

7d. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Care Act goes live

From the beginning of this month, the first phase of the Care Act came into effect. It brings with it the most fundamental changes in sixty years to how care and support will be delivered, not least in making it fairer and more consistent across the country for everyone.

All of us will know someone who needs care and support and it is estimated that one in three of us will need care at some point in our lifetime, so it is important that all of us are aware of what support we can expect and how to find out what's available.

A range of posters and leaflets have been designed by central government for local authorities to adapt and use. These will be the basis for information for service-users, carers and the general public to let them know what the changes will mean to them. A letter and leaflet will be going out to all our service-users and carers in the next few weeks. Posters and leaflets will be displayed in public places, including libraries, GP surgeries, reception areas in council offices, etc. A series of articles have also appeared in local newsletters and magazines.

A key strand of the Care Act is to provide Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for all our residents who might need care and support. So we have developed a great new [website](#) (entitled 'Care Advice Buckinghamshire') with useful information. The new site provides IAG, an e-Marketplace for Care Services in Buckinghamshire and the ability for clients to Self-Serve. Later in the year the site will be enhanced to allow clients to view their Care Account and their progress towards the Care Cap. The site also demonstrates our commitment to be Digital First and leverage digital technology for the benefit of our clients.

In summary, the key changes introduced by the Act are:

- National eligibility criteria
- New carers rights
- Deferred payments
- New Charging Policy
- Ordinary residence
- New Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) platform

Buckinghamshire Care

Buckinghamshire Care claimed a top national accolade at the prestigious Independent Specialist Care Awards 2015 – hosted by the healthcare experts Laing Buisson. It won the coveted 'Innovation' award through its project creating paid work opportunities for people with a disability across its many services.

By employing more disabled people on equal pay and terms and conditions – working directly alongside our workforce – this service will raise expectations among the target groups and provide a pioneering platform for others.

Buckinghamshire Care has also been nominated as a finalist for the Buckinghamshire County Council's Dignity Awards for the same project and an arts project, which saw their clients create art to be displayed at the new Aylesbury Opportunities Centre, was also highly commended for the Dignity Awards.

UK National Sexual Health Awards

Buckinghamshire County Council was a finalist in the UK National Sexual Health Awards in March 2015. This is an annual award ceremony led by Brook and the Family Planning Association (FPA). Buckinghamshire County Council was delighted to be awarded the 'highly commended' category for our sexual health young people's programme led by the Public Health team. The nomination for the award focuses on Buckinghamshire's use of creative techniques and social media to address the sexual health needs of some of Buckinghamshire's more vulnerable young people.

Mental Health Awareness Week – Art Competition

Buckinghamshire County Council is working in partnership with libraries, Carers Bucks, Buckinghamshire Health Trust, Healthy Minds and Buckinghamshire Mind to run an art competition entitled '*This Moment – connecting with the present*' which reflects the national 2015 Mental Health Awareness week theme 'mindfulness'.

1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem in the course of a year. 75% of people with mental ill-health do not seek or receive treatment. These statistics need to change – and we all have a role to play. The art competition is about raising awareness of mental health and the value of mindfulness in promoting mental wellbeing. It is open to anyone aged 11 years or over who has been touched by mental health issues through personal experience or connection to someone who has experienced mental ill-health. The closing date for entries is Friday 10 April 2015.

There are three age categories (11-15, 16-24 and 25 years plus). The winners of each category will be informed week commencing 11 May, ready for Mental Health Awareness Week (11 – 17 May). The *This Moment* art exhibition will be touring around the county from 20 April to 18 May.

Please look at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/mentalhealth> for more information.

Launch of Active Bucks – Move more, feel great stakeholder event

Invitations have been sent out for the Active Bucks stakeholder launch event which is taking place on Thursday 23 April at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre from 9:15 – 1pm.

A quarter of adults who live in Buckinghamshire are inactive and many more are simply not exercising enough to benefit their health. *Active Bucks* aims to better understand opportunities to engage inactive people, and make physical activity more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. As part of the Active Bucks project, each Local Area Forum (LAF) is being offered a funding allocation for local physical activity provision, based on what physical activity each community says they want to engage in.

The stakeholder launch event provides a unique opportunity to shape the project. Each LAF has been given two allocated place for the event.

For further information, on the Active Bucks initiative please contact, Tom Burton tburton@buckscc.gov.uk in the Public Health team.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS or “Legal Highs”)

Buckinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) commissioned the first national study of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) to look at the emerging issue around their use in Buckinghamshire. The study was carried out online and face to face; the online aspect was carried out nationally and the face to face work was carried out specifically in Buckinghamshire. The report has since been published and the DAAT is now implementing actions to address them, starting with briefings to Members and key stakeholders around the findings and recommendations.

The DAAT is working closely in partnership with Trading Standards, Community Safety and the Police to address one particular supplier in High Wycombe, resulting in the supplier ceasing the sale of these substances. Work is continuing to address awareness, education and training around these substances and practice is being shared with neighbouring counties: Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Integration of Health and Social care - The Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) S75 is a national requirement of every health and social care economy. Health and social care partners have established a pooled budget in place from April 1 2015. Buckinghamshire County Council, and the Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups have jointly submitted BCF plans which were approved by the Secretary of State in December 2014.

These plans and the underpinning S75 pooled budget build on the work on integration which has taken place over the last few years in Buckinghamshire. A clear commissioning strategy has been developed which articulates the changes that will be made. The first priority is a county wide Rapid Response & Reablement Service. This alignment of services will enable health and social care colleagues to work more effectively by streamlining services and improving service user experience.

Dementia-Friendly Communities

Dementia-Friendly Communities is a new initiative in Buckinghamshire aimed at improving social inclusion and quality of life for people living with dementia and memory impairments in the county.

This year in Buckinghamshire, more than 6,500 people over the age of 65 are recorded as having diagnosed dementia and this is projected to stand at over 8,000 by 2020.

The initiative aims to increase public awareness and understanding of dementia and support local communities to work together and respond more positively towards people living with dementia or memory impairment, and their carers. By developing a

dementia-friendly community, it should enable people to remain independent for longer and have more choice and control over their lives.

Three areas across the county have been selected to pilot becoming Dementia-Friendly Communities. These are Stokenchurch, launched in January, Great Missenden, to be launched at the end of April, and Buckingham in July.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING