

## The Horton General Hospital maternity services

### An overview of the criteria weighting process

#### What is criteria weighting?

This is the process by which participants allocate each criteria a number between one and five to represent how important they think that criteria is in the local context. The weighting results feed into the wider options appraisal process.

#### What is options appraisal?

Options appraisal is a best practice approach, used by organisations across the country that are consulting on a significant change to health services. It allows the consulting organisation – and its stakeholders – to understand which criteria are most important to local people and in turn how well each option meets each criteria.

#### The Oxfordshire CCG weighting process

Event date: 22 February 2019

Location: Rye Hill Golf Club, Milcombe, Banbury, OX15 4RU

43 organisations or individuals were invited to attend the criteria weighting event. These were:

Andrea Leadsom MP for South Northamptonshire
Andrew Lewer MBE MP for Northampton South
Banbury Town Council
Brackley Town Council
Cherwell District Council
Chris Heaton Harris MP for Daventry
East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Healthwatch Northamptonshire
Healthwatch Oxfordshire
Healthwatch Warwickshire
Home-Start Banbury
Home-Start Oxfordshire
Keep our NHS Public
Keep the Horton General campaign group (KTHG)
La Leche League
Local Medical Committees (x3)
Members of the Community Partnership Network
Members of the new Joint OSC
Nadhim Zahawi MP for Stratford-on-Avon
NCT
Nene CCG
North Oxfordshire GP's
Northampton General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Northamptonshire County Council
Oxford Academic Health Science Network

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH)
Oxfordshire County Council
Oxfordshire Maternity Voices Partnership
PPG Locality Forums (North, North East and West)
Robert Courts MP for Witney
Royal College of Midwives
Royal College of Obstetricians
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
South Northamptonshire District Council
South Warwickshire CCG
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust
Stratford on Avon District Council
Sunshine Centre, Banbury
Thames Valley Clinical Network
Victoria Prentis MP for Banbury
Warwickshire County Council
West Midlands Ambulance Trust
West Oxfordshire District Council

Of these, 26 organisations or individuals were represented by a total of 34 participants who attended. The organisations/individuals or their representatives in attendance were:

Banbury Town Council
Brackley Town Council
Cherwell District Council
CPN
Healthwatch Northamptonshire
Healthwatch Oxon
Hightown Surgery
Horton HOSC
KTHG
Maternity Voices Partnership
Nene
North Oxon Locality
North Public Locality Forum
Northampton General Hospital
Northamptonshire County Council
OUH
Oxfordshire County Council
Royal College of Midwives
Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
SCAS
South Warwickshire CCG
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust
Stratford Upon Avon DC
Sunshine Centre Banbury
Victoria Prentis MP
West Public Locality Forum

Of the participants, 26 were non-NHS representatives while the remaining eight were from the NHS. Facilitators and presenters were also present.

## **The criteria weighting event**

The meeting was independently chaired by Mr Nicholas Duffin, the former chief executive of the Consultation Institute, a not-for-profit, best practice organisation which is widely respected for its specialist knowledge in public and stakeholder consultation.

Attendees were seated in groups of around eight per table and were joined by a facilitator.

Participants received an explanation of the option appraisal process from the Independent Chair along with four topical presentations on local factors affecting maternity services at the Horton General Hospital:

- Clinical model
- Housing growth
- Travel and access
- Finances

At the end of each presentation, attendees were invited to ask questions.

The 13 criteria and their explanations were then presented to the attendees. These criteria had previously been confirmed with the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. They are:

- Clinical outcomes
- Clinical effectiveness and safety
- Patient and carer experience
- Distance and time to access service
- Service operating hours
- Patient choice
- Delivery within the current financial envelope
- Rota sustainability
- Consultant hours on the labour ward
- Recruitment and retention
- Supporting early risk assessment
- Ease of delivery
- Alignment with other strategies

Next, the Independent Chair conducted an example weighting exercise and explained what participants were being asked to do. It was made clear that anyone who did not feel able to take part in the exercise was under no obligation to do so.

Participants then had discussions on their tables about the criteria, and were given draft weighting sheets and note paper on which to write their notes and draft weightings.

Participants were then asked to allocate their personal assessment of a final weighting to each of the 13 criteria. Their personal assessment was informed by the presentations they had seen and by the discussions that took place around each table.

### **What happens next?**

The information gathered from the weighting exercise will feed into the process of options appraisal. The options appraisal results will form part of the information that Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Board will take into consideration before making a decision about any changes to maternity services at the Horton General Hospital.

*Oxfordshire CCG, June 2019*