

## 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.*