

Involving people with visual impairment in healthcare review

Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) joined forces with Sight Concern Bedfordshire to involve people with visual impairment in the Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes review of healthcare across the county.

Together they produced an audio version of the Healthcare Review 'Case for Change' summary, which explains why local healthcare needs to change and the challenges and opportunities we face, now and in the future. The summary also invites Bedfordshire residents and patients to provide their views on healthcare as part of the countywide healthcare review.

The 19-minute audio version was made available to listen to and download on the Bedfordshire CCG website and a CD version was posted to Sight Concern Bedfordshire's 500 audio subscribers.

Bedfordshire CCG are responsible for planning, organising and buying NHS-funded healthcare for the 441,000 people who live in Bedfordshire, including hospital services, community health services and mental health services. It is run by GPs, nurses, hospital doctors and other clinicians and all 55 GP practices in Bedfordshire are members of the CCG. In 2014-15, the CCG had a budget of approximately £444million to spend on healthcare services for Bedfordshire. For further information on Bedfordshire CCG visit www.bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk.

Sight Concern Bedfordshire is a local, independent charity which aims to enhance the independence and quality of life of blind and partially sighted people, in Bedfordshire and Luton. They offer a variety of services including help in claiming benefits, shopping and providing social events for client interaction. For further information on Sight Concern Bedfordshire visit

www.sightconcern.org.uk.

The Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Healthcare Review, which looked at hospital, community and GP health services across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes, was led by Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes CCGs with support from three national agencies, Monitor, the Trust Development Agency and NHS England. The review reported back at the end of July 2014 with options for the future organisation of health services with patients and the public consulted on options in the autumn. For further information on the Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Healthcare Review visit

www.miltonkeynesccg.nhs.uk/bedfordshire-and-milton-keynes-healthcare-review.