

## **Questions submitted to HASC by Ms Ozma Hafiz**

*Q Ward 5B closure Wycombe Hospital - Were HASC consulted before the closure of this ward? There was NO mention of this during the 'community hub' meeting. Do HASC agree that given the Home Care Sector is struggling to recruit care staff, and that there is a wait for OT visits, that the closure of this ward is a short-sighted decision? Obviously people wish to return home as soon as possible, and given hospital infections etc this is often good for the patients, but has any consideration been given to potential patients (i.e carers) who may need respite? Some of these tend to be elderly themselves.*

*Patients from Ward 5B are usually placed there after being moved from other acute wards, will the fact that it no longer will take patients over the next 6 months mean that other 'step down wards' will face more pressure? Will the fact that Ward 5B has closed result in 'bed blocking' on other acute wards?*

*Chiltern CCG mention that keeping patients on wards for a length of time can result in muscle wastage etc, but will these patients who have been sent home still be in bed anyway and therefore still potentially face bedsores, possible muscle wastage and falls? Could it be argued that some of these patients may well be safer and recover more quickly, with better access to trained staff, on a ward such as 5B?*

### **Response from Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust (BHT)**

*Ward 5b cared for patients who were medically ready for discharge or transfer to their next stage of care (be that a nursing home bed or waiting for social services long-term package of care at home). The investment from this ward was transferred into expanded community provision in order to better support this group of patients. A paper on the rationale of the proposal is attached. This is a six month pilot, where the impact and effectiveness will be assessed.*

*Q What is the real reason behind the emptying of the Tower Block at Wycombe Hospital? What evidence can be given to support this?*

### **Response from BHT**

*Wycombe Hospital has an exciting and vibrant future and is a key part of our strategy development. We wish to continue to improve facilities at Wycombe Hospital, ensuring that clinical services are provided from our most modern and fit for purpose accommodation on the site. Over recent years we have invested in the development of a new breast care centre, hyperacute stroke unit and cardiac and stroke receiving unit. In the past year the Trust has agreed to expand the endoscopy service and to build a second cardiac cath lab on the site.*

*Changes to services within the tower block over recent years have been as a response to developments in clinical services. Looking ahead, our clinical strategy will determine the future estates requirements for the Trust including the tower block.*

*Q What reassurance can be given that the STP footprint 'BOB' won't result in further downgrades in Buckinghamshire's hospitals? What reassurance can be given that Reading's hospital is safe from downgrades?*

**Buckinghamshire County Council response**

*Buckinghamshire is part of the wider BOBW STP footprint to collaborate on those areas of common interest including very specialised services, workforce and urgent and emergency care services. There are no current plans to significantly change the range of acute hospital services provided locally.*