where there is capacity to do so
- Developing arrangements to increase planned surgery

The second phase of the NHS COVID-19 response was outlined by Simon Stevens and Amanda Pritchard, the NHS Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, in a recent letter to all health and care leaders <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/second-phase-of-nhs-response-to-covid-19-letter-from-simon-stevens-and-amanda-pritchard/>

They asked for continued vigilance and preparedness to meet the demands of COVID-19, described the need to continue to provide responsive primary, acute, community and mental health services and set out a number of health conditions/services that require particular attention and planning; namely cancer, cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and stroke, maternity, mental health, screening and immunisations. There will also be a continued focus on using technology where appropriate, for example, online and video consultations by GPs and consultants.

The first phase of COVID-19 preparation and response got underway in mid-March to ensure that services, staffing and capacity could meet the demands of the weeks ahead. Since this time, all partner organisations within the ICS have been working together to help prevent the spread of infection, maintain critical services and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

Continued partnership working, strong clinical leadership and the efforts of all colleagues have meant that challenges have been overcome wherever possible. For example, close collaboration has enabled the supply of Personal Protective Equipment to be maintained, a programme of testing has been rolled out, sufficient critical care capacity has been secured for patients who have Covid-19, and new ways of looking after patients with other conditions and illnesses have been found.

Despite the positives of collaboration across the ICS during the pandemic so far, the extent of the impact of COVID-19 on staff and our local communities is still being felt and our understanding increases each day - we have seen colleagues lose their lives and our BAME communities have been particularly affected by COVID-19.

Addressing these and other issues, restoring services and “resetting” the health and care system will need to be a joint, collaborative effort with health and social care, staff and local communities. The pandemic has also enabled a lot of innovation to happen with new ways of working, new ways of supporting patients and new collaboration between services – restoration and rebuilding plans need to take this into account, as well as ensure that vigilance on the COVID-19 response is maintained.

With this in mind, the System Leaders Group has agreed to set up a Restoration and Recovery Board, that enables this work to be done and to ensure linkages with the recovery efforts of all partners within the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum. The Board will be led by James Kent, the joint ICS Lead and CCG Accountable Officer. Further details will be provided in future bulletins.

Farewell from Fiona Wise

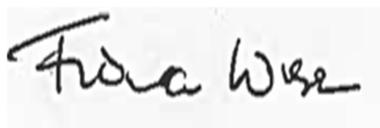
As she prepares to leave the BOB ICS at the end of May, Fiona Wise reflects on her time working on the patch;

“Firstly I want to say thank you to everyone who I have had the pleasure of working with during my time on the BOB patch.

“It is fair to say that, together, we have been on quite a journey over the past two years. Through strong partnership working we have developed an ICS that can both deliver a collective effort across a large geographical area and plan for and deliver locally focussed services that address the health and wellbeing needs of people living in our counties, towns and neighbourhoods.

“Most recently, the demands of the COVID-19 response have demonstrated where the ICS can add value in supporting local action and delivery. We still have a long way to go in dealing with this unprecedented incident. However, I know that what we have developed together puts you in a strong position to meet future challenges.

“All the very best for the future.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Wise". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light grey rectangular background.