

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (3)

**Meeting:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**Place:** Kennet Room - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

**Date:** Thursday 23 May 2024

**Time:** 10.00 am

---

**The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 15 May 2024. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Max Hirst - Democratic Services Officer of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line or email [Max.Hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Max.Hirst@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

---

5 **Public Participation** *(Pages 3 - 8)*

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 23 MAY 2024
----------------------------------

This page is intentionally left blank

## Questions for Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 23 May 2024

**From Chris Caswill**

Wiltshire Council gave planning permission (Ref. 20/01057) for a new build GP medical centre for the Patford House GP Partnership in Calne in a Decision Notice dated 15 November 2020. At the time all the necessary contributions for the new building appeared to be in place, including funding and NHS support. The latter was spelt out in the 22 June 2020 response to the public consultation from the then Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which said, for example:

*“the proposed new build development replacing Patford House surgery has been prioritised and fully approved by the current CCG for revenue funding”.* And

*“the new build will be transformative for primary care services locally”* And

*“this is a scheme that the NHS sees as an essential part of the local health infrastructure”*

And *“the scheme is not only a benefit but critical to future primary health delivery in the town”*

I have also provided a copy of the full letter as it seems even more relevant today. Since then, almost four years on, it appears the development of the new centre has stalled. So much time has passed that the planning permission has lapsed. In that time, the Wiltshire CCG was absorbed in 2022 into the much larger BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB). Unfortunately it seems the ICB is not continuing the crucial support so clearly provided by the CCG it replaced, though reasons for this are hard to find in the publicly available ICB papers. Meantime Patford GPs, staff and patients continue in a building that is not for purpose and virtually inaccessible for many patients with limited mobility.

I am making this representation as an individual local resident with no formal role in any of the organisations involved, except as a patient of the Beversbrook GP surgery in Calne, which is part of the Patford Partnership. I recently attended my first meeting of its Patient Participation Group where I was shocked to hear for the first time about the current situation. Since then I have done some research and tried without much success to understand the decision process and reasoning which has led to the ICB not progressing the decisions of its CCG predecessor. I come to this HWB meeting because of its remit and wide membership, to highlight the obvious impacts of delays with the new building on the health and wellbeing of literally thousands of people in Calne and its neighbouring communities. And to ask what the Board can do to help bring the project back to life as early as possible. Specifically to ask your Chair:

- (a) Does he agree that action is urgently needed from several different parties to get the project for a new build surgery in Calne underway again as soon as possible?
  - (b) Will he write to the ICB on the Board's behalf to stress the need for this project to be delivered, and to ask that the ICB give this their immediate attention, explain in the public domain why they have not yet been able to continue the commitments of the predecessor CCG, what conditions need to be met for them to do so now, and why?
  - (c) Will he also agree to ask for a full report on the situation to come to the next HWB meeting in July, including positive steps toward delivery.
  - (d) Will he consider asking the Council's Health Select scrutiny committee to enquire into the current situation, and recommend any steps that can help with delivery of the project?
- (Ends)

## Response

Thank you for your questions.

I am happy to confirm that I would welcome urgent action on getting the project for a new build surgery in Calne underway again as soon as possible. I will invite the ICB representative to provide a verbal update at the May Board meeting and a further written report on primary care provision (including on specific sites as appropriate) at the July Board meeting. I will also invite the Health Select Committee to consider this topic at an appropriate point so that appropriate recommendations can be made.

BSW ICB have provided the following written response to the question in advance of the meeting:

*Bath, NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) is committed to working with primary care colleagues to ensure local services are provided in fit for purpose estates.*

*The ICB has worked with our practices and Primary Care Networks using the national*

*Primary Care estates planning tools to identify those primary care projects across BSW which should be prioritised for completion. Within this list of priority projects are several initiatives which include Wiltshire practices.*

*A dedicated Primary Care Estates Investment Plan is currently being drawn up which will set out how the works listed on the prioritisation framework can be taken forward and over what timeframe. Once this plan has been communicated to those affected practices, we will be able to share our plans more widely with partners.*

*Having the support of local stakeholders, such as MPs and other elected officials, will be key to making things happen, and Gordon Muvuti, the BSW Executive Director for Primary Care, will keep colleagues outside of the ICB updated with progress through an ongoing, and regular dialogue.*

**22 June 2020**

Mr Simon Smith  
Planning Officer  
Wiltshire Council  
Monkton Park  
Chippenham  
SN15 1ER



Dear Mr Smith

**RE: Planning Application Reference 20/01057/FUL  
Proposed new replacement NHS medical centre in Calne for Patford House  
Surgery**

As you may already be aware, BSW Clinical Commissioning Group is the NHS organisation responsible for planning and commissioning primary health and care services for the people of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

The CCG is clinically led and our membership includes all 94 GP practices in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire area, formed in April 2020 this year from the merger of separate, more local CCGs. Calne was previously part of Wiltshire CCG and this has been merged into the BSW successor NHS organisation. Our member GP practices are assisted by the CCG's team of health care professionals and patient representatives to plan and deliver health and care services for the benefit of all registered patients.

As part of this CCG support, all GPs nationally have their rent reimbursed, as per the 'Premises Cost Directions' statutory instrument and government legislation and it is also the CCG's statutory responsibility to prioritise budgets and funding for new build premises developments, such as the one referred to in the above planning application. Under these powers I can confirm that the proposed new build development replacing Patford House surgery has been prioritised and fully approved by the CCG for recurrent revenue funding. This funding stream has been independently verified by the Valuation Office Agency as 'value for money' and is duly affordable to the NHS, in part due to a nominal site value attributed to the project.

Due to these prior funding approvals and allocations made by the CCG, we therefore expect that Assura, the GPs' development partners, will be able commence construction as soon as reasonably practicable after/if a suitable planning consent is granted. It is important that the new facility is delivered as soon as possible to ensure local health outcomes and patient services are retained (and improved) locally.

Patford House was approved for new premises by the CCG following an exhaustive and comprehensive business case application process. The current, outdated premises have been independently assessed as not being fit for long term continued use as a GP surgery. The case of need is documented within section 6 of the Planning Statement accompanying the planning application, which summarises the extensive and essential benefits of the proposed development. Despite the acknowledged need for new and improved primary healthcare facilities in the town, unfortunately Calne Town Council failed, through the Neighbourhood plan, to identify, allocate and protect a suitable site to meet the identified need, which could have facilitated a location within the settlement limits. The consequence is that the only suitable alternative is now the application site.

The practice serves 9,000 patients and is part of a partnership serving a combined list of 16,800+ when assessed alongside Beversbrook Medical Centre and Sutton Benger Surgery which are also run by the same group of GPs. The GPs are also part of the local Primary Care Network of GPs in Calne that collaborate on primary care initiatives locally, in accordance with NHS guidance and best practice within primary care.

Due to the inherent issues within Patford House and Covid-19, the surgery is not currently open for patients and there is genuine risk of permanent closure, which will place further stress on the delivery and resilience of NHS primary care services locally. The lack of suitability of Patford House in the longer term is one of the key reasons why the CCG has allocated (much sought after and rarely available) funding for replacement premises. The new build will be transformative for primary care services locally and also would be expected to form a key part of a future pandemic response, improving resilience and providing further options for the NHS when looking at future service strategies.

We hope that the CCG's assertion of full support (as already referenced and set out in the GPs' planning application) and the NHS prioritisation of funding for this much-needed replacement medical centre is taken on board and acknowledged when you assess the merits of the planning application. The community health benefits of the new build are not to be underestimated and should weigh heavily in favour of the planning application when assessed on a standalone basis. This is a scheme that the NHS sees as an essential part of the local health infrastructure and will benefit future service delivery plans that mean the health of patients locally will be immeasurably improved.

In the light of recent events, refusal of planning application (coupled with a lack of alternative sites affordable to the NHS, suitable and available) would almost certainly have critical consequences for the provision of primary healthcare in Calne and therefore the health and well-being of the local community. Therefore, the scheme is not only a benefit, but critical to future primary healthcare delivery in the town.

As you will hopefully appreciate, increased CCG premises funding is, at any time, something which is only provided in cases of clear demonstrable need – especially when we are having to work within restricted budgets and other central funding

limitations. The ongoing Covid-19 situation and current closure of Patford to patients, further highlights the need for a positive decision to take matters forward and boost health outcomes locally for the many thousands of patients in Calne and surrounding areas that will be served by GPs and clinical staff operating from the new proposed replacement premises.

I do hope that this balance and need is understood and duly noted and relayed within the report and decision you are currently considering.

Yours sincerely



**Jo Cullen**  
**Director of Primary Care**  
**Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG**

This page is intentionally left blank