

Welcome to the third edition of our new look partner newsletter for the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System (ICS).

Each month, we'll bring you the latest news for our area, keep you up to date with what's happening as we establish the new integrated care organisation and introduce you to leaders from across the system who are working to improve outcomes for residents.



Watch the
video

In this issue

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- Winter wellbeing support from Keeping Well BLMK
- Reflecting on 2021 – three leaders across our ICS take stock of their year
- Service available for those with long COVID
- How technology is assisting our system deliver better and joined up care
- Episode 2 of 'BLMK Health Conversations On...' podcast is out now



Felicity Cox appointed as Chief Executive Officer Designate for BLMK Integrated Care Board

Felicity Cox has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer Designate of the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK), when it takes on statutory responsibilities in April 2022.



[Read more about Felicity Cox's appointment](#)



Winter wellbeing support from Keeping Well BLMK

This winter has already been exceptionally challenging for many of our colleagues across the BLMK system this year. During these challenging times, it's more important than ever to look after yourself.

The ICS has commissioned a 'Keeping Well Hub'. This service is free, confidential and available to anyone who works for an ICS organisation.

Whatever your needs, we are here to **provide free and confidential support**.

Contact us: Call us on **01908 724227**, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Visit our website keepingwellblmk.nhs.uk to **live chat**, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, make a **self-referral** or **request a call back**.

Email blmk@nhs.net



[Read more about the support available](#)



Our reflections on 2021

As this year draws to a close, we caught up with three local health leaders from across our patch to find out what their biggest challenges and greatest successes were this year. It has been another challenging year for healthcare – with COVID-19 continuing to put pressure on our health systems, we can be proud to be part of the biggest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS which has brought systems closer to partnership working:



Winter pressures aren't just for Christmas

Dr Ian Reckless, Deputy CEO and Medical Director, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust [blogs](#) on the challenges the health system in Milton Keynes faces as we head into Winter.



Laura Church, CEO, Bedford Borough Council

Reflects on her year of integrated working starting with lock-down in Luton and ending with response and recovery at Bedford Borough



[Read her blog here](#)



And Kate Walker, Director of Adults' Services at Bedford Borough Council

Describes how the past year has again shone a light on the fundamental part social care plays in our healthcare system.



[Read more from Kate here](#)





Service available for those with long COVID

Our ICS has been awarded additional national funding for their Post Covid Assessment Service (PCAS) which supports people with long COVID. The service is located at Whaddon Medical Centre, Bletchley.



[Find out more about PCAS](#)



How technology is assisting our system provide better and joined up care

Advances in medical technology are assisting our system in diagnosing and treating patients quicker. Read how **software powered by artificial intelligence (AI)** is transforming care for stroke patients at Milton Keynes Hospital.



[Read more about this software](#)

It comes at the same time as a new **Shared Health and Care Record** is being rolled out across BLMK. Completely confidential and secure, it is designed to help doctors, nurses and other health and social care professionals directly involved in a resident's care make better, safer and quicker decisions.

Accessed via a simple link from each organisation's clinical system, the Shared Health and Care Record will provide health and care staff with instant access to a wide range of important information about a patient or service user.



[Find out more about the Shared Health and Care Records](#)





Episode 2 of 'BLMK Health Conversations On...' podcast is out now!

The second episode of our 'BLMK Health Conversations On...' podcast, hosted by Felicity Cox, CEO Designate of the BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB), was released last week.

In this episode, Felicity is joined by special guests Dr Tayo Kufeji, local GP and Director of Clinical Transformation (MK), BLMK CCG as well as Kate Walker, Director of Adults' Services at Bedford Borough Council, to discuss the pressures our local health service comes under during winter and how we're preparing.

Listen in each month to hear Felicity Cox discussing big issues with our passionate guests, including health inequalities, learning disabilities and everything in between.

This show is for anyone interested in the changes that are happening in health and social care, and how services are joining up to help people live long and healthy lives across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

The next episode will focus on 2021 and the highlights of the year that's been.

So join the conversation, listen to the show, and share with your friends and family.



Got a story to tell?

We are keen to share your stories with our partners. If you have a great story that shows the benefits of integrated working, then please contact our communications team.

[✉ blmkccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:blmkccg.communications@nhs.net)

