



**Welcome to the February issue of our partner newsletter for the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care System (ICS).**

Since our last issue, health and care organisations across BLMK have continued to work tirelessly on the COVID-19 booster campaign whilst also managing winter pressures.

This is always an extremely busy time of year for many of our colleagues across the BLMK system, and the pandemic adds further challenges. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all staff across the system for your continued commitment and support. Your efforts really do make a difference.

I hope that we can now start to look to recovery and business as usual.



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**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)





## "I've gained my life back thanks to social prescribing"

Jamie tells us how his life changed forever when a social prescriber walked in on an unintentional suicide attempt.

Social prescribing is part of a national scheme where health and care professionals actively identify vulnerable individuals or groups that they can support, offering a range of interventions that might help to improve their health and wellbeing.

"..medication helps me manage my life, but social prescribing has helped me to live it."



[Read how social prescribing intervention has helped Jamie turn his life around](#)



**Victoria Harding**, trained social prescriber and Wellbeing Lead for Titan Primary Care Network



## Shining a light on Social Care

Kate reflects on how the past year has shone a light on the fundamental part social care plays in our healthcare system and how we continue to work hard to retain our workforce.

"The collaboration between health and social care services with our partner agencies has also continued to be positive and effective."



[Read the full story](#)



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





## Experiences of redeployment

**“This experience has been invaluable... we have loved being a part of the vaccination programme”**

As part of our response to protect our communities against the threat of Omicron in December 2021, some of our staff were redeployed to the frontline to help vaccinate our most vulnerable residents.

Helen Barker and Debbie Blake, BLMK CCG Quality Improvement Nurses, were two colleagues who came forward to support pharmacy teams to vaccinate housebound patients and care homes across Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire.



[Read more about Helen and Debbie's experience vaccinating on our website](#)



## Key Appointments for the ICB



**Andrew Blakeman**

Audit Chair



[Read more about Andrew's appointment on our website](#)



**Shirley Pointer**

Chair of the Remuneration Committee



[Read more about Shirley's appointment on our website](#)



**Alison Borrett**

Non-executive member



[Read more about Alison's appointment on our website](#)





## Our Transition to an Integrated Care System

The timeline for establishing ICSs has been extended to allow sufficient time for the Bill to pass through Parliament. The Integrated Care Board, which takes on the statutory responsibilities of the CCG, will now become a legal organisation on 1 July 2022.

As we move towards a period of transition and change, we continue to work closely with our staff to ensure they are informed and supported.

Across BLMK, health and care organisations have been working collaboratively as a system partnership since 2019. This has enabled us to lay strong foundations for working in partnership across BLMK; and the formal creation of the Integrated Care System in July strengthens our approach to support and improve health and wellbeing in our communities.

I am pleased to share that the new name for our partnership is Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership. You will start to see our new branding on ICS materials and communications. We are also developing a new website which will go live in the coming weeks.



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

**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 patient's care make better, safer and quicker decisions.**

It will be accessed via a link from each organisation's clinical system, providing health and care staff with instant access to important information about a patient.



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







## AI-powered software transforming stroke care in Milton Keynes

Advances in medical technology are assisting our system in diagnosing and treating patients more quickly.

Software which is powered by artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming care for stroke patients at Milton Keynes Hospital enabling doctors to make quicker clinical decisions, save time and give patients a better chance of recovery.



[Read the full story](#)



## Hospital porter shortlisted for national award

Congratulations to Ian Butler who works at Milton Keynes University Hospital, for being shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to Patient Experience category of the MyPorter Awards. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on 24 February. Good luck!



[Read the full story](#)

