



Bolton's Locality Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What is the locality plan?

As part of the devolution of health and social care in Greater Manchester, a Greater Manchester Strategic Plan was produced that set out how health and care services right across the region would change over the next five years.

NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Bolton Council, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust (Bolton FT), and Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMMH), as well as other organisations and groups in the voluntary and community sector, have all worked together to produce a locality plan for Bolton. The plan is all about how and why we need to make changes so our health and care services are fit for the future.

We think the big benefit to this new way of doing things is that it's allowing local organisations to come together and work much more closely than we ever have before.

2. Where can I see a copy of the locality plan?

The plan is available on the website of NHS Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group:

<http://www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/the-bolton-plan>.

3. How do I find out about the locality plan if I'm visually impaired?

You can contact the CCG, Bolton Council, Bolton FT, or GMMH to request a copy in large print or braille.

4. What will these changes mean for me?

Our health and social care services are under a lot of pressure. You may have noticed this when you visit your GP practice, go to the hospital, or if you have care provided at home. We need to make big changes to make things better, both now and in the future.

But it's not just about changing services, we want everyone in Bolton to live longer and healthier lives. So, you can expect more help to stay well.

We'll also be shifting more care into the community so you may not need to go to the hospital to see a health professional. Of course, there will still be beds available for those who need them.





5. Who is responsible for the locality plan?

Bolton's locality plan has been jointly produced by the CCG, Bolton Council, Bolton FT, and GMMH, as well as organisations and groups in the voluntary and community sector. Together these organisations have formed the Bolton Health and Social Care Partnership with Su Long (Chief Officer for the CCG) as the Senior Responsible Officer.

But we don't have all the answers! We need Bolton people to get involved and share their views too.

6. What is meant by transformation? What does it mean in reality?

We have been making small changes to health and care services and trying to save money for the last few years. But there's now even more pressure on services so this isn't enough – we must do more. Transformation means making BIG changes to the way we provide services and moving away from how things have always been done.

7. Is it about reducing costs or making cuts?

There's more and more pressure on Bolton's health and care services but the money we have available to spend is limited. This means we're going to have to work smarter and do things differently if we want to make services better and improve the health of local people.

8. When are the changes happening?

The Locality Plan is a five year plan. We've spent the last year developing the plan and laying the groundwork – this has included extending services we know are working well or testing out new ideas.

Transformation Fund money, awarded in March 2017, will help us to get things moving more quickly.

Changes to services will be brought in gradually over the next five years until the end of 2021. It could be disruptive and confusing if everything happened at once!

9. What happens if this doesn't work? Is there a plan B?

We'll keep reviewing progress along the way. Some things as we find out more about what works and other organisations become more involving in delivering changes.

But there is no plan B. Our local services are under a lot of pressure and the money we have available to spend is limited. We need to make big changes so health and care services are fit for the future.

10. Why don't we try to fix the current problems before the changes identified by the locality plan?

The locality plan is all about looking at current problems and working out what we can do to fix them, using the money we have available.



Communications and engagement



11. How have patients and members of the public been involved so far?

Bolton's locality plan is all about working in partnership – and that includes you. We've already talked to local organisations, community groups, and of course Bolton people to spread the word about our big plan for health and care.

We produced a shorter, public friendly summary of the locality plan to make it easier for everyone to find out more.

The Bolton Taking Charge initiative that ran from February to April 2016 aimed to raise awareness of the locality plan whilst encouraging people to think more about what they could do to 'take charge' of their own health and wellbeing. Lots of people made pledges to get more exercise, eat more healthily, or stop smoking – to name but a few. We want to make Bolton a happier, healthier place and we all have a part to play!

12. How can I ensure that my voice is heard and influence what happens next?

Don't worry if you've only just heard about Bolton's locality plan – you haven't missed your chance to get involved. We're at the start of an exciting journey and lots of things are likely to change along the way. We know where we're going but there are lots of different ways to get there. We still want to hear views, ideas, and feedback from Bolton people to help us to decide what to do next.

Healthwatch Bolton and Bolton CVS are leading a new group that's working to make sure we engage with Bolton people as changes are made in the years ahead.

13. How will this be communicated to the general public?

We want to take the conversation out to Bolton people. You'll be hearing much more about our plans for Bolton, online, in the media, and face to face at public events. You'll be seeing some changes really soon but don't worry, we'll keep you updated as we go along.

Transformation fund investment

14. Where is the money coming from?

Greater Manchester took control of a health and social care budget of more than £6 billion each year. In addition to the all different parts of the region were invited to apply for a share of a Greater Manchester Transformation Fund.

Bolton's application was submitted jointly by all the partners involved in our locality plan and was based on the amount we think we need to deliver the plan. We have been awarded £28.8 million.



15. Is there anything that the money won't, or can't, be spent on?

The money given to us from the Transformation Fund can only be spent on big changes to health and care services. We're not allowed to use it to plug existing financial gaps, for example to help out one of the partner organisations if they're struggling to 'balance the books.'

We'll be watched closely to make sure the money is spent as it should be and we've told Bolton people what we're doing.

Transformation Fund money also can't be spent on things like new buildings or expensive IT equipment, so we're currently looking at other options.

16. What will the money be spent on?

This money will be spent on making the changes set out in our locality plan. In short, this means services that are fit for the future and a happier, healthier population.

The changes in our plan include....

- Providing more care in the community and less in hospitals
- Using technology to improve patient care
- Improving Bolton's care homes as well as social care provided in people's homes
- Joining up health and care services
- Making mental health care bigger and better
- More focus on keeping people well – both mentally and physically
- Boosting the role of GP practices
- Improving urgent and emergency care services (including A&E) as demand increases
- Ensuring our health and social care workforce is fit for the future
- Working together to improve how public sector buildings are used right across the borough

17. Who has decided how the money will be spent?

The CCG, Bolton council, Bolton FT, and GMMH, as well as organisations and groups in the voluntary and community sector, worked together to produce a locality plan for Bolton and submitted a bid to the Greater Manchester Transformation Fund to help us deliver it.

The fund is run by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and they decided how much money to give us. We've said we'll achieve specific things but it's up to us how we get there.



Other



18. How will the impact of poverty and poor housing be addressed?

Our health is impacted by lots of things that we often can't control, but will affect our lifestyle and the decisions we make. Low income, poor housing, unsafe workplaces, and poor access to healthcare are some of the things that we know affect the health of Bolton people.

We plan to reduce poverty by....

- Removing barriers to work
- Boosting skills so people can earn more
- Helping the local economy so businesses can afford to reward staff appropriately

We'll improve housing by...

- Driving up the quality of housing in Bolton by investing in existing homes and providing support to neighbourhoods that need it.
- Supporting people to find and remain in a home of their choice
- Providing a range of housing options to help people live independently for longer

19. Are you communicating with TFGM about any changes to public transport?

We're doing this at the moment, but we think moving services into the local community will mean more people will have their health needs met closer to home.

20. What plans are there for additional services to cater for a growing population?

Our locality plan is all about focusing more on prevention of ill health, so over time people need less help and support from local services. In years to come, this will reduce demand and pressure on services.

21. What are you doing about recruiting health professionals and giving them the support they need to stay in post?

Our workforce have an important part to play in making big changes to health and social care services in the coming years. We need motivated, skilled, and experienced people to work with us in Bolton.

We're working locally, and across Greater Manchester, to improve recruitment, training, and development, as well as building a positive working culture for our staff.

We want everyone to be proud to work in Bolton!

