



Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)

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News



Sir Bruce Keogh visits BLMK

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of NHS England, and Michael MacDonnell, NHS England's Director of System Transformation, Operations and Information, brought a team to visit Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire in August as part of a series of visits the national regulators are making to STP footprints.

The team started their visit at Milton Keynes University Hospital, where they took a tour to see the substantial developments bringing together education, research and patient services - including a new academic centre and Cancer Therapy Centre – and saw some of the innovative approaches the hospital is taking to rapid response, pathology and end of life care.

Sir Bruce, Michael and the team then had a round table discussion over lunch with leaders from BLMK's 16 partner organisations about the progress of BLMK STP and how NHS England can support the ongoing transformation of health and social care across the region.

They ended the day with a visit to Central Bedfordshire Council's Priory View, an award winning independent living facility, where they met with staff and residents and heard how the development helps those living there to enjoy healthier and more independent lives.

The Guardian visit BLMK

In case you missed it, The Guardian also visited the region in August to explore the opportunities for positive change that can be created by taking a whole system approach to health and social care. They spoke to Richard Carr, SRO from BLMK STP and Chief Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council, and Mark England, Chief of Staff of BLMK STP, to find out what the development of an Accountable Care System (ACS) could mean for local people and to see some of the good work already going on in the region.

You can read the article here - <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/aug/02/new-partnerships-joined-up-care-older-people-privatisation>

Developing an Accountable Care System (ACS) in BLMK

Following the announcement in June that BLMK is one of eight 'lead' Accountable Care Systems in England, work is underway to progress the development of its ACS model. Three key elements of the ACS have been defined – Strategic Commissioning; Systems

Integration and Accountable Care provision. These will look at how to remove organisational barriers and establish better systems across health and social care to provide quality, joined-up care for almost one million people living in BLMK.

The initial priority is to understand the current range of services and how they are commissioned in order to consider how this might work with the new ACS model. CCG and local authority staff from across BLMK will be taking part in a series of workshops between September and November as part of the design programme. These sessions will map current functions into the new model which looks at how we might plan and buy services at locality and Borough level or across the whole BLMK footprint. From this, recommendations for a future operating model will be developed.

BLMK is operating as a 'shadow' ACS during 2017/18 and working towards a more formal arrangement in 2018/19. Read more here about [Accountable Care Systems and NHS Commissioning](#) or visit www.england.nhs.uk/new-business-models/

Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital announce proposed merger

This month, it was announced that Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital have decided to formally collaborate through a proposed merger. This will bring the two hospitals together to manage specialties as a single set of services, but delivered at both hospital sites.

This important development is in line with the STP plans that were developed last year and which envisage all hospitals in the region coming together to design and deliver the best possible clinical and support services for local residents. As well as benefitting patients through better clinical models of care; bringing services together is also expected to deliver financial savings.

The proposed merger could possibly take place as early as April 2018. However, this is subject to a formal approval process and there remains a great deal of work to do before any confirmed date can be given.

Milton Keynes University Hospital will continue to operate as an independent NHS Foundation Trust, working closely with the other two hospitals and with health and care partners in Milton Keynes and the wider STP. A further formal collaboration involving all three hospitals is likely to be considered in the future.

Health and Wellbeing



Integrated Diabetes Service in Milton Keynes

The Milton Keynes Integrated Diabetes Service (MK IDS) launched in June and is a new service that aims to deliver improved diabetes care to local people.

Milton Keynes University Hospital has worked in partnership with Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group, Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) and Milton Keynes Diabetes Care (MKDC) to deliver this new integrated model which will be available to those people with diabetes requiring additional support and help with their diabetes management.

The MK IDS service is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) comprising of Diabetes Consultants and Diabetes Nurse Specialists (DNS) with administrative/reception support working alongside colleagues in primary and secondary care to provide high quality, local care for people living with diabetes.

Investment



Urgent and emergency care gets more funding

A further £380,000 of investment in urgent and emergency care has been awarded to BLMK.

The STP steering group and the programme team are currently working together to agree how the money will be used but all are agreed it is a welcome opportunity to accelerate BLMK's ambitious plans to improve our population's ease of access to urgent and emergency care.

Engagement



Clinical Conversation

We hosted over 70 BLMK clinicians, senior operational managers and leaders at the Clinical Conversation event at Wyboston Lakes in August.

The focus of the event was mental health and out-of-hospital care, and the role it has to play in the transformation of the health and social care system in BLMK.

After a short welcome from BLMK SRO Richard Carr, delegates listened to a talk from Sir Sam Everington, Chair of Tower Hamlets CCG and a trustee of the King's Fund, about some of his award winning work in primary care. His talk focussed on the Bromley by Bow Centre in East London, a community organisation that runs more than 100 different projects and works with more than 2,000 people every month. Each project is based around the wider concept of health and is tailored to the needs of the whole community in one of the most deprived areas of London, including projects for families, young people, vulnerable adults and older people. The centre has used the social prescribing model, among many of their innovative and holistic approaches, to empower patients to take greater control of their lives. Alongside this, GPs at the centre have taken a more flexible approach in their relationship with patients, working in partnership with them to manage their own conditions and the area, Tower Hamlets, is currently getting the best result in the country for cholesterol and blood pressure control for patients with diabetes and heart disease. The lessons from the centre and their innovative model will help to inform the prevention, primary care and estates work being undertaken in BLMK.

Following the presentation was Dr Navina Evans, Chief Executive of East London Foundation Trust (ELFT), who conducted a discussion with a patient on stage to talk about their own experience of mental health care from ELFT and how BLMK can learn from experts-by-experience to develop the services around the needs of the patient. Not only do the BLMK STP team want to take away insights from this talk, we are also looking at how we can hear more from patients about their experiences to help shape plans for the future.

The night finished with 45 minutes of group work, where colleagues had the chance to sit on one of seven mental health-themed working groups to hear from expert clinicians about work being undertaken in their field and discuss how they might be involved in similar work. Attendees completed feedback forms to identify the support they need to help transform mental health care in BLMK. These, along with notes taken from the discussions, have been given to the STP programme team so they can continue the conversation and the development of these ideas with those in attendance.

How can we shape the future of our digital transformation including a new shared care record?

Back in March we held our first digital transformation stakeholder event where a number of suppliers gave an overview of what their products were capable of delivering in a transformed care system. On 14 September, at Wybsoton Lakes Training Centre, we will be holding our second event but this will be focussed on finding out what all our 16 partners want to see delivered to overcome some of the challenges that we face.

The day will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to explore how we can work together to build a shared care record. We want attendees to imagine a world where information is at their fingertips to help them make better decisions for patients and service users.

We will bring you news from the event in the next briefing document.

UCLPartners Infection, Immunology and Inflammation (III) Symposium 2017

Registration is now open for the annual UCLPartners Infection, Immunology and Inflammation Symposium on Tuesday 7 November 2017 at the UCL Institute of Education.

This event, organised by [UCLPartners](#), will bring together researchers from across UCL, Queen Mary University of London ([QMUL](#)) and beyond, enabling cross-disciplinary interaction and encouraging new collaborations between scientists and clinicians at the forefront of the Ill field.

Speakers from UCL, QMUL and our partner organisations will present their ground-breaking work and answer your questions. An internationally leading external speaker will give the keynote lecture of the Symposium.

There is no registration fee for this event, and food and drink will be provided free of charge. Due to space limitations timely registration and abstract submission is essential. Abstracts must be submitted using the Eventbrite registration link (below).



For more information and to register to attend, follow the link:

<http://UCLPartners-iii-symposium-2017.eventbrite.com>

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 5pm on Thursday 28 September.

The abstract competition is open to early career researchers (ECRs), i.e. those in the early stages of their research career. We encourage you to use a self-defining definition of whether you identify as an ECR, but our general guidance is PhD candidates and post-doc researchers who do not have a permanent position. Note that there is no age limit here.

Submitted abstracts will be scored by the III Symposium Organising Committee. The top-scoring six applicants will be invited to present their research to the 300-strong Symposium audience. The other selected applicants will be invited to present a poster of their abstract to display during the day. The poster and presentation competition winners will then be announced and rewarded at the end of the Symposium, before the networking drinks reception.

We very much hope to welcome you on Tuesday 7 November for a fascinating day of research excellence and networking opportunities.