

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)

7th February 2024



Report of: Bristol Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre

Title: Bristol Health Partners and its Health Integration Teams

Presenting Report: Rachel Allbless and Olly Watson, Joint Chief Operating Officers, Bristol Health Partners

Recommendations:

The committee is invited to note this report and consider opportunities for the Health Integration Teams and wider partnership to support the committee's priorities.

The significant issues in the report are:

Bristol Health Partners support 'Health Integration Teams' which bring together health professionals, managers, researchers and the public to tackle local health and care priorities.

These Health Integration Teams are well aligned to and often leading work on health and care system priorities.

Bristol Health Partners and its Health Integration Teams are keen to support the committee, its areas of interest and priorities.



1. Summary

- The Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee has requested more information about Health Integration Teams that are working in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.
- This paper:
 - Introduces Bristol Health Partners Academic Health Science Centre as the organisation that develops and oversees Health Integration Teams
 - Describes Health Integration Teams as groups that bring together health professionals, managers, researchers and the public to tackle local health and care priorities
 - Locates Health Integration Teams within the wider local health and care system

2. Context

2.1. About Bristol Health Partners AHSC

- 2.1.1 [Bristol Health Partners](#) (BHP) is a collaboration of eleven local organisations and two affiliate members¹ across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG). The partnership brings together the clinical and academic expertise of the local universities, health and care services, and local authorities to improve health and care for our 1.1M population.
- 2.1.2 Following a highly competitive process, BHP was designated by NIHR and NHSE/I as one of eight [Academic Health Science Centres](#) (AHSCs) across England commencing 1st April 2020, for a 5-year period. This designation builds on successes in research, innovation, education and training and recognises the outstanding local collaborations that BHP has created across BNSSG over the last ten years.
- 2.1.3 Compared with other AHSCs, BHP is primarily focused on population health, service improvement and applied research, rather than experimental medicine, early phase research, and drug discovery.
- 2.1.4 The BHP AHSC activities are principally delivered by our 20+ **Health Integration Teams** (HITs), which comprise health professionals, researchers, managers, voluntary organisations, public contributors and service users and are focused on prevention of ill health and delivery of evidence-informed health and care.
- 2.1.5 BHP AHSC provides the **Research and Innovation Steering Group for the BNSSG Integrated Care System**. This brings together leaders in local health and care, research and innovation to help develop, lead and implement new and better ways of working that support improved health. We were the first ICS in England to develop the integration of health and care with our regional academic expertise and world-leading research and are seen by NHSE as a national exemplar in this area.

¹ Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, Bristol City Council, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, NHS Blood and Transplant, North Bristol NHS Trust, North Somerset Council, Sirona care & health, South Gloucestershire Council, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, University of Bristol, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol). Affiliate members = BrisDoc and OneCare

2.1.6 The Partnership is chaired by Maria Kane (Chief Executive, North Bristol NHS Trust) and our Director is Professor David Wynick. The work of the partnership is supported by a core team of 7.2FTEs. We are funded by subscriptions from member organisations and additional fixed term external grants.

2.2. About Health Integration Teams

2.2.1. Health Integration Teams (HITs) are groups that bring together health professionals, managers, researchers and the public to tackle local health and care priorities (see **appendix 1** for list of HITs). They involve multiple disciplines and organisations.

2.2.2. HITs are overseen by the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Research and Innovation Steering Group. The group monitors and supports their activities, approves applications for new teams and assists with decision-making on resource allocation. A key role for the steering group is to ensure HITs are adding value to existing work and addressing system priorities.

2.2.3. HITs can apply for up to £15,000 per year of funding (derived from the Bristol Health Partners' member subscriptions). This is accompanied by a small amount of project management and administrative resource.

2.2.4. HIT activities and structures vary, but all must have patient and public involvement at the centre of their working. Recent examples of HIT activities include, but are not limited to:

- [Working with communities to develop a new culturally appropriate continence clinic](#)
- [Co-producing research with child sexual abuse survivors to improve their care pathway](#)
- [Supporting the redesign of the stroke pathway with evidence and public involvement](#)

2.2.5. HITs generate a wide range of outcomes, which can be grouped into:

- Improvements in services / pathways and population health
- Policy influence
- Workforce development
- External income to partners and region

2.3 Health Integration Teams and the local health and care system

2.2.6. HITs are led by representatives of Bristol Health Partner member organisations alongside other colleagues, including public contributors. HITs must always describe how they support or lead system priorities. In several instances, HIT Directors and members are leads for Integrated Care Board work-streams. Where appropriate, HITs have also merged their meetings with other groups to avoid duplication.

2.2.7. Typically HITs add value to existing system initiatives by connecting academic expertise for decision-making, innovation and evaluation. They also bring experience and networks for public involvement.

3. Policy

3.1 Bristol Health Partners and our Health Integration Teams support a wide range of Council and partner priorities and plans, including but not limited to:

- BNSSG Integrated Care System Strategy
- One City Plan
- Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Fuel Poverty Action Plan

4. Consultation

a)Internal

Not applicable

b)External

Not applicable

Appendices:

1- List of Health Integration Teams

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Appendix 1 – List of Health Integration Teams

Chronic health conditions

- Dementia
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Movement disorders
- Chronic pain
- Kidney disease
- Stroke

Equitable, appropriate and sustainable health and care

- Adversity and trauma
- Supporting healthy neighbourhood environments
- Bladder and bowel confidence

Mental health

- Psychological therapies in primary care
- Psychosis
- Eating disorders
- Preventing self-harm and suicide
- Perinatal mental health

Public health interventions

- Improving sexual health
- Immunisation and vaccines
- Active lives
- Drug and alcohol
- Healthy weight