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Dear Councillor Edger,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the report on healthcare funding within Bracknell Forest. I hope in our evidence to the committee you were reassured that Berkshire East PCT intends to work with the council to develop services for the residents of Bracknell Forest.

I will now take this opportunity to respond formally to the recommendations for the PCT in the report.

1. Establishment that the formula for allocation of resource to Bracknell Forest is correct. As stated in the working document evidence the key mechanism by which finances will be allocated to the residents of Bracknell Forest is through practice based commissioning. The formula that the PCT will use (and indeed has used this year) is the correct national formula. This takes into account resident numbers but also deprivation, age and sex of the population. However the PCT is also working with national working groups to ensure that the population size which is key to determining national allocation is correct. A useful piece of joint work in the future for Bracknell Forest would be to ensure that as new developments are completed and new residents move into the area they are encourage to both register with a GP and register on the electoral role since both are key in determining population size.
2. In allocating budgets to the practices throughout Berkshire East practices in Bracknell Forest in general have received more than their historical share - this being based on previous use of services. As mentioned above this allocation is based on the numbers, age, sex and deprivation of the local population. There has been no alteration of this allocation on the basis of the utilization of services by residents of other parts of Berkshire East.
3. The driver for financial allocation of practice based budgets which is the route for allocation of the vast majority of the resources of the PCT will be through the national formula which as stated in the report already takes into account the issue of deprivation.

4. Berkshire East PCT has allocated all practices in Bracknell with their fair shares budget based on the national formula, and this will continue to be the way in which resources are allocated.
5. Berkshire East PCT is working with Bracknell Forest council to develop a joint strategic health needs assessment and working through the LAA process will develop joint health targets so that both organisations and the general public can see the measurable improvements in health outcomes. We expect this to be a key driver for the LAA process.
6. Berkshire East PCT welcomes the opportunity to work constructively with Bracknell Forest council, and will share our budget planning and progress on health improvements.
7. Berkshire East PCT will readily share developments in practice based commissioning and will share any technical documents that underpin our work.

Hopefully these comments address the recommendations of the report fully and at the next committee I will happily answer any questions but also update the board on the progress of the local practice based commissioning consortium.

Yours sincerely,

Lise Llewellyn
Chief Executive