

Question:

Why are the outstanding 4 X Health Hubs for this region not a regularly reviewed item on the Integrated Care Board Agenda Master Action Tracker to report progress ?

From a member of the public – David Messum.

Answer (responded at 22.3.24 Board in Public):

Response from BLMK ICB (Dean Westcott, Chief Finance Officer)

Thank you for this question – we fully acknowledge the significant public interest in our estates plans. BLMK is growing more than twice as quickly as the national average, and we are working hard as are partners to increase capacity and meet rising demand in a way that is affordable and sustainable. The action tracker published alongside the Board Papers reports only on those actions agreed at ICB Board meetings – it is therefore by no means an exhaustive list of all the areas of work across the system.

Our estates strategy is informed by detailed considerations about health and service need, including how we can best respond to the significant housing and population growth in this area. Some of the key developments which are influencing our estates plans are:

- Digital Advances – as a result of the digital transformations that took place during Covid, we are using different tools to enable teams to work in a much more integrated way – even when they aren't based together in the same building. Digital developments, such as remote consultations, have also given patients more options around how they can access care and advice from health professionals.
- Primary Care Networks – the establishment and consolidation of Primary Care Networks over the last few years has enabled the development of comprehensive multi-disciplinary teams. We have a far greater range of services and more appointments being delivered in primary care now than a few years ago, across a range of settings, and these services are organised across GP practices in their Networks. We're pleased to be investing an additional £1.95m a year to grow our primary care estate.
- The publication of the national Fuller Report in 2022 provided best practice recommendations for achieving integrated care at neighbourhood level, and we have drawn upon this to further develop our local partnership programme for improving integrated care for local people.

- Considerations of affordability in terms of both revenue and capital funding are of course central, and it is important that we are guided by what is affordable and sustainable.

We are in the process of updating our BLMK Infrastructure Strategy, and this is due for completion by September this year when it will come before the ICB Board.