

Chief Executive of Aylesbury Vale Community Health Council: Jenny Hunt
Partnership Select Committee – 26 January 2001

- There has been no adverse impact of winter pressures. This could be due to a number of reasons, for example there has not been the same flu crisis as last year. Also, the Millennium Planning exercise would have ensured better planning. For the first time in some years Stoke Mandeville Hospital was at green alert over Christmas – however, it had been at red alert during summer and early autumn.
- The CHC were not involved in planning action to deal with winter pressures. Their role was more one of a “watchdog” and acting as the patients’ representative.
- During the Christmas period there were only 3 delayed discharges in Mid-Bucks. However, impact of the winter period (up to mid-February) had not been reached. In the post Christmas period there had been pressure on mental health services but the system has coped. Pressures on services were no longer seasonal.
- The lack of availability of home care in some places could present problems. Also, some people were reluctant to use the service because of the cost.
- Feedback from users of the Intermediate Care Services has been positive, however, there was no contingency back up for Teams.
- An area of concern to the CHC had been the limited opening hours of pharmacists over the Christmas period. In Aylesbury town there was one pharmacist on Christmas Day open for one hour. The CHC had written to the Health Authority regarding this issue.
- The largest threat to the provision of health services was the inability to recruit and retain nursing and therapy staff. Members referred to the cost of accommodation in Buckinghamshire. However, talks had been undertaken with the District Councils with regard to the possibility of assisting in the provision of housing for health workers. Members noted that the NHS Plan referred to the need to recruit 20,000 extra nurses.
- On 25 January a number of CHC Members facilitated focus groups of over 65 year olds about their experiences of local health and Social Services (Bucks Age Concern). Jenny Hunt agreed to circulate a copy of the report to Members.
- Health and Social Services worked well in partnership but had very different cultures. One of the major difficulties was responsibility for funding which could be quite complex.
- Some delayed discharges could be due to the family requiring a specific home which was full. Intermediate care projects provided an interim care place whilst the home of their choice was full.