
Report of Berkshire West CCG Governing Body: 11 September 2018

Title	Berkshire West Integrated Care System MOU
Sponsoring Director	Sam Burrows, Director of Strategy
Author(s)	Sam Burrows, Director of Strategy
Purpose	To seek GB approval of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Berkshire West ICS and NHS England and NHS Improvement
Previously considered by	ICS Unified Executive
Risk and Assurance	n/a
Financial and resource implications	MOU describes the financial arrangements that underpin the ICS (previously approved by the Board).
Legal implications/regulatory requirements	MOU describes the oversight and assurance relationship between the ICS and the national bodies
Consultation, public engagement & partnership working implications/impact	n/a
Public Sector Equality Duty	n/a

Executive Summary

This paper summarises and gives the ICS Unified Executive's views on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Berkshire West ICS and NHS England and NHS Improvement. It recommends that the MoU is signed as a pragmatic way forward. Similar recommendations are being made to the Boards of Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Recommendation

That the Governing Body approves the MOU for signature.

Berkshire West ICS MOU

- 1.1 Berkshire West is one of eight systems that formed the first wave of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in the NHS. One of the core tenets of ICSs is that these systems will have a more mature relationship with the national bodies (NHS England and NHS Improvement) resulting in less routine oversight and assurance.
- 1.2 As part of this a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 2018/19 has been prepared to describe the terms of the relationships with the national bodies. The MoU is supposed to “set out the national expectations of ICSs, the freedom and flexibilities that these systems gain in return and how we (the national bodies) will work to support system leaders and their teams.”
- 1.3 The proposed MoU for 18/19 is more detailed than the 2017/18 MoU which the Board previously considered and approved. Feedback has been provided on the MoU to the national bodies and a near-final draft is now ready to be considered for sign-off by the Board. Discussions are taking place in parallel with the Boards of the other constituent organisations of the ICS.
- 2.1 The MoU is split into two main parts.
 - i) The first sets out the existing agreements regarding the priorities for ICS delivery and the financial arrangements that underpin this. These have all been previously approved by the Board.
 - ii) The second part of the MoU relates to the oversight arrangements of the national bodies with ICSs and ‘support offer’ they will provide.
- 2.2 The oversight arrangements reflect current thinking but not the final position. This is likely to be agreed later in the autumn as part of the development of the NHS long-term plan. Key points to note are:
 - i) The ICS is expected to be the first port of call to deal with underperformance of any of the local organisations in the system;
 - ii) Engagement with individual organisations in the ICS from the national bodies is intended to come through the ICS first;
 - iii) Ad-hoc data and information requests from national bodies will be minimised and the ICS will be consulted before a request is issued;
 - iv) Current multiple organisational assurance will be replaced by agreeing the single proactive sharing of reports from the system’s own governance process – e.g. monthly reports on key quality, performance and finance measures and quarterly reports on national priority programmes.
 - v) For current ICSs not yet working at the STP/1m+ scale (this includes Berkshire West), the aim is that reporting to regulators will be replaced by reporting to a STP level ICS from April 2019.
- 2.3 The majority of the content in this second part of the MoU is not new. However, the proposal that from April 2019 Berkshire West ICS may need to report into the STP and then on to the national bodies would be a significant change.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Whilst much of the content of the proposed MoU reflects existing agreements the consensus view across ICS partners is that significant improvements to the document can be made.
- 3.2 Feedback has been provided to NHS England and NHS Improvement and this iteration of the MoU is improved from previous versions. However, it is clear that the document is unlikely to significantly change further.
- 3.3 Further, it is important to note that the receipt of transformation funding from national bodies to the ICS is contingent upon the signing of a MoU.
- 3.4 The MoU has been discussed at the ICS Unified Executive. The Unified Executive recommends that the Boards of the constituent organisations of the ICS sign the MOU in its current form. The ICS Leaders Group also considered the MoU at their meeting on 22 August and concurred with this assessment.

4 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 4.1 This paper summarises and gives the Executive's views on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Berkshire West ICS and NHS England and NHS Improvement. It recommends that the MoU is signed as a pragmatic way forward. Similar recommendations are being made to the Boards of Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.
- 4.2 Should all three Boards agree with this recommendation the Chief Executives of the respective organisations will sign the MoU on the organisations behalf.