



## NEWS RELEASE

9 February 2012

### Chipping Norton First Aid Unit pilot is extended

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SCAS) have agreed to extend the Chipping Norton First Aid Unit pilot for a further 2 years.

During the first nine months of the pilot, there has been an increase in activity from the numbers attending the old service (on average less than 30 patients per month) to more than 100 per month for the past two months. At the same time, there has also been a small reduction in those attending A&E with minor conditions.

The First Aid Unit will continue to be open Monday to Friday between 5.00pm and 9.00pm and at weekends and on bank holidays between 10.00am and 9.00pm to provide a drop-in service – no appointment necessary.

During the next two year of the pilot, SCAS will look at the potential for increasing the use locally with more publicity, particularly in the neighbouring areas served by GPs in Charlbury, Hook Norton and Deddington. They will also work with the local GPs to consider how more joint working could improve the service provided to patients.

Alan Webb, Director of Transition and Partnerships at Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group said: “We are very pleased to extend this pilot and the initial evaluation is encouraging. We do understand that it is a valued service for local people.

“For the unit to be viable for the long term it will need to be treating more people locally for minor injuries and illnesses rather than them using other urgent care services such as A&E or GP out of hours.

“With the support of local GPs and SCAS, we believe there is potential for the service to be further integrated with other local health services. This could deliver more efficiency for the service.

“The service will continue to be a pilot and will be fully evaluated in February 2014 based on its sustainability for the long term.”

South Central Ambulance Service ECP Manager, Vicky Holliday said: “We are delighted to have extended this innovative pilot scheme in Chipping Norton until February 2014.”

‘It is staffed by an Emergency Care Practitioner (ECP) from the local ambulance service – a registered healthcare professional such as a paramedic or nurse who has received additional education and training to assess and treat simple injuries and minor illness which cannot be treated at home with a first aid kit. The ECP is also available during opening hours to respond to life threatening emergencies in and around Chipping Norton.’

“Since the unit opened in April 2011 we have seen a steady increase in the number of patients from Chipping Norton and the surrounding villages being treated here for a wide and diverse range of conditions including wounds which require closing or dressing and infections that require antibiotics. We have been able to recognise serious health conditions in some patients presenting with minor injury or illness - conditions that these patients were not previously aware of.”

- ENDS -

**For more information contact NHS Oxfordshire’s media office on tel: 01865 334640 or email: [media.office@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk](mailto:media.office@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk)**

**Notes for editors:**

1. The Chipping Norton First Aid Unit pilot started in April 2011.
2. Staffed by an emergency care practitioner the FAU treats the following types of injuries:
  - Simple injuries that cannot be treated / managed with a home first aid kit.
  - Cleaning and simple stitching of wounds.
  - Insect bites and stings.
  - Minor burns and scalds (not involving the face, neck, feet, hands and genital areas).
  - A foreign body in the eye.
  - Bumps to the head where there has been no loss of consciousness.
  - Bruises.
  - Sprains (if the emergency care practitioner thinks that you have broken a bone you will be referred onto a minor injuries unit or an A & E department)

**Opening times:**

Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) from 5pm to 9pm.

Weekends and bank holidays from 10am to 9pm.

**You do not need to make an appointment, the FAU is a drop-in service.**

**Location:** Chipping Norton First Aid Unit  
Chipping Norton War Memorial Community Hospital  
Out-Patient Unit  
Russell Way, off London Road  
Chipping Norton  
OX7 5FA