

2nd January 2024

Reverend Lloyd Denny
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Dear Reverend Denny,

The Denny Review

I am writing to you on behalf of BLMK Integrated Care Board to express our thanks for the comprehensive Denny Review into Health Inequalities in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, which you shared with us and published on 12 September 2023.

The Board read the detailed findings of your three-year study with interest and wish to commend you and your review team for your diligence and for giving a voice to residents from our hidden communities.

Following publication of the report, Felicity Cox, Chief Executive of the ICB and I wrote to all members of the Integrated Care Partnership asking for their thoughts on the Review and for them to commit to a system wide response, which would lead to a generational change in our area.

There is already some excellent work happening across our system to address the health inequalities gap and I am delighted to report that all partners responded positively, committing their support to building on this work and responding to the recommendations in your report to create a social movement for change.

On 8 December, at our formal meeting in Milton Keynes, the Integrated Care Board agreed a formal response to the Review. I am pleased to update you that the Board agreed that:

- A co-ordinating function would be established within the ICB's Shared Transformation team to work with partners to implement the recommendations from the Review;
- Lorraine Sunduza, Chief Executive East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) would be appointed as the Board Level Champion to oversee the implementation of recommendations;

- The ICB would work with partners to introduce a 'What Matters to you' page on all patient records, so that the individual requirements of a person are considered when they enter a health and care facility;
- Non-Executive Directors across all providers will feed back from their visits to health and care settings on how recommendations from the Review are being implemented;
- All partners would work together with the Institute of Healthcare Improvement to deliver a system wide transformation programme, aligned to the recommendations outlined in the review;
- A board level seminar would be held in the spring/summer 2024 to celebrate and share good practice and build on and take forward the recommendations outlined in the Review. We would be pleased if you could join us at this event and will be in touch with details in the new year;
- All partners will commit to an annual update for three years, to demonstrate what has changed because of the Review.

I am also pleased to report that in addition to the above, funding has been allocated to four local Healthwatch in Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCSE) this financial year to begin work on short term recommendations which will benefit residents.

Four local Healthwatch will be working with ICB teams to:

- Review and co-produce a system wide translation service that will remove language barriers in our health and care settings;
- Support primary care teams in developing Patient Participation Groups in surgeries, ensuring that there is representation from all communities involved;
- Continue to work with the communities they engaged in the Denny Review to ensure they continue to have a voice in shaping health and care services;
- Ensure that Equality Diversity Standards are upheld across the partnership.

Local VCSE partners are currently working on proposals to deliver health information events in local communities and neighbourhoods, to give people the information they need to improve their health and wellbeing.

I know many residents will be following the course of your review with interest and we are committed to sharing the findings of your report and the steps we're taking to address them. We plan to deliver a series of place-based events and discussions across our area, and we are committed to a national launch – starting in February with an animated video and events running through to spring.

This is the start of a co-ordinated programme of work that aims to break down barriers to good health and create a fairer health and care system for everyone in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

Once again, I thank you for your report and I do hope you will join us for an official launch and in the spring for the Board Seminar where system partners will discuss this work further.

Yours sincerely



Dr Rima Makarem
Chair, Bedfordshire Luton Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board