

Healthwatch Bromley response to SELICS Joint Forward Plan

The aspirations of the SELICS JFP support the stated ambitions of the One Bromley Local Care Partnership strategy. While we welcome the ambition and scope of the plans, we feel it is important to highlight the key enablers that SELICS needs to achieve in year 1 and 2 if the plans are to be successful.

It will be critical that workforce, IT and estates issues are addressed by robust plans of the necessary scale and scope put in place immediately. Helping to support development of the social care workforce is of particular importance.

The financial section of the JFP lays out the challenge the system faces, in particular the acute trusts. Failure to achieve the necessary recurrent savings in the next 18 months will have a material impact on the stated longer-term ambitions. Reviewing 22/23 performance highlights the complexity in delivering large recurrent savings in a system facing sustained growth in demand. It would be helpful to have a greater understanding of how the acute trusts will deliver these savings. The current trajectory of new community services is unlikely to flatten acute demand growth sufficiently in the short term to deliver the requisite savings.

The intention to focus on health inequalities is very welcome. We hope that the ICS will include population groups with known health inequalities in Bromley when allocating resources. Key to success will be a focus on the wider determinants of health. Social housing is consistently raised as one of these and yet is missing from current wider ICP plans.

When undertaking the stated transformation programmes and while addressing the short-term financial challenges to deliver them, we believe there should be an increased SELICS focus on quality improvement, measuring health outcomes and incorporating the patient/public/carer voice during all stages of the decision-making process. For instance, it is not possible to see if year one activity has been subject to or is undergoing robust quality and equality impact assessment.

As Healthwatch Bromley we look forward to working with SELICS partners in the development of these plans and the incorporation of the patient/public/carer voice.