

PQ1 - Relating to Bad Diet, Poor Health Epidemic and Environmental Issues

Board of the ICB – 24/3/2023

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Do the members agree that bad diet (junk food, processed meats, red meats, cheese, refined foods, foods high in sugar, fats and salt, and low in fibre, fruit and vegetables) is causing an epidemic of poor health (heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes etc), as well as causing environmental problems?</p>	<p>Members agree that an unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity are leading risks to health, and adopting a healthy diet helps to protect against malnutrition in all its forms, as well as non-communicable diseases, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.</p> <p>Members recognise that food needs to be grown, processed, transported, distributed, prepared, consumed, and sometimes disposed. All these steps create greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change. Moreover, at current consumption levels, certain foods, particularly red and processed meat and dairy¹², are causing damage to our health and the planet. On the other hand, increasing our consumption of fruit, vegetables and legumes will reduce our risk of non-communicable diseases and help protect the environment. Ultimately, it is recognised that the current food system needs to adopt healthier, more equitable and more sustainable ways of producing and consuming food (Agroecology).</p>
<p>If so, do you see it as part of your responsibility to tackle this cause of ill health and planetary destruction, and not just to treat the symptoms (which is what the NHS does)?</p>	<p>In accordance with the <u>government's food strategy</u>, steps need to be taken to create a more prosperous agri-food sector that delivers healthier, more sustainable and affordable diets for all. The strategy identifies a number of measures to achieve this, targeting a variety of actors across the entirety of the food supply chain.</p> <p>In the <u>Long Term Plan</u>, the NHS recognises its role in supporting healthier diets, introducing healthier food options for staff and patients and improving nutrition training in health professional education. Furthermore, in '<u>Delivering a Net Zero NHS</u>', the NHS recognises the contribution of food and catering to its carbon emissions and acknowledges that the diet recommended by the</p>

¹ <https://www.lancetcountdown.org/data-platform/mitigation-actions-and-health-co-benefits/3-5-food-agriculture-and-health/3-5-1-emissions-from-agricultural-production-and-consumption>

<https://www.lancetcountdown.org/data-platform/mitigation-actions-and-health-co-benefits/3-5-food-agriculture-and-health/3-5-2-awaiting-data-diet-and-health-co-benefits>

² [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(22\)01540-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(22)01540-9/fulltext)

	<p>government's EatWell plate is low-carbon as well as healthy.</p> <p>In the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System <u>Green Plan</u>, BLMK has identified food and nutrition as a key theme that will support the BLMK five priorities for health and social care and reduce its environmental impact. The councils have also noted the importance of improving locally sourced food options, providing more opportunities to grow food locally and reducing food waste in their climate action plans and food plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bedford Borough Council – Carbon Reduction Delivery Strategy 2020-2030</u> • <u>Central Bedfordshire Council – Sustainability Plan</u> • <u>Luton Borough Council – Climate Change Action Plan and Food Plan 2018-2022</u> • <u>Milton Keynes Council – Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050</u> <p>Luton Council has also developed a <u>Climate Change Guide</u> that provides advice on how to take action in different areas from making changes in your home to how you travel and the food you eat.</p>
<p>What are you prepared to do and what are you doing to promote plant-based foods and to help restrict meat, dairy, and junk foods?</p>	<p>Locally, our aspiration is to support the formation of Local Food Partnerships that bring together councils and partners from the public sector, voluntary and community groups, and businesses to reduce diet-related ill health and inequality, while supporting a prosperous local food economy. Councils are also exploring what policy levers are available to them in their capacity as local authorities to address their local food environments.</p> <p>The Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System has committed to reducing food waste across our sites and facilities, phase out plastic packaging, and provide healthier, more locally sourced, and sustainable food choices. We will work with key stakeholders across the system to deliver these commitments.</p> <p>The <u>NHS National standards for healthcare food and drink</u> set requirements for healthy and sustainable meals for patients, staff, and visitors. All NHS organisations are required to meet these</p>

	standards. More detailed local actions on food and nutrition are also specified in the <u>Milton Keynes University Hospital and Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Green Plans</u> .
--	---

"

Board of the ICB 24/3/23

QUESTION

The Partners of the Ivel Medical Centre in Biggleswade have handed back their GMS Contract back to the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (ICB). Since this announcement, the ability to obtain a doctor's appointment has become even more difficult. What are the ICB actively doing to resolve the issue, including the hiring of additional staff to serve the increasing population of Biggleswade?

I know a new hub is being considered but this may be rejected, so what is the plan? These are difficult times for us all in Biggleswade, communication from the ICB on progress would be much appreciated.

ANSWER

The partners of Ivel Medical Centre resigned their General Medical Services (GMS) contract giving 6 months' notice. Their contract will terminate at midnight on 31 May 2023. The partners continue to be responsible for providing primary medical services during their notice period. We have written to all patients to confirm that we do not need them to take any action, and that we will keep them updated of any developments.

The most recent data confirms:

- The total number of appointments recorded at the practice is steady and the % of GP appointments has increased from 48% to 59%.
- Face-to-Face appointments each month are between 92-95%, (national average of 68%)
- Appointments booked on the same day have increased to 57%

There are weekly meetings with the practices to support the safe handover to a new provider, and the partners of the practice are working closely with the ICB to support and retain staff during the notice period. The employed staff are aware they will Transfer under Protected Employment (TUPE) rights to the new provider on 1 June 2023.

The ICB is providing additional dedicated management support to the practice to help to recruit to vacant posts. In the last week, the partners have confirmed they have successfully recruited an experienced receptionist who will transfer to the new provider on 01 June 2023.

The ICB has a responsibility to secure a new provider from 1 June 2023 and as such is currently undertaking a procurement process. Given the commercially sensitive nature of this process the ICB cannot provide further updates, but expects to be in a position to announce the new provider in mid April 2023.

As regards new hub in Biggleswade, we continue to work with our health and care partners to develop proposals. No decisions have been made about new integrated health and care hubs in BLMK.

PQ3 – Living Wage Foundation Meeting – in relation to Health Inequalities

QUESTION

As BLMK work to reduce inequalities in everything they do, and are specifically looking to reduce systemic inequality, would Felicity Cox agree to meet with leaders from Citizens UK and a representative from the Living Wage Foundation to discuss the benefits of becoming Living Wage accredited. The real Living Wage rates are higher because they are independently-calculated based on what people need to get by.

Luke Lerner, Priest, St Paul's Church Bedford
Catherine Butt, Vicar at St Frideswide's Church Bletchley
Rebecca Stockman, Affordable Housing Development Consultant, LivShare Housing

ANSWER

Thank you, Father Lerner, Reverend Butt and Ms Stockman.

We would be very pleased to meet with leaders from Citizens UK and the Living Wage Foundation to discuss the matter of the 'Living Wage' and to understand Living Wage accreditation. We are grateful for the contact you have made and look forward to meeting with you