

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

## **Staff Briefing: The Future Arrangements for NHS Commissioning**

Dear colleagues,

In these unprecedented times, we are very aware that colleagues are focussing all of their attention and efforts on COVID-19. Thank you to everyone for playing their part. It is much appreciated.

Although we are conscious that your priorities will no doubt lie elsewhere, in keeping with our commitment to making sure you are kept up-to-date, you will find in this briefing the latest information on the development of a single management team across the three CCGs. We are also able to share with you an update on national guidance about the proposed merger of CCGs.

First and foremost is to let you know that any proposed consultation with affected staff will be put on pause. The wellbeing of colleagues is of utmost importance to us, which is why we have taken this decision – so that all can continue to focus efforts on COVID-19 and other important pieces of work, without the added distraction and worry of any formal HR process.

Undoubtedly, we will all come out of the other side of COVID-19 with valuable learning and experiences of how we can work differently and adapt our approaches to minimise duplication. We need to be mindful of these as we move ahead with our plans.

The three CCG Governing Bodies have agreed that the decision about the start date of the formal staff consultation can be made by Fiona Wise together with the BOB ICS Independent Chair David Clayton-Smith, the CCG Clinical Chairs and Vice Lay Chairs. We will make sure you are kept updated through these briefings.

Best wishes

Fiona Wise  
BOB ICS Executive Lead  
And Interim Chief Officer  
Bucks & Oxon CCGs

Cathy Winfield  
Chief Officer,  
Berkshire West CCG

## **Staff Briefing: The Future Arrangements for NHS Commissioning (cont.)**

### **Recruitment to a single AO/ICS Lead Role**

Interviews have been held and a preferred candidate has been identified. Before any formal announcement can be made, the decision needs to go through the relevant CCG and NHS England governance processes. Further information is expected in the coming weeks.

### **Interim Accountable Officer arrangements for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire CCGs**

Fiona Wise, Executive Lead for the BOB ICS, has taken on the interim role of Accountable Officer for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire CCGs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Fiona will continue in her ICS leadership role, and so will be supported by Diane Hedges and Robert Majilton who will continue to provide leadership to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire CCGs on a day-to-day basis as the two CCGs' Deputy Chief Officers.

### **The development of a single, integrated management team and working arrangements to support the three CCGs**

Plans for a formal HR consultation process for affected staff **have been put on pause**.

This decision has been taken to protect the wellbeing of colleagues so that all can continue to focus efforts on COVID-19 and other important pieces of work, without the added distraction and worry of any formal HR process.

A decision about the start date of the formal staff consultation will be made by Fiona Wise together with the CCG Clinical Chairs and Vice Lay Chairs. All staff will be kept updated through this staff briefing.

### **Updated National Guidance Published on CCG Mergers**

As you are aware, an engagement exercise was run towards the end of last year to gather feedback on the very early stages of work to explore options for the streamlining NHS commissioning arrangements, including a single CCG. We have received national guidance that any work, including those at the very early stages such as ours, should be put on hold to help release capacity to support the response to COVID-19. Therefore a merger by April 2021 is not being considered. Until any decision is made each CCG will continue as a statutory organisation. This does not affect the plans described above for a single management team.