

Dear Cllr Perham,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November. Unfortunately, I did not receive the letter which Sarah Sandiford has now forwarded to me by email. As we are Working From Home electronic communication is preferable.

At the Task and Finish Group on 18 October 2021, myself and other colleagues, including clinicians from the Primary Care Network and Community health services set out in our presentation, some of the service developments already underway and planned, to help improve the health and care experience of residents of Leighton Buzzard.

The presentation also included a summary of the findings from the early strategic scoping work including the stakeholder workshops. We also explained that, whilst there is currently no significant capital identified for Leighton Buzzard Hub, officers intend to continue to work on the aspiration and that this work will include development of the service model and outline business case for a Hub to ensure that there is a viable bid should national funds become available. Work on producing a service model and business case will include a cross section of stakeholders including the town council and local residents. Given the current constraints on all health colleagues, owing to the impact of the pandemic and especially the vaccination programme, it isn't possible to be exact about when this work will recommence.

As you are aware, updates on the Hub Programme are reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Ward Members and members of the general public are able to attend the meetings and can have access to the papers of the meeting. We would however be happy to attend meetings of the Leighton-Linslade Town Council when there are developments to inform the town council about. I would therefore suggest that meeting in April/May is likely to be premature.

As mentioned earlier, based on the current challenges around covid and health and care services needing to reprioritise to focus on the pandemic, it is currently not possible to give an indicative timescale for when the work on the service model is likely to commence. We will be happy to advise the Town Council when this work can recommence but please note that timings for the delivery of the Hub can only be discussed once capital funding is secured.

In the meantime, we are not waiting for a physical building to be delivered before delivering real changes for Leighton Buzzard residents. My colleague, Debbie Martin gave an update on the programme "Working Together in Leighton Buzzard" that is bringing local GPs, community health, mental health, social care and the wider voluntary sector together to jointly plan and deliver care for local people. We held a workshop for residents on 29 November 2021 to showcase this new way of working. We intend to hold further workshops in future and will advise Central Bedfordshire members and the Town Council of these.

I have noted your comments about sight of the Strategic Business Case and that you are, rightly, picking this up with BLMK CCG colleagues.

Yours Sincerely

Patricia

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Thank you