

Petition response

Lead Petitioner: Ozma Hasif

Petition started: 1 February 2017

We ask you to please:

- Keep our community hospitals and 'step down' wards open**
- Halt the continued downgrades/centralisation/outsourcing of Bucks' hospitals & their services**
- Speak up about funding constraints and ensure patients/potential patients' needs are put first**

Response from the Chairman of HASC Select Committee

The first two parts of this petition are specifically relevant to the health organisations and it is therefore for Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust and the CCGs to respond formally to the petition on these points. In regard to the third point raised on 'speaking up about funding constraints and ensuring patients/potentials' needs are put first' the HASC provides the following response:

The role of the HASC is to hold health organisations to public account for their decisions and help to improve health outcomes for Buckinghamshire residents. The HASC speaks up for patients needs and robustly challenges health organisations on an ongoing basis through its regular public meetings, as well as through its detailed Inquiries where a report and recommendations for improvements are made.

To this end the HASC invited representatives from Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust to its special meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2017 where BHT's pilot proposal for developing care in the community was discussed. This meeting can be seen here [review at HASC here](#)

The HASC has sought reassurance from Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust that it will be kept fully briefed throughout the pilot stage and the item will be discussed at a future HASC meeting to evaluate the pilot and to be part of any engagement or consultation process should the proposal be developed further across the County. The measures around patient outcome will form part of the HASC's questioning around the evaluation of the pilot.

In terms of funding, this issue is being monitored at a higher level by the HASC through its ongoing work of scrutinising the Sustainability and Transformation Plan and the HASC will continue to ask questions around funding at its future meetings on this subject.

March 2017