**BSW Partnership Board 25 February 2022 – Questions from the public and answers**

1. **Following the surprise announcement of Twenty20 Capital/HCRG’s takeover of VirginCare shortly after the board’s decision to extend the contract beyond 2024 to 2027, is it a possibility that the board will now terminate the contract in 2024 and start the process to look for another provider, possibly even directly providing services from the NHS and Local Authority in Bath and North East Somerset?**

The decision to extend the Virgin Care contract was taken by Bath and North East Somerset Council and Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG not the BSW Partnership which is not a legal entity.

The BSW ICB will take over commissioning for the system from 1st July 2022 following completion of the Health and Social Care Bill’s passage through Parliament. While both Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG and Bath and North East Somerset Council have been assured by HCRG Care Group that the acquisition of Virgin Care will make no difference to the way in which services are provided, the development has raised a number of concerns.

In light of these concerns, the CCG and Council have decided to pause and reflect whilst working together to seek specialist advice and undertake a comprehensive analysis and due diligence on the implications of these changes to our local services. We are aiming to conclude this work in time for a decision to be taken by June.

1. **What is the difference between the current BSW ICS Partnership Board and the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) which is proposed in the Health and Care Bill legislation? Will all of the current members of the Partnership Board transfer to the ICP from July 2022, assuming that the government’s legislation establishing Integrated Care Systems as statutory bodies is passed?**

Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP) are a statutory committee formed by the Integrated Care Board and local authorities in the areas they cover. An ICP is a broad alliance of organisations and representatives concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population. The ICP will be tasked with producing an integrated care strategy for its area.

The members of our current BSW Partnership Board are drawn from all the organisations that provide health and care services to our local population. The current Partnership Board has no formal delegated powers from the organisations in the Partnership but operates through a Memorandum of Understanding. It works by building agreement with leaders across Partner organisations to drive action around a shared and common purpose.

The membership of Integrated Care Partnership that will form part of our future arrangements has not been agreed yet. We intend for the ICP to be in place in Quarter 2, 2022-2023

1. **Please can you clearly explain how the responsibilities and duties of the ICP will differ from those of the statutory Integrated Care Board (ICB).**

The BSW ICB will be a statutory NHS body and one of the two core elements of our Integrated Care System (ICS)

The ICB will take on the NHS commissioning functions of CCGs as well as some of NHS England’s commissioning functions. It will also be accountable for NHS spend and performance within the system. It will hold NHS bodies in the BSW area to account.

The ICP will be tasked with developing a strategy to address the health, social care and public health needs of their system, and being a forum to support partnership working.

You may also find helpful the attached infographic and overview of ICSs produced by the Kings Fund.

[Integrated care systems: how will they work under the Health and Care Bill? | The King's Fund (kingsfund.org.uk)](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/integrated-care-systems-health-and-care-bill)

1. **What principles and procedures will the ICS have in place as part of its constitution to ensure that the commercial interests of private providers in the ICP will not exert undue influence on how NHS services are planned and delivered?**

The BSW ICB constitution will comply with the requirements set out in the Health and Care Bill, including eligibility and disqualification criteria of Board members. We will await any specific guidance on how arrangements with private providers should be managed.

The NHS has robust measures in place for managing conflicts of interest and these measures are routinely used by the BSW Partnership in line with best practice. The requirements to ensure conflicts of interests are appropriately dealt with is contained in the Health and Care Bill. We also are anticipating further refreshed guidance on the management of Conflicts of Interest in ICB arrangements.

1. **Myself and my partner are anxiously awaiting IVF. Because of where we live, we aren’t allowed funding until I am 30 years old (we are currently 26). We live in Wiltshire. If we lived in Swindon we would be eligible for funding. Considering Swindon and Wiltshire are part of the same CCG, why is the age criteria not the same, and can the lower eligible age limit for Wiltshire be lowered to 25 to bring it in line with Swindon and BaNES?**

We are pleased to confirm that a single IVF policy covering the whole of BSW went live on Monday 21st February 2022. This now fully aligned policy means all couples can access IVF treatment from the female partner’s 25th birthday and up to 18 weeks prior to the patient’s 40th birthday. The age of the male partner must be before 55 years.

Full details of the CCG’s policy can be found at: -

<https://bswccg.nhs.uk/docs-reports/exceptional-funding-requests/2634-bsw-cp022fc-iv-criteria-checklist/file>

We apologise to residents for the delay in aligning the previous 3 CCG policies on IVF following the CCG’s merger in April 2020. Work to develop a single policy was significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic as staff and capacity were directed at other priorities.