

20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear HASC Members,

**Statement regarding Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust 'Closer to home' pilot study**

The former Chairman of HASC was informed of this pilot in May and a briefing paper circulated to Members for comment after the 10<sup>th</sup> May meeting. (a copy of the original briefing paper is attached with this statement)

At the 21<sup>st</sup> June meeting it was decided the Chairman of HASC would comment on the pilot on behalf of the Committee after a meeting with the Neil Dardis - Chief Executive of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust (BHT). This was due to the fact that Members have not indicated that they would like this to come to Committee to discuss.

I have now had the opportunity of meeting with Neil Dardis along with the Vice Chairman of the Committee. As a result of discussions I fully support the moving close to home pilot BHT are undertaking. My reasons for this are as follows:

- The aim of any acute trust should be to allow medically fit patients to return home as soon as possible ensuring they have a good rehabilitation and support package. For elderly patients this is critical to maintain their independence, mobility and general wellbeing.
- The outcome must always be to maintain or offer better standards of care and not solely a focus on preserving the status quo.
- Evidence shows that people who receive care and support in their own homes enjoy a longer better quality of life.
- A recognition of BHTs work as part of a wider need for health and social care agencies to 'future proof' services particularly for our vulnerable and elderly residents.

The Pilot is still ongoing and the Committee will be kept up to date with any changes.

Kind regards

Brian Roberts

Chairman, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

