

Questions from Ms Ozma Hafiz submitted to the 29 March Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Written response:

1) What provisions are being made for the extra strain on the NHS when children's centres (which play an important role in early detection and prevention) close?

The public health nursing services commissioned from Buckinghamshire County Council will continue to provide all the services they offer. This includes the mandated contracts at clinics and groups carried out at venues across the county. Clinics are already provided in a range of venues from children's centres, some health centres as well as community hospital venues, village and community halls. Any other health services that are commissioned by the NHS, such as antenatal services will continue as before.

2) When is the public consultation being held on whether Bucks becomes an ACO/ICS?

The Integrated Care System (ICS) is not a statutory organisation; the statutory organisations involved are all part of a partnership to improve care for residents and patients in Buckinghamshire. This partnership is focused on integrating care through voluntary, non-contractual partnerships where GPs, hospitals, commissioners and local government collaborate to improve services for their population.

Therefore, as a statutory organisation is not being developed it is not subject to consultation. However, the Buckinghamshire ICS partnership recognises the crucial importance of involving patients and communities in the way health and social care is provided across the county. Community engagement is happening in a number of ways. The community hubs engagement events focusing on care closer to home, held in the autumn and winter engaged with over 600 members of the community to discuss how health care could be improved in Buckinghamshire. The ICS is also developing a stakeholder reference group which involves members of the community and voluntary groups to help steer the ICS in the right way.

NHS England announced on 25 January that it would hold a 12 week public consultation related to accountable care contracting arrangements. This is not currently relevant in the Buckinghamshire ICS context as we are not entering into an accountable care contract. However, the consultation will provide further clarity about their role and set out how the contract fits within the NHS as a whole and how public accountability and patient choice would be preserved.