

BHSCA NEWSLETTER

Buckinghamshire
Health & Social
Care Academy



Celebrating our 10th
newsletter edition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Foreword from our Director of the Academy, Juliet Anderson
- 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



Celebrating Leadership & Quality Improvement

A joint graduation for the Senior Leadership Programme (Peak 3) and Collaborative Quality Improvement Practitioner Programme (CQIP) was held at Buckinghamshire New University in July. CQIP graduates showcased their improvement projects and impact, with Raghuv Bhasin, CEO of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, presenting certificates to graduates from across BHSCA partner organisations.



Bucks Council's Safeguarding Conference

Our Associate Director for People and Change attended and presented at the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Launch Event on the 11th of September, organised by Buckinghamshire Council with 120 people in attendance. The event launched three new initiatives to strengthen safeguarding practice and multi-agency working across Bucks, and brought together experts from across the Safeguarding Board and Lived Experience speakers to share insights, learning, and best practice.



Coaching to Support Positive Mental Health workshop by The Coaching & Mentoring Pool

Invited social workers from Buckinghamshire Council to the 'Coaching to Support Positive Mental Health' workshop. The group explored practical coaching tools to help the people they support, but they also spent time reflecting on their own wellbeing, how they manage pressure, and how they can have better conversations about mental health with colleagues and teams.

AFFILIATED AGENCIES OF BHSCA

The Coaching
and Mentoring Pool

part of the Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

OUR PARTNERS

The Academy is a non-profit partnership between Buckinghamshire Council, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS 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.



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Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust



University of
Bedfordshire



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY
EST 1991



Buckinghamshire
College Group
Aylesbury Wycombe Amersham





BHSCA NEWSLETTER



Foreword from our Academy's Director:

Juliet Anderson



As we reach the halfway point of the year, the changing season gives us a useful opportunity to pause and reflect – not simply on how much has changed around us, but on how much we have achieved together.

For BHSCA, the past year has been one of considerable activity and impact. From education, training and leadership development, to health inequalities work, volunteering, community research, social care workforce development and integrated practice, our work has continued to connect people, organisations and ideas across Buckinghamshire. Our Community Wellbeing Hub has been recognised nationally for its contribution to health creation, while our coaching and mentoring programmes have continued to build capability across the workforce. We have also worked with partners to turn local skills priorities into practical opportunities, including through the Local Skills Improvement Plan and projects supporting work readiness and career pathways.

The context in which we work is also rapidly changing. NHS England is reshaping the national operating landscape, while from April 2026 NHS Thames Valley has brought together Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Frimley under a single Integrated Care Board, serving 2.5 million people. Its emphasis on joined-up planning, prevention, reducing inequalities and bringing care closer to communities reinforces the importance of developing the workforce differently too.

For BHSCA, this creates an opportunity to build on what we have learned. Our next chapter will see the Academy develop further as an integrated system workforce enabler – connecting partners, identifying shared workforce challenges and bringing the right people, expertise and education together to deliver sustainable change.

We will share our new strategy in Quarter 3. For now, I hope this newsletter provides a moment to pause, celebrate what we have achieved, and look forward with confidence to what we can achieve together next.

Juliet Anderson



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

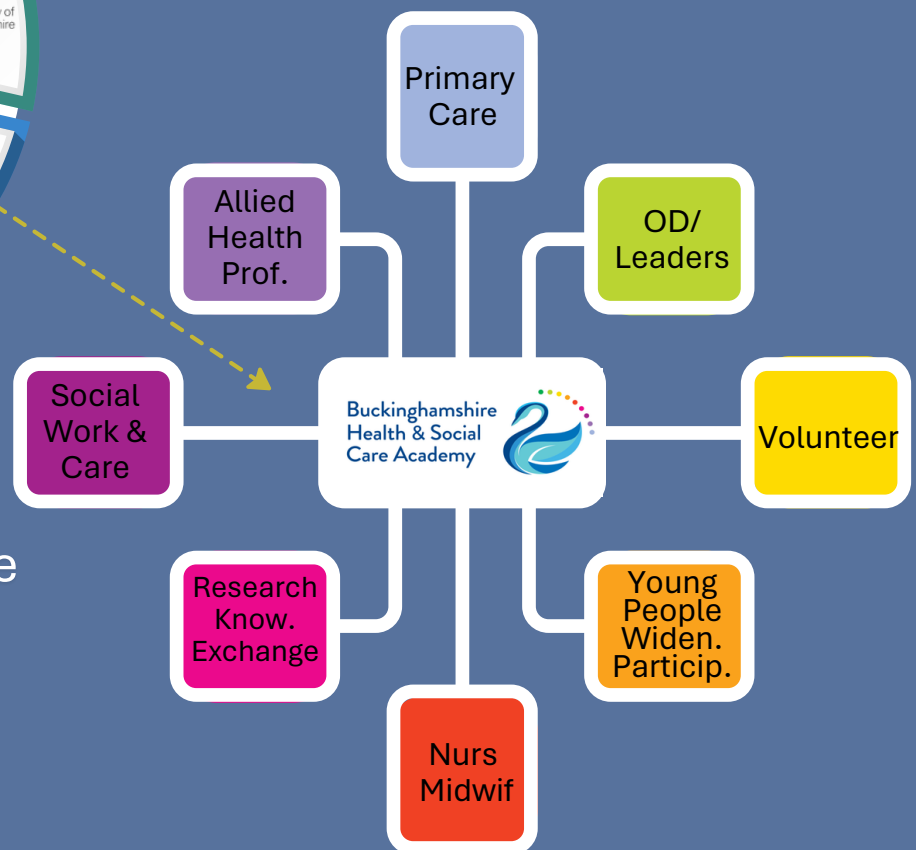
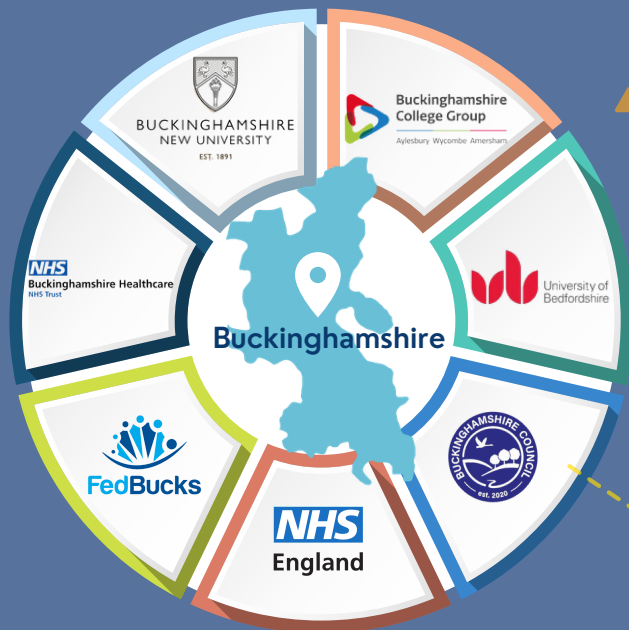
Our System-Wide Impact: Thames Valley Integrated Care System (ICS)



Our 'Place' of **Buckinghamshire** in the Thames Valley 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



LET'S TALK ABOUT VACCINES WEEK FOR HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT (14-18 SEPTEMBER)

Building Confidence, Strengthening Conversations

Let's Talk About Vaccines (LTaV) Week brought together health and care colleagues from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to strengthen vaccine conversations, share best practice and build confidence in engaging with local communities.

Learning Across the System

Delivered through a mix of **online and face-to-face sessions**, the programme reached colleagues across the ICB footprint, with in-person sessions held on the Isle of Wight, in Portsmouth and Tadley. The week created opportunities to share learning, develop practical skills and explore approaches to improving vaccine confidence and uptake.

Turning Learning into Practice

Feedback showed that participants were able to **put their learning into practice quickly**, with several providing further reflections after using the techniques and tools in real-world conversations.

Building on the Momentum

Interest has continued beyond LTaV Week, with **further requests for the 2.5-hour training**. Colleagues are being directed to the LTaV webpage and application forms to access future opportunities.

VISIT NOW



Let's Talk About Vaccines Week

WHAT PEOPLE TOOK AWAY

Powerful feedback, real learning and clear intentions for change.



This training has improved my **confidence** to have **better conversations**



I know there is a **skill** to having a conversation around vaccines.



I was shocked at the statistics and how many people are sat on the fence- but they are now **people I can talk to**



Using **open questions**, and asking why to understand more.



I am going to look at our practice statistics and see how we can **improve uptake** of child immunisations

FEEDBACK



WHAT THIS COULD CHANGE

The learning can lead to real impact in practice



BETTER CONVERSATIONS

More confident, open and non-judgemental, conversations with patients, parents and families



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Using COM-B, decision balance and practice data to identify and support those who aren't coming forward



TACKLING MISINFORMATION

Helping people feel better informed, and more confident to make decisions about vaccines.



SUPPORTING VACCINE UPTAKE

Building trust, reducing barriers and supporting healthier, more protected communities.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
NEW UNIVERSITY
EST. 1891



University of
Bedfordshire

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE WRITING COMMUNITY

**Are you interested in enhancing your academic writing skills?
Do you want to join a supportive community to further develop these skills?**

**Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy's faculty
of Research & Knowledge Exchange have established a
Health & Social Care Writing Community**

**This is a supportive space for anyone interested in writing within the
world of health and social care.**

**You'll find a calm, relaxed environment where you can enjoy writing at
your own pace, whether you'd like to share your ideas with others or
keep them just for yourself.**

**Each event offers gentle prompts and themed guidance if you'd like
some inspiration, but you're always free to follow your own ideas and
write about what matters most to you. Above all, this is a community
that values your voice and the unique perspective you bring.**

Our Research and Knowledge faculty have organised another 3 sessions of the Health and Social Care Writing Community, coming up in December 2026, March 2027 and June 2027.

These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to enhance your academic writing skills and to be a part of a community of like-minded professionals for support. Free to attend and open to anyone with an interest in or involved with academic writing in any capacity.

The links below enable you to register for the sessions and have them added to your calendar as well. Any data from the registration is used internally only and only for purposes of the webinar attendance tracking.

REGISTER NOW

Tuesday 1st December 2026

10:30am to 1:30pm

https://lnkd.in/eNiWA_ga

Thursday 4th March 2027

10:30am to 1:30pm

<https://lnkd.in/eTKSYuqb>

Friday 18th June 2027

10:30am to 1:30pm

https://lnkd.in/e2g8s_rE



END OF PROJECT REPORT

Buckinghamshire
Health & Social
Care Academy



NHS
Buckinghamshire
Talking Therapies



Faith and Community Mental Health Project

End of Project Report

August 2026

Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy (BHSCA)
NHS Bucks Talking Therapies (BTT)
Wycombe Islamic Society (WISE)

Faith and Community Mental Health

Bringing mental health support closer to the community

Buckinghamshire Health and Social Care Academy (BHSCA), Wycombe Islamic Society (WISE) and NHS Buckinghamshire Talking Therapies have worked together to explore a new approach to mental health support within High Wycombe's Muslim community.

The project combined community education and awareness with access to faith-based counselling and NHS Talking Therapies, helping to create more culturally responsive routes into mental health support.

Making an impact

- **112** community members attended mental health awareness sessions
- **67** referrals to the faith-based counselling service
- **50** people entered counselling
- **290** counselling sessions delivered
- **38** people completed counselling

Full Report
CLICK HERE



Designed with the community

The project was developed and co-designed over two and a half years, bringing together community knowledge and healthcare expertise. Support included sessions on Islam and mental health, stress and self-care, family relationships and trauma, alongside one-to-one counselling and a community-based NHS clinic.

Learning for the future

The pilot has generated valuable learning about how faith organisations, community settings and NHS services can work together to improve access to mental health support. It also identified practical lessons around co-design, referral pathways, communication and service capacity that can inform future partnership models.

[Visit our Volunteer](#)
[Faculty here](#)



Q.2 BCW HUB REVIEW

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB



TROPIC
NATURAL BEAUTY
POWERED BY PLANTS

Mini Facials
at The Bucks Community Wellbeing Hub (BCWH)

A RELAXING TREAT FOR OUR AMAZING NHS STAFF

ENJOY A RELAXING MINI FACIAL
Take a little time for you and experience our natural, plant powered skincare.

POP UP SHOP WITH GORGEOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS
Explore a range of beautiful gifts and treats, perfect for the festive season.

Relax Refresh Recharge

BOOK A SLOT
Between 11.30am and 3.00pm
SPACES ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE.

The Bucks Community Wellbeing Hub (BCWH)

SCAN TO BOOK

Mini facial slots

Crime Prevention Event

with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and Community Safety

Come along to this event to learn more about scam awareness, personal safety and crime prevention

Where: Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub, Chalfonts Hospital, Hampden Road, CSP, SL9 9DR

Date: 17th September **Time:** 12.45—2.00pm

THAMES VALLEY POLICE Working together for a safer Buckinghamshire



Visiting Angels
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Eat Well. Drink Well. Live Well.

DISCOVER EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Good nutrition and hydration play an important role in staying healthy and independent. Join Magda from Visiting Angels Berkshire for an engaging talk packed with practical advice and simple ideas you can use every day.

FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Venue:
Chalfont & Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub:
Chalfont & Gerrards Cross Hospital, Hampden Road, SL9 9DR.

www.visiting-angels.co.uk/berkshire

COMPLETED EVENTS THIS QUARTER

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

NHSE Wider Workforce Sessions
Free learning for all health and social care staff across Buckinghamshire

Supporting our neurodivergent staff

17th September 2026 - 11:00-12:30
Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hub
Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital, Gerrards Cross, SL9 9DR.

A learning and sharing workshop discussing how to effectively support staff across the health and social care sector who are neurodivergent and require reasonable adjustments in the workplace.

Free spaces still available!

Click above or scan our QR code to book!

Find out more about our sessions and the Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub at www.buckscommunityhub.com
Join our mailing list at welcome@buckscommunityhub.com
Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

Funded by NHSE Wider Workforce

DEMENTIA AWARENESS TALK

Do you want to know more about memory loss and dementia?

Are you caring for someone living with dementia?

Come along to a talk presented by Sally Blackden, a specialist in supporting people living with dementia. The session will explore how we can support people with dementia and their carers to live fulfilling and contented lives.

Venue: Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub; Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross Hospital, Hampden Road, SL9 9DR.

Date and Time: Monday 14th September 2026 / 14:00 - 15:00

Chalfont Dementia Support
Charity Number 120208

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

Aylesbury

TOGETHER ON TUESDAYS

Awarded Place of the Year at the 2025 Excellence in Health Creation Awards!

Connection & Collaboration Sessions
1-3pm

**8th September
13th October
10th November
8th December**

Strengthen relationships with our valued professional partners. The informal sessions will offer a welcoming space to connect, exchange insights, and explore new opportunities for collaboration. Please feel free to bring promotional material to showcase your services.

To participate please email: welcome@buckscommunityhub.com

"Integrating Care, Nurturing Wellbeing & Empowering Futures"

07834406268
welcome@buckscommunityhub.com
Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub

Buckinghamshire Community Wellbeing Hub
Buckinghamshire New University
Aylesbury Campus
59 Walton Street
Aylesbury
HP21 7QC

Registered CIO 1210810

Explore
more!



**Buckinghamshire Community
& Wellbeing Hub**

Q.2 THE COACHING & MENTORING POOL REVIEW

The Coaching and Mentoring Pool



part of the Buckinghamshire Health & Social Care Academy



The Coaching and Mentoring Pool Annual Conference

The Coaching and Mentoring Pool Annual Conference, held on 13 July, brought colleagues together for a day of learning and reflection on the changing landscape of coaching, careers and talent development. This year's conference explored Careers in Transition and Talent, Resilience & Reinvention in the Age of AI, considering how coaching practice can evolve as technology continues to reshape the workplace.

A key focus was the importance of maintaining the human element of coaching, while recognising the opportunities presented by AI. Discussions explored how coaches can support individuals navigating career change, build resilience and develop talent, alongside considering how AI and human expertise can work effectively together.

The conference provided an opportunity for members of the Coaching and Mentoring Pool to connect, share learning and consider emerging approaches to modern coaching practice, with insights that can be taken forward into their work across health and social care.

THE COACHING & MENTORING POOL 2ND QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

- **170 people (approx.) to have completed Health Coaching programme since 2024**
- **120** attendees at Safeguarding Conference which our team presented at on Coaching
- **100** people targeted to complete the Safeguarding Train the Trainer programme across 5 days
- **32** members of staff from BHT and Bucks Council have been matched with a coach/mentor (July-Sept)
- **20-40** attendees on each of the Communities of Practice sessions which are planned until March 2027
- **16** attendees due to complete Health Coaching course in Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross 5 & 6 October
- **10** places already booked for the Health Coaching - Let's Talk about Vaccines course in November
- **3** colleagues successfully completed their Advantage Level 3 qualification (2-BHT, 1-Bucks Council)
- **3** colleagues successfully completed their Advantage Level 5 qualification (1-BHT, 2-Bucks Council)
- **1** Annual Conference celebrated for The Coaching and Mentoring Pool on 13 July



LEARN MORE



ACTIVE PROJECTS UPDATE

Health Coaching Programme

BHSCA

Health Coaching at Chalfont

Strong demand ahead of the 5 November launch, with 45+ expressions of interest and applications continuing. The cohort has increased to 16 places, following a successful introductory session in September.

Health Coaching Let's Talk About Vaccines

The first 10 places are already filled, with strong interest across Buckinghamshire. Recruitment continues across Thames Valley to secure a diverse mix of professions and locations.

Fiona Barry, Head of Service for Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies at Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, showcased the digital transformation taking place across the **Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies Service (CYPIT)**, highlighting innovative approaches to service delivery and exploring how these developments could have wider applications across the health and social care system.

AHP Maturity Matrix: Digital Domain

AHP
Faculty

Notable Events & Announcement

AHP
Faculty

Farewell Acknowledgement – Mav Ghalley thanked Melissa Martins for her leadership and contributions to Speech and Language Therapy and the Academy, and welcomed Belinda Twissell as Chair. Melissa also featured in the RCSLT Summer edition, sharing her work with newly qualified practitioners. - [Linked here](#)

AHP Celebration Events:

- International Paramedics Day (8 July) Clare Henderson shared her journey as a paramedic and Advanced Practitioner within the Urgent Community Response Team. [Linked Case Study here](#)
- World Physiotherapy Day (8 Sept) Buckinghamshire physiotherapists highlighted the value of apprenticeships, quality placements and continuing professional development in building clinical expertise.

- As of 31/08/26 we have trained over 9,255 health and social care staff in tier 1, and over 13,235 staff tier 2 training.
- In Buckinghamshire we have trained over 3479 NHS staff and 500 social care staff.
- Direct Feedback: "The most important thing I've learned is that everyone communicates differently — and that difference is not a barrier. I now understand that people with learning disabilities may need more time, simpler language, visual support, or alternative ways to express themselves, and that meeting people where they are makes all the difference. I also learned to focus on a person's abilities, not just their needs."

Oliver McGowan Training Programme

BHSCA



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ACTIVE PROJECTS UPDATE

Social Care Nursing Development Programme

BHSCA &
Partners

Following strong interest, 15 nurses from 13 care organisations registered for the programme. Day 1 successfully brought together these professionals from across Buckinghamshire to develop practical skills in coaching, leadership, role clarity and team development.

- The four-day programme aims to strengthen confidence, leadership capability and peer connections, supporting nurses to make a greater impact across social care.

The Research & Knowledge Exchange (R&KE) Faculty is scoping a new webinar series. A survey is being developed to gauge interest and identify priority topics, helping to shape a programme that reflects the needs and interests of partners and colleagues.

Webinar Series

R & KE
Faculty

Share Your Best Practice

R & KE
Faculty

A new Health and Social Care (HSC) feature with The Dentist Magazine provides a platform to share best practice across professions. Topics include dementia, autism, nursing, mental health, ageing, disability, inequalities, interdisciplinary working, and community initiatives. Contributors can submit 700-word articles to promote collaboration, innovation, and patient-centred care.
Deadline: 28th of every month, send expressions of interest to Dr Hoda Wassif (hoda.wassif@beds.ac.uk)

The Writing Community Group will continue throughout 2026/27, providing a supportive space for colleagues to dedicate time to writing, share ideas and experiences, and learn alongside peers.

Upcoming dates:

- Tuesday 1 December 2026 | 10:30–13:30
- Thursday 4 March 2027 | 10:30–13:30
- Friday 18 June 2027 | 10:30–13:30

Writing Community

R & KE Faculty



LEARN MORE



Follow us on LinkedIn

www.bhsca.co.uk



COMING SOON IN Q.3!

AHP CELEBRATION DAYS

- 8th October: International Podiatry Day
- 14th October: AHP Day

More to come from our AHP Faculty celebrations!

SOCIAL CARE NURSES EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

08 October: Day 2 of the Social Care Nurses Empowerment Programme led by Jason Greasley, in partnership with Bucks Council and Skills for Care

HEALTHING COACHING

2-day Health Coaching Programme for Chalfont & Gerrards Cross, hosted at our Chalfonts Hub in October. Supporting the 16 participants to develop practical health coaching skills and use more personalised, strengths-based conversations to help people take an active role in their health and wellbeing.

BUCKS COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUB

Events to join:

Meet up Mondays (Gerrards Cross): [join here](#)
(26 Oct) Free SIM Cards and Digital Support (Gerrards Cross): [join here](#)
The 'Chatter & Natter table' (every Friday at GX): [join here](#)

LET'S TALK ABOUT VACCINES

Programme is scheduled for the Thames Valley ICB in November, equipping participants with practical coaching techniques to support open, informed conversations around vaccination and how to engage effectively with individuals and communities around vaccine decision-making.

BHT AHP CONFERENCE

Taking place on 14 October at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, this conference will bring together AHPs to connect, share learning and strengthen collaboration across BHSCA Faculties. Colleagues are welcome to attend all or part of the event, follow this [link](#) to register.

BHSCA STRATEGIC UPDATE

We held our in-person strategic alignment meeting with our Strategic Board on 10/09 to look towards the future and to ensure we are following the business planning cycle.
New Strategic Plan due for release next quarter!



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