

Patient Update

Newsletter for Patient Participation Groups

October 2019



Have your say on NHS plans for our area

A wide spread engagement process on the future arrangements for NHS commissioning in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West was launched this week.

It will last until 1 December and there are full details on the website: www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk or via this link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/L2VJ2M7. Fact sheets giving details of the proposals are also going to be sent to all surgeries in Berkshire West so patients can get involved.

[The CCG website](#) has the document which outlines proposals for a single Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) covering Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB).



Dr Abid Irfan, Chair of Berkshire West CCG said: “Over the past year, we have been exploring how we can work more effectively and efficiently across the BOB healthcare system to achieve our shared ambition.

“We all have a responsibility to make sure valuable resources are used wisely and in the best way to support people in living longer, happier, healthier and more independently into their old age. We want to make sure people have access to quality healthcare whilst also cutting the health inequalities that exist today.

“PPG representatives have a key role in supporting this engagement work. We’d very much like you to provide your thoughts and also encourage the patients and people in your neighbourhoods to share their views too. They will be carefully considered and reflected upon.

“Please be assured that, whatever commissioning arrangements are put in place in the future, our priority continues to be making sure local needs are addressed, that we provide people with access to quality healthcare and that we reduce the health inequalities that exist today,” said Dr Irfan.

Cash boost for Royal Berkshire Hospital

The government has earmarked vital cash for the Royal Berkshire Hospital to support the development of a detailed plan to redevelop the hospital site.

The boost was announced by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock during a visit to the Hospital



last week, where he toured some buildings dating back to 1839. He also visited the emergency department and met staff to discuss how the funding will help the hospital to improve patient experiences.

Steve McManus, Chief Executive of The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust said: “We’re already carrying out work to create an environment for our patients and staff that is fit for 21st century healthcare including how we enable more digitally based care. This funding provides a fantastic opportunity for us to develop more detailed plans, working with our local communities, our partners and staff.”

Update on the ICS Five Year Plan

The Integrated Care System (ICS) has just published two updates on the development of its five year plan and how they plan to meet the requirements set out in the NHS Long Term Plan. They feature the range of organisations involved in BOB ICS, how they work together and how they are developing their priorities and plans to work locally and at scale to meet the health and care needs of their communities. There’s more information on www.bobstp.org.uk.

And in further BOB ICS developments, Sam Burrows, Deputy Chief Officer at Berkshire West CCG, has been seconded to the job as BOB ICS Programme Director until June 2020.

The latest BOB ICS bulletin [is available here](#).

Get the App to get more out of your NHS

The NHS App has been developed by the NHS to help people in England get more information about their health and care - and more control of how they use NHS services.

Available to download on all IOS and Android devices, it allows you to book appointments at your GP surgery, manage repeat prescriptions, view your GP medical records, set organ donation preferences and much more. New functions and services will also be added in the coming months. Find out more at: digital.nhs.uk/services/nhs-app

DIARY DATES

Training courses from Citizen’s Advice

Reading’s Citizen’s Advice team are running a range of training services:

- 22 Oct - Small money claims in the county court (10am - 1pm)
- 8 Nov - Introduction to benefits (10am - 4pm)
- 12 Nov - Introduction to benefits appeals and tribunals (10am - 1pm)
- 22 Nov - Introduction to universal credit (10am - 1pm)
- 25 Nov - Handling difficult client situations (10am - 1pm)
- 10 Dec - Benefits and coming to the UK (10am - 1pm)

If you’d like more details here’s how to book and get in touch

Online: rcab.org.uk/training-services

Email: training.services@citizensadvicereading.org

Phone: 0118 952 3027

Special shopping event in Newbury



It's on 12 November from 10am to 4pm and is aimed at people with additional needs, those with mobility problems and people with a sight or hearing impairment. There'll be refreshments and special discounts and you can also arrange wheelchair or scooter loans for the day. Ring 01635 523854 or email garry@vcwb.org.uk for more details.

Singing for the Brain



Berkshire Alzheimer's Society run special singing sessions twice a month at Burghfield Common Methodist Church, Reading Road, Burghfield Common, RG7 3QA from 1.30 – 3pm. Dates for the rest of this year are: 23 October, 13, 27 November and 11 December. There's a suggestion of a £1.50 voluntary contribution. More details from berkshire@alzheimers.org.uk or ring 0118 959 6482

Charity Choir Concert

There are still a few tickets left for this Saturday's (19 October) concert being organised by the Royal Berkshire Hospital League of Friends. It features the Reading Male Voice Choir with guests the Amhem Clarinet Choir and is at Greyfriars Church, Friar Street, Reading RG1 1EH at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 available from 0118 322 8592

Flu Update

Last month's PPG newsletter contained details of the flu and winter campaign being run across Berkshire West in partnership with Public Health England. Keep an eye on the websites over the next few weeks when we will start to feature some short YouTube clips giving information and updates on the campaign. www.berkshwestccg.nhs.uk and www.berkshwesticp.org

The NHS Choices Flu Pages www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu also contains useful advice and guidance.