

Healthwatch Bucks update

October 2022

This paper summarises recent project work we have undertaken in relation to health and social care services, as aligned with the priorities of the Joint Health & Wellbeing strategy.

Live Well

Social Prescribing

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) has issued a positive response to our report on awareness of social prescribing in Buckinghamshire.

In her letter to Healthwatch Bucks, Dr Rachael De Caux, Acting Chief Executive, BOB ICB, said:

We are very grateful for the findings and recommendations from this piece of work. Your findings confirm to us that there is a lot of work to be done to raise the awareness of social prescribing to our population... Your results present a clear need to ensure that our residents know how to access the support available to them.

Report and response

You can read them [here](#).

Community Opportunity Enter and View visits

Between September 2021 and March 2022, Healthwatch Bucks visited ten community providers.

We wanted to hear what people who attend these services gain from the experience and find out how they promote well-being and self-reliance. We also wanted to identify good practice and ways to improve service delivery.

As with all our enter and view visits, we asked each provider to respond to our draft report. These responses were then included in our [published reports](#).

We caught up with some of these services in autumn 2022 to see what difference our recommendations have made since we first shared them. You can read the update [here](#).

Young Onset Dementia

We're currently working on a research project focused on young onset dementia. We want to find out about people's experiences of living with this condition in Bucks, and also gather the views of their families and carers.

Our mission is to help improve health and social care services for the people who use them. We'll collect answers to our questions on young onset dementia anonymously, then add them to other peoples' responses to form a report. This will contain a set of recommendations that we hope will improve care.

What we want to know

For this project, we particularly want to know about the support that people with young onset dementia have received. For example:

- What information they were given
- Where or who they first went to for advice on living with young onset dementia
- Whether the information and support on offer was age-appropriate and felt personal to them (and / or their family)
- Whether the right support was made available at the right time.

Overall, we want to know what has worked well for people with this condition, and also what hasn't.

Get in touch

If you were diagnosed with dementia before the age of 65 (even if you are now over that age), or if you know someone else who was, please get in touch.

We'd also like to hear about your experiences if you live with (or have lived with) someone with young onset dementia in Buckinghamshire.

You can [register your interest to take part using our online form.](#)