

## Responses to Public Questions submitted by Ozma, Save Wycombe Hospital Campaign

Q1. Recently the Integrated partnership pushed out a survey on social media, therefore excluding many people including some of the most vulnerable. It was shocking timing in the middle of a pandemic and many people had issues with trying to respond to the survey, some of these can be viewed here on this Bucks council Facebook post: [https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=3403706273006098&id=2070328539677218&anchor\\_composer=false](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3403706273006098&id=2070328539677218&anchor_composer=false) and more concerns can be viewed on Dr Linda Derrick's blog: [http://lindaderrick.simplesite.com/432480734?fbclid=IwAR2hSmyNXE-VF4yVR6eLLO8YbH3lq\\_vaVVAerN7IOWJ31vogCd32wDyD9Uo](http://lindaderrick.simplesite.com/432480734?fbclid=IwAR2hSmyNXE-VF4yVR6eLLO8YbH3lq_vaVVAerN7IOWJ31vogCd32wDyD9Uo)

There were SEVERAL issues with the survey, some people abandoned it completely, others felt they were forced to chose options they didn't fully agree with. Surely any responses on how things are going should be for the immediate short term i.e. to see us through the 'second wave' and short/medium/long term plans shouldn't be based on these responses? 'Your community your care' has lead to cuts to beds at Marlow, Thame and Amersham. At what point will the committee stand up and say enough is enough when it comes to cutting services across Buckinghamshire under the guise of 'care closer to home'?

***Response – Thank you for raising concerns about the recent county-wide engagement exercise. As you know, representatives from the Hospital Trust attended the November Select Committee meeting and Members raised a number of concerns with him. This piece of engagement work is continuing and Members will be receiving a further update at the January meeting. The HASC Select Committee will continue to review, monitor and challenge the outcomes from this engagement work as it develops.***

Q2. We re-submitted our petition: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-further-downgrades-of-buckinghamshire-s-hospitals-including-community-hospitals> to be included as 'Health and Social Care in Buckinghamshire - Public Feedback'. The petition reads: ***“No further downgrades of Buckinghamshire's Hospitals - including Community Hospitals”***

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

- Beds at Amersham, Thame, Marlow and Wycombe need to be reopened as do the step down wards for NSIC patients in Stoke.
- Local, smaller GP surgeries and face to face appointments are also crucial and must be protected.
- No more cuts.

- As the population grows, we need to protect current services, reopen services and invest in prevention. Moreover, we continue our calls to restore Wycombe hospital to a fully functioning one once more with services including A&E and full maternity. It's time for HASC to truly champion the needs of residents in Buckinghamshire, if we continue down the hospital closure path we are on, what will be left?

***Response – We note your comments and will continue to evaluate and challenge the health & social care plans as these are developed.***

Q3. The following question regarding PPE was asked at Health and wellbeing board as a follow on question to one asked at BHT AGM and the response now received is below however we are still concerned. If it's appropriate for two ladies (who weren't in the younger age group) to be dealing with patients coming in through the main entrance of a hospital - many with no mask on, whilst only wearing a surgical mask then that's very concerning. Perhaps the Trust need to look into the risk assessments in depth and ensure measures are actively taken to protect all staff above and beyond basic guidelines? Could HASC investigate this? How many staff would pass a mask 'fit' test in their current attire?

-More than 500 NHS and social care staff are said to have died since the pandemic began. More needs to be done to ensure their safety.

It's obvious that not all staff are wearing full protective clothing, e.g. those at the entrance of the hospital wearing only surgical masks when assisting people entering the hospital with sanitiser and masks.

Please ensure that ALL staff are wearing fit tested masks including those in outpatient settings and 'non' covid wards. Please provide additional assistance to those who are in greater risk groups and those who are at greater risk due to using public transport.

What further assistance and support will be made?

**'All staff are provided with the appropriate PPE for the role and task that they are doing. Support is provided to all staff and through our risk assessment process, any additional measures are put in place for those who are at greater at risk.'**

***Response – We were concerned to read your comments about the use of Personal Protective Equipment at the Hospital. We note that a response has already been provided by the Trust but we have asked whether they can provide a further update.***

Q4. How were the Marlow and Thame hospital buildings used during the first wave of the pandemic? Would it be sensible to prepare to use them as step down wards for Covid patients now that numbers in Bucks of Covid cases are on the increase again?

***Response – This question has been sent to Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust for a response at the meeting.***