

# Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes

Health and Care Partnership

Issue 09  
September  
2022



Watch the  
video

*Felicity*

**Felicity Cox**

**Chief Executive Officer  
Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton  
Keynes Integrated Care Board**

**Hello again,**

**I know that by the time this edition of Live Well arrives in your inboxes we will all be working hard as per normal, and it will be business as usual so to speak. But I couldn't let this welcome message go by without reflecting on the late Queen Elizabeth II, and her high regard for all those who worked in the NHS, the voluntary sector and indeed all public services.**

Her support for the work we all do didn't waver regardless of the many changes throughout her long reign. She was a one-off and we are unlikely to witness her type of dedicated service to duty again.

[Continue reading](#)

## In this issue

- The shorter the waitlists, the better for patients
- Covid inoculations update
- Update on the work of the Denny Review Steering Group
- Jay helps tell it how it is
- Pioneering partnership working garners attention from award judges
- Healthwatch Luton launch LGBTQIA+ experience survey
- Lucy leads the way as Student of the Year
- When partnership working is simply the best
- National Gambling Clinic launch a new publication
- Congratulations Laura, awarded for outstanding civic duty
- Welcome Yvonne to new dual role as Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Care
- Luton Wellbeing Hub help The Mall to achieve its 50th anniversary Foodbank fifty challenge
- Partners East London Foundation Trust in the running for top title
- Ready, steady and go to the Bedfordshire Walking Festival 2022
- Bedfordshire parks scoop Green Flag status
- First for ambulance service with 'dementia button' innovation
- Fairness Taskforce Collaboration Fund
- ICB members' pledges to residents
- Anne Brierley appointed Chief Transformation Officer for ICB
- 'BLMK Health Conversations On...' podcast



*Pictured: The late HM The Queen Elizabeth II presenting the George Cross in July to Amanda Pritchard, NHS Chief Executive, and May Parsons, the nurse who delivered the world's first Covid 19 vaccination outside a clinical trial. The award recognised all NHS*

*staff, past and present, across all disciplines and all four nations. In a letter to the NHS the late Queen wrote, "Over more than seven decades, and especially in recent times, you have supported the people of our country with courage, compassion and dedication, demonstrating the highest standards of public service. You have our enduring thanks and heartfelt appreciation."*

We move on now to the reign of King Charles III and, of course, a new leader is a time of great hope for us all and we wish him every success in his reign and in his own version of public service.

And speaking of service I want to draw your attention to a new feature in this month's Live Well. As you'll see on [page 3](#) there is a focus on Covid and the ongoing inoculations programme. This will be a regular feature each month. I also recommend a visit [to this area on the BLMK Health and Care](#) site to see an extensive range of Covid related information. I've got a feeling it just may come in useful as the winter months draw on.

## Shout out spotlight

Now here's an invitation for you. If you want to do a spotlight piece on your work and the work of your team to highlight how you work collaboratively within the Health and Care Partnership, please do get in touch with me using this address [blmkicb.communications@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.communications@nhs.net)

I will really enjoy hearing from you.

Felicity



# The shorter the waitlists, the better for patients

**Work undertaken successfully by staff at Bedfordshire Hospitals and Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS foundation trusts has helped the health service locally deliver on cutting waiting times for patients.**

The ICB's chief executive, Felicity Cox said,

*"Reducing the number of our residents who have been waiting the longest for their hospital treatment across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes is a real achievement."*



[Read more](#)

**Delivery plan for tackling the COVID-19 backlog of elective care**  
February 2022





# Covid inoculations update

## Over 50s to be offered COVID-19 booster and flu jab this autumn

**On coronavirus (COVID-19) boosters, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has now published its final recommendations for this autumn's programme.**

Under the advice, those eligible for a further dose will be:

- all adults aged 50 years and over
- those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
- those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- those aged 16 to 49 years who are carers
- residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will be widening the offer of the free flu vaccine to more eligible groups. These additional groups will only be eligible once the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the jab.

The additional groups set to be offered the free flu vaccine in England will be:

- all adults aged 50 to 64 years
- secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first)

The NHS will announce in due course when and how eligible groups will be able to book an appointment for their COVID-19 autumn booster, and when people aged 50 to 64 years old who are not in a clinical risk group will be able to get their free flu jab.

People in these groups are asked not to come forward until further information is announced.



[Click here for further information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme](#)





# Update on the work of the Denny Review Steering Group

**One of the Integrated Care Board and the Health and Care Partnership's joint priorities is to tackle health inequalities. The engagement is a direct response by the Integrated Care Board in its aim to address identified inequalities priorities.**

In practical terms this means working with communities within our region to understand what their barriers are to accessing the health care they want and need. This is especially the case for residents who are seldom heard.

However, before plans can be put in place on how to enable the unheard to be listened to better understanding was needed. To support this aim we commissioned the Reverend Lloyd Denny, from Luton to undertake a review of health inequalities in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes, so that we could better understand what we needed to do to improve the lived experiences of people who experience health inequalities.

Working with partners from across the system and led by Paul Caliminus, Chief Executive of ELFT and Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for Inequalities, a literature review with the University of Sheffield was undertaken – which helped to highlight historical health inequalities in our area.

Recommendations arising from the literature review included, making services more accessible to disadvantaged groups, providing better quality language and interpretation services and delivery of information from trusted services like VCSE partners, health coaches or peer health educators.

And understanding the impact of social exclusion, racism, discrimination, and socio-cultural barriers as well as strengthening collaborative working with VCSE, including faith-based associations and centres.

## Where we are now

In August, engagement and co-production leads from the system came together to agree how and who should undertake work with people who experience health inequalities. Funding was provided by the inequalities workstream and Healthwatch and the Voluntary Sector provided proposals on how engagement would be undertaken with specific groups.

The Steering Group agreed engagement would focus on the following communities with an emphasis on achieving intersectionality wherever possible:

- Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- People from ethnic minorities living in deprived areas
- People with a learning or physical disability living in deprived areas
- Homeless people
- Migrants
- People identifying as LGBTIQ+

Areas to be concentrated on cover both communication and cultural barriers including health literacy, community languages, disability and access, religion, race and to further understanding of how the NHS works.



The proposed engagement work will be undertaken by the following partners:



- Healthwatch Bedford Borough working with the Gypsy/Traveller community in Bedford – this includes two settled communities and listening to the voices of women from ethnic minorities that have experienced forced marriage, FGM, domestic abuse etc.
- Healthwatch Milton Keynes, YMCA, MK Action, and ICS working together to engage with people from an ethnic minority living in a deprived area in Milton Keynes.
- Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire, Disability Resource Centre, and Community Dental Services (CIC) working together across the region to engage people who have learning disabilities and physical disabilities in deprived areas.
- Healthwatch Luton working with LGBTIQ+ people from ethnic minorities in Luton to listen to their views.
- The Integrated Care Board is currently working with the Roma community in Luton, and this is hoped to continue and develop once costs have been finalised.

If the proposals are agreed by the Steering Group, partners will be invited to begin engagement as soon as possible with a view to further co-production as required. Reports will be delivered at the end of the year and insights from the reports will be shared across the system to influence transformation programmes.

For more information contact Michelle Summers, Associate Director Communications and Engagement [michelle.summers2@nhs.net](mailto:michelle.summers2@nhs.net).



## Jay helps tell it how it is

**Jay Worthington is the People Participation (PP) team's new suicide prevention lead, people participation worker (PPW) and digital participation lead for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Bedfordshire and Luton.**

The Bedfordian is a former service user and Jay states that his priority is to provide the same opportunities for other service users and carers that he benefited from while receiving mental health support.



[Read more](#)





## Pioneering partnership working garners attention from award judges

**The Epilepsy team is made up of members of staff from Luton and Dunstable University Hospital and Cambridgeshire Community Services, and Usha Panchal, ICB Clinical Pharmacist and Complex Paediatric Lead, who have been working on a pioneering pilot that makes life easier for children living with complex epilepsy.**

Now the team's tenaciousness and talent has been rewarded by being shortlisted in the Using Data to Connect Services Award category at the forthcoming Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards 2022. And they are finalists in the recently announced Patient Experience National Awards 2022 with their entry in the category Integration and Continuity of Care.



[Read more](#)





## Healthwatch Luton launch LGBTQIA+ experience survey

This information gathering exercise will continue for up to six months and aims to find out how much the LGBTQIA+ community in Luton feel they are being listened to and supported about their health and social care.

Healthwatch Luton is hoping to work with the community as it will greatly help shape their programme of work. All information and feedback are reported anonymously unless direct consent is received.



[Read more](#)



## Lucy leads the way as Student of the Year

Lucy Sharples was awarded the title prize at the annual Students of the Year event held at Hotel La Tour in Milton Keynes. Lucy is currently studying on the Cadet Scheme at Milton Keynes University Hospital and has ambitions to be a paediatric nurse.

Lucy was described as

*"an inspirational young woman...who pushes herself to achieve the best she can."*

She consistently achieves top grades and came to the attention of her tutors after her caring and advanced professional attitude when she looked after a mental health patient on the paediatric ward who was waiting for surgery.



[Read more](#)





## When partnership working is simply the best

The East London Foundation Trust Bedfordshire and Luton Employment Service team have been recognised as one of the best in the East of England. The team has been described as passionate, creative with a can-do attitude.

The team help any service user who wants to work full or part-time by offering one-to-one support, including help with CVs, support with interviews and contacting potential employers. Their successful partnership working with several different agencies really caught the admiring eye of assessors IPS Grow, who provide quality assurance for Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services.



[Read more](#)

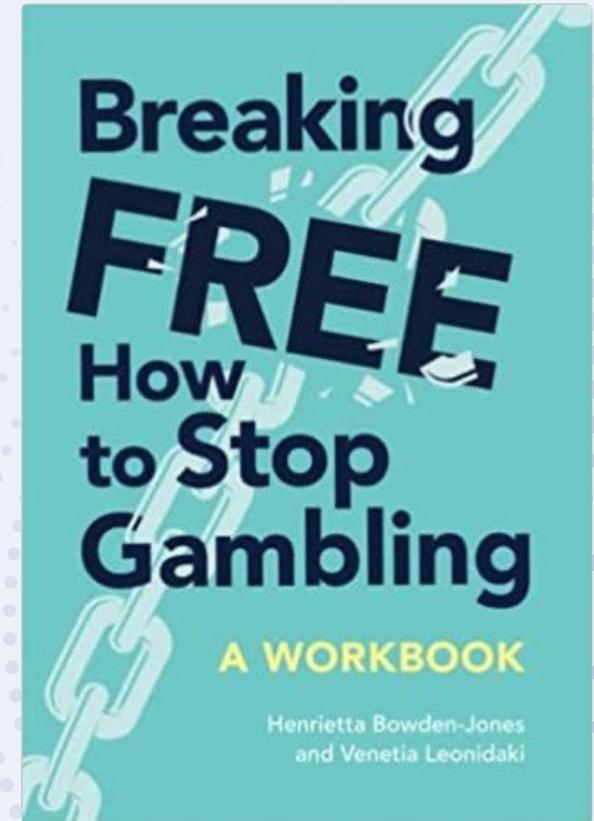


## National Gambling Clinic launch a new publication

Staff at Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust's National Problem Gambling Clinic have contributed to a new book: *Breaking Free: How to Stop Gambling*.



[Read more](#)





## Congratulations Laura, awarded for outstanding civic duty

Laura Church, Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council was bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration in recognition of her outstanding services to the community infrastructure and local government by Vice Chancellor Professor Rebecca Bunting from the University of Bedfordshire.

Laura is an Integrated Care Board Partner Member and as a qualified town planner she has responsibilities for town centres, neighbourhood regeneration and economic development. In addition, Laura had responsibility for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing during the COVID pandemic.



[Read more](#)



## Welcome Yvonne to new dual role as Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Care

Yvonne Christley is the new Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Care from September at the Milton Keynes University Hospital. Yvonne is replacing Chief Nurse, Nicky Burns-Muir who has been in the role since 2016.



[Read more](#)





## Luton Wellbeing Hub help The Mall to achieve its 50th anniversary Foodbank fifty challenge

Being involved in this important initiative is part of the Hub's commitment to the local community and recognises the importance of the Luton Foodbank.

The Wellbeing Hub (formally the Old Post Office), is situated next to Lidl in the Mall, has also helped Luton residents receive their doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



[Read more](#)



## Partners East London Foundation Trust in the running for top title

Wishing our colleagues at ELFT the very best of luck in the forthcoming Health Service Journal awards. The Trust is going for gold in the category of Trust of the Year 2022.



[Read more](#)





## Ready, steady and go to the Bedfordshire Walking Festival 2022

The event was organised by Bedfordshire Ramblers and supported by Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton Councils to support our physical health and mental wellbeing.

The event started on Saturday 10 September and ran through to Sunday 18 September 2022 inclusive.

Walks were of varying distances and included special interest walks with most of them being free of charge.



[Read more](#)



## Bedfordshire parks scoop Green Flag status

Councillor Tracey Stock, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Communities on the Integrated Care Board, and Chair of the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board thanked both staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work.

Tracey said,

*“Achieving this Green Flag status will encourage even more people to get out and enjoy these parks and spaces in the future.”*



[Read more](#)

Congratulations also go to Bedford Borough who also retained their Green Flag status for several parks in the area.



[Read more](#)





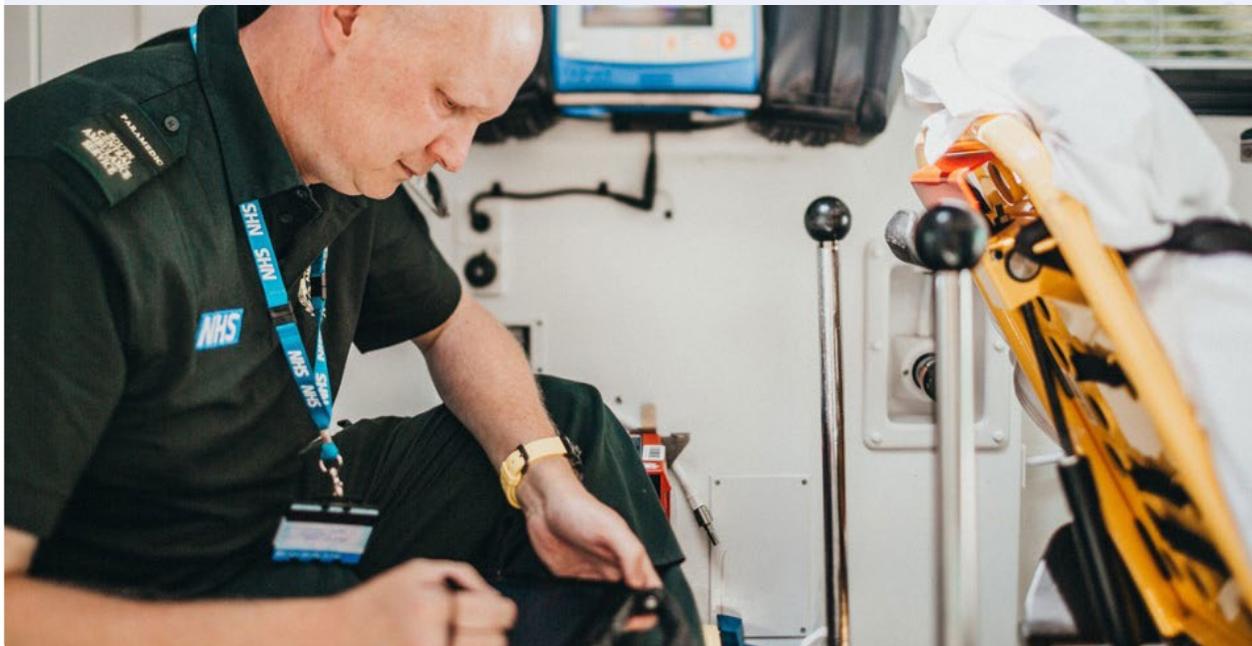
## First for ambulance service with 'dementia button' innovation

**South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) is working in partnership with the Universities of Portsmouth and Southampton and funded by The Health Foundation Q Exchange programme to improve care for older people.**

The dementia button is added to paramedics' electronic devices and will ensure many more people receive the care they need when arriving at emergency departments or requiring other health and social care services.



[Read more](#)



## Fairness Taskforce Collaboration Fund

**New funding opportunity for Luton organisations has been launched to enable new partnership work.**

The funding will support the development of approaches that help vulnerable people in the town regarding the ongoing challenges of recovery from the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and associated risks around poverty.

For organisations who submitted a successful expression of interest, there was a collaboration workshop in Luton held in September with Fairness Taskforce partners to scope common areas for partnership working.



[Read more](#)





# ICB members' pledges to residents

To mark the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership leaders from all partners across the system have made a pledge to residents to show what they will do as part of their role on the Integrated Care Board or the Health and Care Partnership Joint Committee.

The pledges focus on the work that is in progress or about to complete and many of the pledges highlight wider priorities beyond health and care like supporting people into or back to work.



[Read more](#)





## Anne Brierley appointed Chief Transformation Officer for ICB

**Congratulations to Anne on the news of her new role with the Integrated Care Board.**

Anne joined the BLMK ICB from St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust where she was the Chief Operating Officer and worked throughout the Covid pandemic.

*"I am proud to have been appointed as the Chief Transformation Officer in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes and I'm looking forward to getting started – working with partners to help all communities in our area to thrive,"*

- said Anne.



[Read more](#)

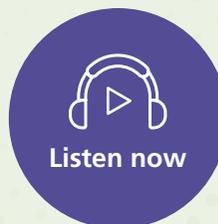


## 'BLMK Health Conversations On...' podcast

**Have you discovered our podcast channel yet? It's the easy listening way of bringing real stories to life with insightful discussions with guests from across the Health and Care Partnership.**

The podcasts are 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.

**You can listen to all the podcasts on:**



 Spotify



 Apple

