

BHSCA NEWSLETTER

Buckinghamshire
Health & Social
Care Academy



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Foreword from the Managing Director at FedBucks, a valued partner organisation
- In depth summary of our Academy's structure and operation
- Our Affiliated Agencies' news including new events
- Updates with ongoing projects across our Faculties and external stakeholders
- What's to come in Quarter 3

AFFILIATED AGENCIES OF BHSCA

The Coaching
and Mentoring Pool

part of the Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB



Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England

Published on 03 July, the 10 Year Health Plan is part of the government's health mission to build a health service fit for the future. It sets out how the government will reinvent the NHS through 3 radical shifts: hospital to community, analogue to digital, and sickness to prevention.

Find out more [here](#).



Call for evidence: Survey Respondents Needed! [\(Click here for more\)](#)

Oliver McGowan (OM) research project surveys are being conducted for key target groups, and the project is still looking for survey respondents from:

- OM Training Providers from High Education Institutes (HEIs)
- Nurses/Midwives (N/MW) who have received the training
- Employers of N/MWs who have received the training



Health Coaching in Action: Educators Leading the Way

Our Health Coaching team worked with the lecturing staff at Bedfordshire University for two weeks, supporting their journey into health coaching. They came with empathy, curiosity, and a passion for student wellbeing and they built on these with powerful coaching skills like active listening, open questioning, and presence. These tools will help them support students both pastorally and academically, creating lasting impact in and beyond the classroom.

OUR PARTNERS

The Academy is a non-profit partnership between Buckinghamshire Council, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Healthcare Trust, Buckinghamshire New University, University of Bedfordshire, NHS England, Buckinghamshire College Group, and FedBucks.

OUR PURPOSE

To optimise the Health and Social Care workforce's education, training and skills development through partnership-working across systems, ensuring the best possible delivery of care to the population of Buckinghamshire.



BHSCA NEWSLETTER



Foreword from our partner at FedBucks:

Ally Fisk, People Director



FedBucks is a not-for-profit GP Federation of 45 GP practices covering a population of over 500,000 patients across Buckinghamshire. We began in 2016 and now employ around 300 members of staff at our head office site, and across our planned and unplanned care services.

As a GP Federation and Social enterprise, we are proud to represent our member practices and to champion primary care by working with local general practice and system partners in the provision of community-based healthcare services. We are dedicated to providing safe and compassionate care to our patients across our range of planned and unplanned healthcare services in Buckinghamshire and believe in continuous commitment to quality service delivery and positive patient outcomes.

Collaborations between FedBucks, the Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy and its Partners are vital for building a sustainable, skilled, and future-ready workforce across Buckinghamshire's health and care system. As a provider at the heart of local primary care, FedBucks has both a responsibility and an opportunity to help shape the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Partnering with the Academy allows FedBucks to:

- Strengthen workforce pipelines – Supporting the development of new talent ensures continuity and quality of care, addressing recruitment and retention challenges in general practice and community care.
- Promote integrated care – By working with partners across health and social care, we help foster a more joined-up approach to patient care—breaking down silos and improving outcomes.
- Support education and development – Investing in learners, apprentices, and ongoing professional development aligns with FedBucks' commitment to quality, fairness, and growth within its teams.
- Champion local opportunity – Collaborating with the Academy supports social mobility and offers meaningful career pathways for people in our local communities.

This partnership reflects FedBucks' core values: caring, integrity, respect, listening, collaboration and excellence. We hope for a thriving, collaborative healthcare system that puts people—both patients and professionals—at the centre.



BHSCA NEWSLETTER



ABOUT US

Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy was founded in 2019 as a non-profit partnership organisation, established by the Buckinghamshire NHS Trust, NHS England, Buckinghamshire New University, Buckinghamshire Council, University of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (*now part of the Bucks Council*), Buckinghamshire College Group, Primary Care & FedBucks.

Our aims are to unite the principal employers who commission and deliver health and social care in Buckinghamshire with local education and skills providers, key strategic public sector funders and others who work in alliance with the County.

Our vision is to optimise and integrate innovative health, social work and social care workforce education, training and development across Buckinghamshire. The Academy seeks to co-create a gateway enabling the provision of innovative and integrated careers advice, education, training and organisational/professional development for the health, social work and social care workforce in Buckinghamshire. Making Buckinghamshire the preferred destination and long-term base for our workforce to pursue vibrant, flourishing and fulfilling careers in primary, secondary and community health care, social work and social care.

The Academy's key objectives are to:

- Enable innovative, collaborative, inclusive evidenced based workforce-related learning and development activities, which are accessible to all informal and formal health, social work and social care workers in Buckinghamshire, including volunteers and carers.
- Be a key county-based delivery vehicle for system people plans that form part of the integrated care system in bob and which reflect key local, regional and national workforce priorities.
- Identify and convene planned and integrated education and training programmes that meet specific local workforce needs as identified by multi-agency services in Bucks delivered in collaboration with our partners.
- Ensure that the local economy attracts and retains the skills required to enable the Buckinghamshire population to benefit from the jobs created across the health and social care sector; and
- Lead the development, integration and embedding of new career frameworks and competencies for health, social work and social care workers, ensuring compliance with local, regional and national occupational and workforce competency frameworks and their associated workforce transformational requirements.

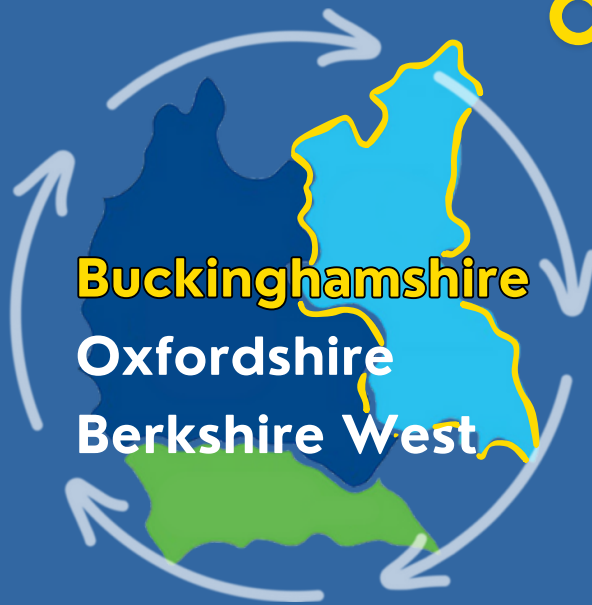
Watch our promo video here



ABOUT US

Our System-Wide Impact:

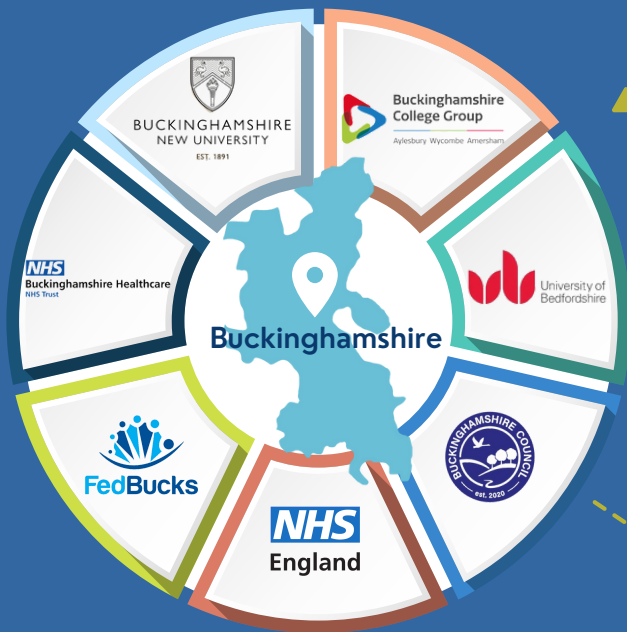
BOB Integrated Care System (BOB ICS)



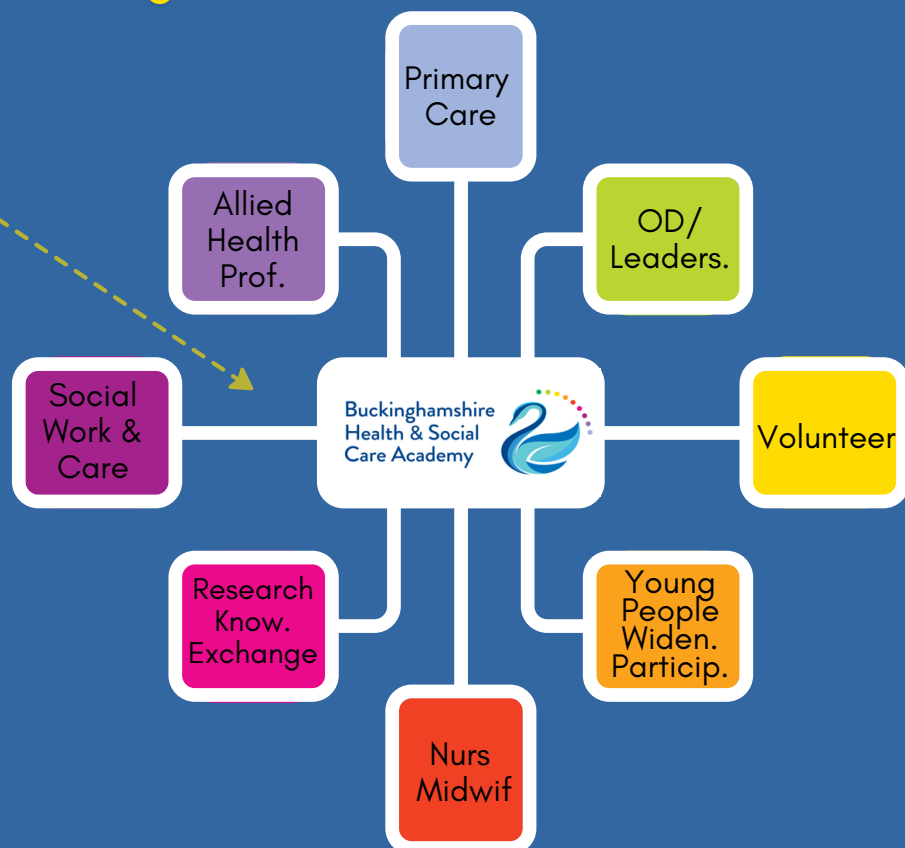
Our 'Place' of **Buckinghamshire** in the BOB ICS for education, training, & development of the County's health & care workforce



Convening programmes of work across the County through our **7 Partner organisations**



Carried out via our active **8 Faculties** which are voluntarily led by field experts within our Partner organisations





SURVEY RESPONDENTS NEEDED!

“Nothing about us, without us”: Addressing health inequalities for patients with learning difficulties and autism

In collaboration between:



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the tragic death of Oliver McGowan, who had mild cerebral palsy, partial seizures, a mild learning disability, and high functioning autism, suffered from a fatal reaction to medication, led to the creation of the Oliver McGowan Training on learning disabilities and autism. This programme has since become NHS England's preferred training to meet the requirements of the Health and Care Act 2022.

Buckinghamshire New University (BNU) has been commissioned to pilot the training with nursing and midwifery students and staff. In parallel, a research project funded by NHS England and delivered with the Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy, has been launched to evaluate its impact.

The project is led by Dr. Theo Gavrielides, Visiting Professor at BNU, with support from Juliet Anderson and Dr. Abbie Fordham Barnes from the School of Nursing and Midwifery, alongside NHS England colleagues.



THE ASK:

The project aims to identify how the Oliver McGowan Training can be most effectively embedded within higher education, ensuring that future nurses and midwives are well-prepared to support people with learning disabilities and autism. This research is also central to BNU's own implementation of the training.

As part of this project, surveys are being conducted for key target groups, and **the project is still looking for survey respondents from these three key groups:**

- Oliver McGowan Training Providers from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). [Click here for the form](#)
- Nurses/Midwives who have received the training. [Click here for the form](#)
- Employers of Nurses/Midwives who have received the training. [Click here for the form](#)

The project team is seeking input from these groups to help strengthen the training and improve outcomes. All data will be treated in line with GDPR and strict ethical standards.

Further details, including survey links, data protection information, and project updates, are available on the project [website](#). **Participants will also be entered into a prize draw for a free annual subscription to the Internet Journal of Restorative Justice.**



If you have any questions please contact:

Theo Gavrielides, Principal Investigator | Email: Theo.Gavrielides@Bucks.ac.uk

Nathan Squillante, Research Assistant | Email: n.squillante@rj4all.org



NEW PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

VOLUNTEER BUCKS INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



Bucks' charity secures National Lottery funding to transform volunteering in Bucks

Community Impact Bucks in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy (BHSCA) is thrilled to announce the launch of a new £550,000 five-year initiative, to transform volunteering in Bucks, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund.

The funding will help take Volunteer Bucks – the county's free online platform that connects people with local volunteering opportunities – to the next level.

The ambition is big but simple - to make volunteering easier, more inclusive, and more rewarding for everyone in Bucks regardless of your background or experience.

To make that happen the project will:

- **Make volunteering easier to find and do** by expanding the Volunteer Bucks platform making it simpler for people to find the right role and easier for organisations to benefit from stronger volunteer matches.
- **Reimagine volunteering working with local organisations** to create more flexible and inclusive volunteer roles that are shaped around the lives of today's volunteers.
- **Build better links across health, social care and the voluntary sector** to enable volunteers to move easily between opportunities to help where they're needed most, when they're needed most.
- **Make volunteering more inclusive and accessible** by working together with underrepresented communities to ensure everyone can enjoy the benefits of volunteering.
- **Develop new opportunities for students and employer-supported volunteers** to get involved, by working with the voluntary sector, schools, colleges, and businesses, so that more students and employees can volunteer around their lives.



Kate Walker, CEO at Community Impact Bucks:

"We are incredibly proud to launch this exciting project to amplify volunteering in Buckinghamshire. The National Lottery funding will help us strengthen and diversify volunteering across Bucks—making it easier for more people to get involved and for organisations to access the support they need to thrive. Our partnership with BHSCA will be key in creating smoother transitions for volunteers across sectors, while our focus on inclusion ensures no community is left behind."

Professor David Sines OBE PhD, BHSCA Strategic Board Chair:

"I am delighted the Academy's Volunteer Faculty and Community Impact Bucks are strengthening their partnership and building on previous collaborative projects to deliver this new programme, supporting our aims to develop work readiness, experience and skills through volunteering and expand career opportunities across health and social care."

Q. 2 REVIEW

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

AYLESBURY CREATIVE HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMME

- 1 Looking for a new hobby or to learn a new skill?
- 2 Interested in making new friends and connections within the community?
- 3 Want to try something creative for your wellbeing?
- 4 Ready to explore creativity in a new way?

We are offering 8 weeks of creative health and wellbeing workshops (no cost to attend, all materials provided) on Fridays, in Aylesbury, in Autumn 2025

26TH SEPT | 10AM - 12PM

Madhubani art

A heritage Indian folk art form & the session will include making natural colours from vegetables and painting on handmade paper

3RD OCT | 10AM - 12PM

Medicinal Movement & Spoken Word

A creative movement and poetry workshop that brings together rhythm, memory, emotion, and connection

10TH OCT | 10AM - 12PM

Voicing Yourself Happy

A workshop for the whole body, bringing together music and sound through noises, improvisation and singing

17TH OCT | 1 - 3PM

Zine-making

Design and create a zine (a small art booklet) using collage and mark making techniques

24TH OCT | 1 - 3PM

Cyanotype printing

A historic alternative photographic process that creates amazing blue images, using different objects to explore the technique

14TH NOV | 1 - 3PM

Realising your Creative Magic

A drama and performance based workshop utilising movement, improvisation, clown and therapeutic wellness techniques

21TH NOV | 10AM - 12PM

Dance (for all abilities)

A dance session for diverse audiences that can be adapted for any ability (both seated and standing)

28 NOV | 10AM - 12PM

Slow Stitch and Breathe

Learn a basic stitching technique and use that skill to slow stitch a mini art quilt/coaster; option to make a holiday themed project

How do you register for sessions?

Register for & come along to one, two or all eight sessions by emailing events@buckscommunityhub.com confirming which session/s you would like to attend

Where?

Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub,
Buckinghamshire New University's Aylesbury
Campus Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP21 7QG

The Aylesbury Creative Health and Wellbeing Programme is organised by Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub, Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy and Buckinghamshire Culture. This project is supported by the Aylesbury Community Board project funding.

AYLESBURY CREATIVE HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMME

The Hub, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy (BHSCA) and Bucks Culture, are working in partnership for an 8-week programme of free creative workshops in Aylesbury in Autumn 2025.

Its aim is to promote the health and wellbeing of local residents through engagement in organised creative health and wellbeing activities, and to allow residents the opportunity to gain new skills, connect with their community and pursue creative outlets.

The sessions are detailed in the flyer, as well as how residents can register to attend a session/s. The sessions are for local Aylesbury residents and the project is supported by funding from the Aylesbury Community Board. **Click the flyer to see more!**

Find out what's happening in the months to come!

[CLICK HERE](#)

BCW HUB AT A NUMERICAL GLANCE

- 30 attendees** at Post-diagnosis session for Alzheimer's Society
- 30 therapists** attended the Speech and Language Therapy workshop
- 20+ attendees** at the Gypsy Roma Traveller Communities of Practice, in collaboration with Health Watch Bucks
- 43 peers** attended the Communities of Practice on Domestic Violence led by SAASS BMK. The wide-ranging session covered what domestic abuse is, how to recognise the signs, what the short and long-term effects are and understanding the barriers to leaving abusive relationships and identified local and national sources of help and support.
- 16 charity managers** attended the HOB Community forum for Mental Health in the VCSE sector
- 10 managers** attended the Volunteers Network Managers' Meeting (CIB)
- 8 weekly creative and wellbeing workshops** being funded by the Aylesbury Community Board

WHAT'S NEW?

- Partnership engagement has been established with Bucks Oxford Health Recovery College resulting in deepening ties with mental health services and exploring more joint initiatives.
- Shortlisting has been completed for the two Hub Coordinator roles, interviews and appointment updates to come next quarter.



Q. 2 REVIEW

The Coaching and Mentoring Pool



part of the Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy

THE COACHING & MENTORING POOL AT A NUMERICAL GLANCE

- **50+ employees** from BHT, BC, and BOB ICB have been added to the pool and matched with a coach or mentor
- **9 newly qualified coaches** completed Level 3 coaching and **2 coaches** completed Level 5
- **14 lecturers** attended 4-day Health Coaching training, bringing the **total to 72 people trained**
- **23 people** have been confirmed for, the first of three cohorts, October Health Coaching cohort, with **6 self-funded attendees**
- **20 professionals** gained exclusive knowledge about the Academy during the BHT Freedom to Speak Up Champions and Guardians event
- **150 professionals** attended the Improving NHS Pathways conference, where Jason Greasley presented on leadership and improving communications
- **Let's Talk about Vaccines** - more info [here](#)
 - **4 sessions** for BOB ICB
 - **2 sessions** for Kent & Medway
 - **2 sessions** for Hampshire & Isle of Wight
- **2 days** of leadership training for Slough Council
- **2 Communities of Practice** sessions for both the Coaching Pool and Health Coaching
- **1 Coaching Support session** for Bucks Council social workers for Positive Mental Health
- **1 strategy session** with FedBucks to improve survey results
- **1 recruitment session** with Army Training Centre Pirbright Leadership School to join the Coaching Pool



- **Thu 25th Sept** – is the celebration event for Beds Uni for their Health coaching programme
- **Thu 2nd Oct** – Jason presenting at the Workforce conference – future proofing the NHS.
- **Mon 13th Oct** – supporting the Social Care Day and have a stand for the coaching pool.
- **Thu 16th Oct**– Supporting Kent ICB with their away day.
- **16 /17th Oct** – 2 day leading self-course for BC and a couple from the voluntary sector.
- **23rd Oct** – Health coaching 4-day programmes starts.



LEARN MORE



BHSCA

www.bhsca.co.uk



Empowering Change Through Health Coaching

We're building something powerful in
Buckinghamshire, and you could be part of it.

Our 4-day PCI-accredited Health Coaching Course is equipping professionals with the skills to support personalised, integrated care. From physical and mental wellbeing to social connection and purpose, health coaching helps people take control of their health.

This isn't just training, it's a mindset shift.
Coaching-style conversations build trust, spark behaviour change, and strengthen relationships across the system.



WHY HEALTH COACHING?

Health Coaching is an evidence-based, person centred and proven to empower individuals to better manage long-term conditions and the broader factors that influence health such as housing, relationships, and community belonging. At a time when our health and social care system is under significant strain, health coaching offers vital approach to support people more effectively and sustainably.

MORE THAN A QUALIFICATION



This course meets the standards required to work as a Health and Wellbeing Coach in the NHS, but it is more than just a qualification; it's a catalyst for culture change. We're embedding coaching principles across teams to foster listening, empowerment, and partnership, helping to transform how care is delivered and experienced.

PARTICIPANTS LEARN TO:

- Build rapport and trust
- Support goal-setting and change
- Empower people to make informed choices

DRIVING INTEGRATION



We're training professionals across sectors building trust, breaking silos, and enabling joined-up care, especially in neighbourhood teams tackling health inequalities.

ALIGNED WITH STRATEGY



Health coaching supports both Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's 2025-2035 strategy and the NHS 10-Year Plan by shifting care into communities, reducing pressure on services, and tackling inequalities.

JOIN US:



By training in health coaching, you're not just gaining a skill you're helping reimagine care across the NHS, Social care and the voluntary sector, supporting a more joined up, person-centred system, fit for the future.

**To find out more about what we offer
please visit our website:**

**Health Coaching
Homepage**





ACTIVE PROJECTS UPDATE

Faculty Updates

Social
Work/Social
Care Fac

- **Integrated Workforce Strategy:** Working group being developed to review data, identify gaps and agree steps forward. Private & VCSE sector training offer now live.
- **Commissioning Career Pathway:** Working group established, staff to undertake self-assessment, development underway for career pathway.
- **Safeguarding Provision:** Two safeguarding summits have taken place & work streams agreed, a workshop will take place end of September with agreed areas of work to focus on, results to come next quarter.

Currently establishing collaborative groups to focus on:

- Social Work Placements in BHT and in Primary Care - (FedBucks is now a verified Learning Environment)
- General Practice employed Nursing Associate Apprentice 'reciprocal placement agreements'
- Expansion of BHT Community Placements
- Community Placements with 'spoke placement' in GP Practices
- Discussing joint Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA) Programme to span BHT & Buckinghamshire Primary Care

Bucks Placement project

Nursing/
Midwifery
Fac

Oliver McGowan Training Programme

BHSCA

- Saricka March has joined as Programme Manager on secondment from SCAS (South Central Ambulance Service) and has made significant progress in engaging partners and supporting the procurement process to completion.
- Unique Training Solutions has been awarded the contract for the programme's training provider.
- Training set to roll out across BOB and Frimley ICBs next quarter, more info to come.

- BHT Preceptorship team are working to achieve the Multi-professional Quality Mark Award
- BHT CYP Therapies have been shortlisted for the CAHPO award for 'AHP Creative Provision of Placement'
- Participation in the South East ALIGNS programme as a case study is in its final stages, final report anticipated Spring 2026.
- International Paramedics Day was on the 8th July
- World Physiotherapy Day was on the 8th September

Celebrations

Allied
Health
Prof.
Fac



LEARN MORE



BHSCA

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Collaborative QI Practitioner Programme (CQIP)

Organisational
Dev./
Leadership
Fac

- CQIP is a 4-5 day 'off the shelf' programme designed to train QI practitioners locally (i.e. free to use)
- Built for Health & Care organisations/systems to use, adapt and deliver within their own context
- Designed to upskill frontline staff to lead & support improvement across boundaries
- Programme is open to all, currently focusing on the three INTs as part of the National Health Implementation Programme bid.
- Academic accreditation has been suggested for the programme

17 schools signed up with 280 students in total attending the sessions. The sessions included a Practical session with an overview of the whole Health and Social Care sector as well as careers' guidance at the end.

There is a plan to roll this event out again in the 2025/2026 academic year with increased number of sessions, awaiting internal approval

Health & Social Care Demo Sessions

Young People
/ Widening
Participation
Fac

Health Inequalities Projects joint evaluation

Volunteer
Fac

As part of the 2024/25 Buckinghamshire Prevention & Health Inequalities Community Projects, the following projects have been evaluated in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire to demonstrate shared impact across the funded workstreams:

- Health Inequalities Communities of Practice
- Community Researchers
- Health Coaching
- Deep End Network (DEN)

All individual project evaluations and an Executive Summary identifying shared themes across all workstreams are linked [here](#)

- **First Steps:** Adult Skills Fund- Introduction to Health and Social Care (6x2hr night sessions), commenced in August
- **Positive Steps:** Partnership with BHT. BTEC Level 1 in H&SC (4 week placement)
- **Next Steps:** Adult Social Care Level 2 Certificate

Find out more [here](#)

Steps Programme

Young People
/ Widening
Participation
Fac





COMING SOON IN Q.3!

RKE FACULTY: AUTUMN WRITING RETREAT

Taking place at Missenden Abbey from 10-11th October, focusing on honing the writing skills of attendees. There are workshops, 1-1 peer support, focused individual writing time and the continued support of a mentor extending beyond the retreat to help attendees right through to publication.

RKE FACULTY: WRITING COMMUNITY

The next Writing Community takes place online on 30th October from 10:00-13:00 and will focus on 'Writing for professional magazines'.

Join the event with this [link](#)!

STRATEGIC AWAY DAYS

The BHSCA Operational Board will meet in-person on 22 Oct to foster faculty collaboration and priority set for 2026. The BHSCA Strategic Board will meet in-person on 28 Oct to establish the 2026 Business Plan priorities and growth for the Academy in light of 10-year plan and ICB restructuring.

OLIVER MCGOWAN MANDATORY TRAINING

The OMMT programme training to begin in October with roll out of Tier 1 part 2 and Tier 2 part 2 training across BOB and Frimley, with the goal of 30% of professionals trained by Q2 2026.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Workstream 3: A series of workshops will be conducted with an invited group of expert stakeholders in Adult Social Care in Buckinghamshire to discuss the key skills needed and the career pathways for adult social care workers. Intended to be completed Nov 2025.

THEMATIC REVIEWS

16 October: Volunteer Faculty Thematic Review
04 November: AHP Thematic Thematic Review

If you would like to attend, please email bht.bhsca-info@nhs.net for an invite.

LEVEL 3 COACHING & MENTORING PROGRAMME

Our Coaching & Mentoring Pool will be training Level 3 coaching & mentoring to our Partners across 3 days in Nov:

BHT cohort: 13, 14 & 18 Nov

Bucks Council cohort: 4, 5 & 27 Nov



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