



**Welcome to the May issue of our newsletter for the Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership. When I attend the monthly editorial meeting to decide what topics and news will make the content cut, I'm delighted to see just how much fantastic work is going on across the Partnership.**

In this issue we share stories covering the launch of the new Partnership website and the appointment of Dr Sarah Whiteman as Chief Medical Director. You can also read about our engagement work in the community, the efforts being made by the teams working at the Mount Vernon Cancer Care to ensure our patients get the best service possible, and the development of new technology to diagnosis and provide ongoing care to patients.

This issue also covers the provision of creative solutions and opportunities to encourage teenagers to get vaccinated against Covid, to the delivery of a humanitarian hub at Luton airport for refugees from war-torn Ukraine. These stories are truly representative of the passion, ambition and empathy that colleagues show every working day. Well done all of you. You make me feel very proud indeed.



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## “You can go home today” Doccla kits allow patients to complete their care in a virtual ward

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Foundation Trust (CCS), which is part of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership (BLMK HCP) has commissioned Doccla - the virtual ward system kit - to support patients with chronic diseases.

The service was first used for respiratory patients in January 2021 and has now been extended to help patients living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), heart failure and diabetes. The Doccla kit allows patients to be discharged to continue their recovery in the comfort of their homes while being monitored safely and remotely by clinicians.



[Read more](#)



## Everything’s going tip top for the Grove View Integrated Health and Care Hub

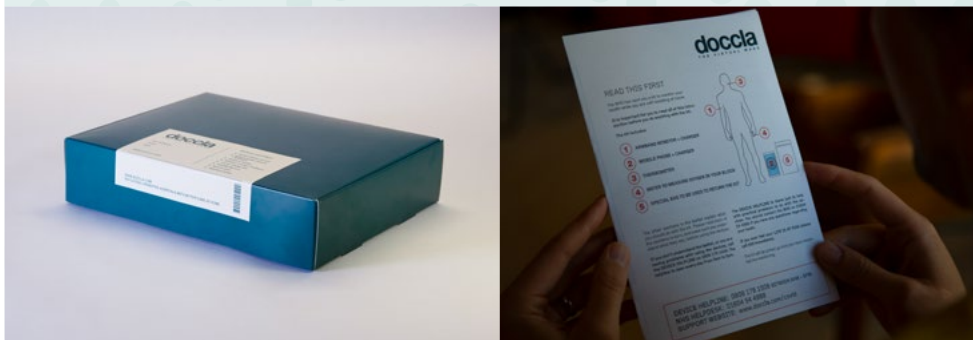
Local dignitaries led by Central Bedfordshire Council’s Vice-Chairman Cllr. Gordon Perham, Executive Members, NHS partners, stakeholders, and their guests with a head for heights gathered to commemorate the completion of the highest point of this state-of-the-art health care facility.

The building comprises multiple clinical and treatment rooms, office accommodation and a café, and will also offer 98 new one and two-bedroom affordable homes for the over 55s.

The work commenced in August 2021 with the aim that the new homes and the modern four-storey integrated health and care hub will be operational by Spring 2023.



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## Mount Vernon Cancer Care update



**A review of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre provision began in May 2019 because of concerns about ageing buildings and the limited support facilities on site. For example, there are no high dependency or intensive care beds so patients who become very poorly are sent in an emergency ambulance to Watford General Hospital, or other nearby hospitals.**

The relocation from the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre will be based on one of the following options for radiotherapy provision and will include the development of a networked radiotherapy site either at the Lister Hospital or the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. The options are:

- All radiotherapy to take place at the new Cancer Centre in Watford.
- Main radiotherapy service to be at the new Cancer Centre in Watford, with an additional networked unit at the Lister Hospital.
- Main radiotherapy service to be at the new Cancer Centre in Watford, with an additional networked unit at Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Meanwhile the Mount Vernon Programme team are awaiting the outcome of a capital funding decision which will support the business case under the new hospitals programme.

The CCG Cancer Programme team are also reviewing patient access to services with NHS England and NHS Improvement/I. Monthly meetings are held with the Mount Vernon Programme team to progress our inequalities work such as access to transport and a review of the uptake of radiotherapy for our Bedfordshire and Luton residents who are the primary users of the service.



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## Innovation enables vulnerable people to access healthcare at the right time in the right place

**With over 7,000 moderately and severely frail individuals over 65 in Luton, an online dashboard has been created by Cambridgeshire Community Services in partnership with local health and social care organisations, that allows for the sharing of patient data to enable clinicians to proactively identify frail older people vulnerable to hospital admissions.**

The technological tool allows clinicians to quickly identify and prioritise the most at-risk patients in the community and gives the healthcare teams a head start to organise care plans, medication reviews and visits from health professionals.



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## Humanitarian hub at Luton airport welcomes Ukrainian refugees

**There's a beacon of support at the end of their flight for passengers fleeing from Ukrainian war zones.**

The humanitarian hub was created by the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum which operates a collaborative approach with local authorities, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, emergency services, the charity and voluntary sector and the airport.

On arrival at the hub, passengers are greeted with kindness and practical assistance such as advice, information, useful contacts for local and national agencies, refreshments, guidance for onward travel within the UK and mental and physical health support.



[Read more](#)



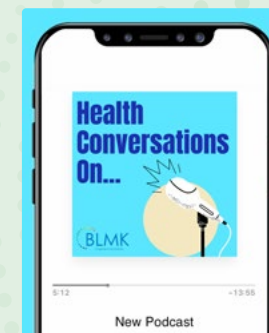
## Press play for BLMK podcasts

**Recordings of the BLMK Health and Care Conversations On...were interrupted while all efforts were concentrated on dealing with the recent Omicron wave of the Covid pandemic.**

However, Felicity Cox, Chief Executive Designate of the Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board has gone back into the studio to record a series of podcasts beginning with a conversation on...the increasing developments of digital innovations in healthcare like the Whzan Blue Box, Yellow Bracelet and Acoustic Monitoring.

Listen to all podcasts on [Spotify](#)

Listen to all podcasts on [Apple Podcasts](#)





## Lessons learned from setting up a health and wellbeing alliance

**In 2019, the Health and Wellbeing Alliance was set up in Milton Keynes to explore how the voluntary sector's voice could be strengthened and amplified when taking part in strategic discussions about health and wellbeing services in Milton Keynes.**

In spirit of reflection, three colleagues who were significant in the forming of the alliance: **Sonal Mehta**, Partnership Lead for Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICS, **Clare Walton**, Chief Executive Officer at Community Action: MK and **Peta Wilkinson**, Chief Executive of Willen Hospice, look back and share what they have learned.



[Read more](#)



## Generation Z support peer understanding of Covid

**Groups of young people are leading a project that informs their peers about Covid-19, the effects of long-Covid and dispels myths about the vaccine.**

Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire and Woughton Community Council's Youth Service have been supporting young people to develop creative ways of busting the myths and providing information. They've created animation videos, recorded interviews with clinicians, and produced a set of eye-catching posters that will be shared across social media and with local schools.



[See more: www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/generationvax](http://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/generationvax)



**TO GET BACK TO WHAT YOU LOVE DOING MOST, WHETHER IT'S HANGING WITH YOUR FRIENDS, TRAVELLING TO THAT BUCKET LIST DESTINATION OR SEEING YOUR FAVOURITE BAND, GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE. OUT NOW! FIRST DOSE, SECOND DOSE AND BOOSTER JABS AVAILABLE.**

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## Dr Sarah Whiteman is appointed Chief Medical Director

Congratulations to Dr Sarah Whiteman on her recent appointment as the Chief Medical Director for the new NHS Bedfordshire, Luton, and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board, when it takes on statutory responsibilities on 1 July 2022.

Dr Whiteman brings a wealth of experience to the role and is currently Clinical Chair for the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and a GP in Milton Keynes.

*"I am thrilled to be appointed to this crucial clinical role. There's a real opportunity for us to do more to improve the health of our population and I'm excited to build on the work we've already started,"*

said Dr Sarah Whiteman.



[Read more](#)



## It's good to talk but even better to listen

The aim of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Health and Care Partnership is to support the people in our local communities to live longer and healthier lives.

An important element of that intention is to enable patients and local people to be directly involved in helping to shape local health services. We can achieve that by providing opportunities to listen to local people to ensure they get what they need from local services and to have continual conversations with our communities.



[Read more](#)



# Health and Care Partnership website goes live!

The new Health and Care Partnership website and associated branded resources for use by all Partnership colleagues was revealed in early April.

The website provides information to support us all to understand the role of the Health and Care Partnership and its aim, and serves as an information repository for patients, people in our community, and all Partnership colleagues. It is also a 'shop window' to showcase the wide range of work and services offered by the Partnership to support people in our communities to live longer and healthier. Take a look now.



[Read more](#)



## Got a story to tell?

We are keen to share your stories with our partners. If you have a great story that shows the benefits of integrated working, then please contact our communications team.

[✉ blmkccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:blmkccg.communications@nhs.net)

