

Question	Response
<p>Could you give us some evidence of how need and facilities for Leighton Buzzard are being assessed in relation to the pressures on hospitals and the effect that active prevention could have on the pressures on GPs and the questions below are the obvious questions that come to me as a lay person in assessing what is needed.</p>	
<p>1. What is the pressure on the three hospitals in BLMK and Stoke Mandeville from Leighton Buzzard patients who access A&E from Leighton Buzzard when they should be accessing Primary Care?</p>	<p>In November 2022, Leighton Linslade Connections Primary Care Network (PCN) practices provided a total of 27,291 appointments. This is 588.07 appointments per 1,000 population. The PCN rank consistently well.</p> <p>For the period April 2021 to November 2022, Leighton/Linslade Health Connections (LLHC) PCN had an A&E attendance rate of 471.3 per 1,000 population. That is the fourth lowest rate of all our 23 PCNs.</p> <p>At our A&E departments in BLMK, we have services streaming patients away from A&E/hospital services if they would be better seen by a primary care service such as being directed to an urgent treatment centre.</p>
<p>2. What economic case or the evidence in this area for services such as a minor injuries clinic, Xray, CCT Scans, ultrasound scans and blood tests and other hospitalised services in Leighton Buzzard taking pressure off the three hospitals in BLMK and Stoke Mandeville. Or is the economic model that everyone should travel to hospital for their treatment.</p>	<p>The Integrated Care Board supports the provision of care closer to home where possible.</p> <p>We routinely review travel distances/times when assessing access to services.</p>
<p>3. What is the economic case for following the example of some London surgeries where the GP has the patient with them in the consulting room</p>	<p>As part of our BLMK Fuller Programme for the transformation and integration of primary care, we have an ambitious plan to develop neighbourhood teams; review how we provide same day primary care; ensure continuity of care to the population who have the most complex health needs and embed prevention.</p>

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<p>and has a teams call with the consultant in the hospital.</p>	<p>We are working with partners to develop ways of working to improve patient experience, including through the use of multidisciplinary teams.</p> <p>The ‘Working Together in Leighton Buzzard’ programme is a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary approach to supporting the population with a range of complex health needs.</p>
<p>4. What is the economic case for supporting venues so that community groups could play a significant role in prevention following the report from the All Party Parliamentary group on the effectiveness of arts and culture on health in reducing demand for GP appointments by 37% https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry/</p>	<p>The proposed neighbourhood teams will build an in-depth understanding of all resources that are available in and for communities.</p> <p>Our work to develop social prescribing and health coaching will grow access to non-medical services, supported by the proposed neighbourhood teams as part of the “Working Together in Leighton Buzzard” programme.</p> <p>In November 2022 our data shows that 57% of appointments in the LLHC PCN were delivered by professionals other than a GP, demonstrating the diversity of the primary care teams.</p>
<p>5. What work is happening on recruitment and in making Leighton Buzzard a really attractive facility to train in and develop as a GP so that the low numbers of GPs in this area can be addressed?</p>	<p>Our Primary Care Training Hub hosts a number of specific initiatives to locally grow and retain our GP workforce including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a comprehensive GP trainee expansion programme, • GP Fellowships to aid retention and develop integrated posts, • New to Practice Programme, • New to Partnership Programme, • Supporting Mentor Scheme, • Digital Staff platform to provide flexible working options and bespoke local initiatives to retain our experienced GPs and support our GP Educators and GP trainees. <p>Leighton Buzzard has one GP training practice with the capacity to host a number of GP trainees and we work with the Primary Care Network to ensure</p>

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	<p>all their GP trainees are aware of the packages of support they can access to retain them within the area.</p> <p>The Training Hub provides bespoke support to all practices with the advertisement of their vacancies and the development of attractive recruitment packages.</p>
<p>Can Biggleswade be considered a special case for investment in a Hub due to its exceptional circumstances with a practice handing back its GMS contract and planned building of 1500 houses east of the town?</p>	<p>The broader Hub programme falls outside the scope of the prioritisation exercise on which decisions were made at the extraordinary meeting of the Primary Care Commissioning and Assurance Committee on 11 January 2023. We continue to work with our health and care partners to develop proposals for integrated health and care hubs across BLMK.</p> <p>The ICB will continue to support practices and PCNs with addressing operational pressures as necessary, as we are already doing in the Biggleswade area. The ICB is pleased to be increasing its expenditure on primary care estates to just under £11m per annum by 2025/26.</p>