

# HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE



RETROSPECTIVE

# FOREWORD



**Cllr Mike Appleyard**

“I was elected Chairman of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC) in June 2019 but I held the same position from 2002-2011, when health scrutiny was first established.

The Committee holds decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for the residents of Buckinghamshire. The Committee works cross party and for the good of all Buckinghamshire residents. It has the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to Health & Adult Social Care.

The Committee comprises of 11 County Councillors, 4 co-opted Members from the District Councils and a representative from Healthwatch Bucks. It holds around 6 formal Committee meetings a year and undertakes in-depth reviews which run alongside the meetings on topics which are agreed by the Committee. The Committee also undertakes pre-decision scrutiny on proposals for service change within the health & social care sector and responds to consultations.

Committee Members attend various stakeholder meetings and events throughout the year, including AGMs, annual report launches, open days and I was recently invited by Carers Bucks to attend the GP Carers Award ceremony.”

## KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS

- Developing Care Closer to Home
- NHS Long-Term plan
- Vascular services
- Musculoskeletal services
- Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Adult Social Care transformation of services
- Temporary closure of Chartridge Ward, Amersham Hospital
- Director of Public Health annual report
- Local medicine supplies (in light of planning for Brexit)
- Mental health services
- The development of Primary Care Networks
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System
- Winter resilience across health and social care
- Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust performance (including responding to BHT's annual quality accounts)
- Hospital Discharge (inquiry)
- Child Obesity (inquiry)
- Support for Carers (inquiry)
- Adult residential short breaks (pre-decision scrutiny)

## HOSPITAL DISCHARGE INQUIRY

This Inquiry was set-up to review the Hospital Discharge process to include performance around delayed transfers of care across the whole system. The move towards more integrated health and social care services provided an opportunity to review the current discharge process to see which areas required more focus and resource in order to create a seamless patient pathway in the future. Evidence was gathered through speaking directly to frontline health and social care professionals through focus groups and individual meetings.

Recommendations were made to:

- Co-locate the health and social care hospital discharge teams
- Standardise and computerise patient paperwork across the system.
- Improve the Patient, Carer and Family Voice in the decision-making process.
- Develop a Trusted Assessor role to speed-up the assessment process.
- Speed up the introduction of seven-day working to reduce pressure across the system.

A joint response to the recommendations was developed by the County Council, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust and Buckinghamshire's Clinical Commissioning Groups. It was presented to Cabinet on 24th April 2017 and all the recommendations were agreed (one was partially agreed). The progress on the recommendations was monitored by the HASC after 6 months and at 12 months. The Committee were particularly pleased to hear that the co-location of the teams had led to significant improvements.

## CHILD OBESITY INQUIRY

The Government's Childhood Obesity Plan, which was published in 2016, aims to reduce England's rate of childhood obesity within the next 10 years so this inquiry was built around testing how well Buckinghamshire was tackling this issue.

During the evidence gathering it became clear that there is no simple solution to this complex issue. The recommendations focussed around enabling the Council to play an even greater role in facilitating change through strengthening partnership working leading to measurable reductions in child obesity across Bucks in the coming years.

In response to the recommendations made in the report, a specific action plan to address child obesity issues has been agreed by the Health & Wellbeing Board and a number of activities have already been undertaken including developing a suite of projects, designed to encourage and support Healthy Lifestyles within the local communities, which has been presented to the Local Area Forums. Information on healthy eating, cooking and local services is included in each edition of the biannual newsletter for foster carers. In addition, the fostering team are currently working with public health to agree the information to be included in induction packs.

The monies for the Healthy Pupil Capital Programme have been allocated against major projects to support schools with improving outcomes for pupil activity. Projects have included, but are not limited to, playground refurbishment.

## **SUPPORT FOR CARERS INQUIRY**

This inquiry was set-up to gain a greater understanding about the current level of support for carers (from children to adults) across the system – health, social care, local communities and schools. A full day of evidence gathering took place on Tuesday 30th October 2018 and a report with recommendations was presented to Cabinet in May 2019. 7 of the 8 proposed recommendations were approved by Cabinet.

Recommendations included:

- Creating a single point of access for all carers with signposting to all relevant services;
- Developing a single assessment form to be accessed by all key organisations to reduce duplication;
- Ensuring all carers have contingency plans in place and that these are reviewed regularly as part of the carer assessment reviews;
- Further development of the GP Carers Award with the aim of increasing the number of accredited GP practices in Buckinghamshire;
- Development of a training programme for the Integrated Care System to help identify and support carers who are employees within the system.

## **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

A Task & Finish Group was set-up in January 2019 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny around the proposal for residential short breaks (respite) for older people and adults with a learning, mental, sensory or physical disability. A letter outlining the key findings of the Group was sent to the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing for her consideration as part of the final decision-making process.

## **OTHER KEY AREAS OF WORK**

- Prepared an annual statement for inclusion in the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's quality account
- Prepared a response to South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's annual accounts 2018/19 (June 2018)
- Responded to Adult Social Care Short breaks strategy consultation (July 2018)
- Provided feedback to the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing on the transformation plans for adult social care services.

## Green light for plans to tackle childhood obesity in Bucks



Published by Local Democracy Reporter Jasmine Rapson at 5:40am 30th October 2018.



Plans to tackle childhood obesity in Buckinghamshire were given the green light this week, after it was revealed hundreds of children under the age of five in the county are overweight.

## NHS plans to reduce elderly patient visits to hospital



NHS plans to reduce elderly patient visits to hospital

By  
**JASMINE RAPSON**  
Email

Published: 09:25  
Wednesday 30 January 2019

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### NEWS

30th January

## Bucks pharmacies 'prepared' for medicine shortages amid Brexit uncertainty

By Jasmine Rapson | [@Jasmine\\_BFP](#)  
Local Democracy Reporter



12 comments

**Bucks pharmacists have assured residents there are plans in place to deal with potential medicine shortages if Britain leaves the European Union without a deal.**

According to national reports, shortages in medicine supplies could be made worse by uncertainties over Brexit, causing some panicked patients to stockpile their medication.

However, at a meeting of Bucks County Council's (BCC) health and adult

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Members of the public are actively encouraged to get involved in the work of the HASC and this can be done via submitting questions for the Committee meetings, responding to calls for evidence during an inquiry, undertaking a petition or by raising a specific issue with their local Member.

Over the past few years, the Committee has received public questions on a number of key issues, including changes to pharmacy services, vascular services, medicine supplies in light of Brexit, the pilot projects at Thame and Marlow Community Hospitals, GP provision and the temporary closure of Chartridge Ward at Amersham Hospital. The questions and the responses have been reviewed and discussed by the Committee and, if required, further information sought.

As an example of public participation, during the evidence gathering for the Support for Carers inquiry, the Committee heard from a number of carers – both adults and young carers – as well as from representatives from voluntary organisations currently supporting carers. This evidence was invaluable to the Committee in helping to substantiate the recommendations.

The HASC has also received petitions from the public on a number of issues which have been discussed at the Committee meeting and sent to the appropriate organisation for a response and the HASC has referred to the petitions in their own responses to the Cabinet Member or relevant health partner.

## **ONE COUNCIL, NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

The launch of Buckinghamshire Council in April 2020 provides opportunities for the Select Committee to reflect on the achievements of the Committee over the last few years and to make suggestions for future areas of work for the new authority.