

HOSC Chairman's Report- April 2016

Liason Meetings Attended since last HOSC:

The Chairman attended the following meetings with representatives from health and social care organisations between February – April 2016:

- Will Hancock, Chief Executive, South Centre Ambulance Services
- Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Dominic Hardisty, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, Oxford Health Foundation Trust
- Visit to Rebalancing the System Hub, John Radcliffe Hospital
- Event – South of England Health Scrutiny Networking Event, Bristol

Reports of Confidential Meetings Held:

1. Wantage Community Hospital, Oxford Health Foundation Trust

Healthcare Representatives Present

Dominic Hardisty, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer
Anne Brierley, Older People Services Director

HOSC Members Present

Cllr Yvonne Constance
Cllr Surinder Dhesi
Cllr Alison Rooke
Cllr Nigel Randall
Cllr Kevin Bulmer
Cllr Monica Lovatt
Cllr Martin Barrett
Moir Logie (*non-voting co-opted member*)
Anne Wilkinson (*non-voting co-opted member*)
Keith Ruddle (*non-voting co-opted member*)

Council Officers Present

Hannah Iqbal, Policy Officer
Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer

Meeting Report:

On Thursday 14th April, members of HOSC (7 voting members and 3 co-opted members) met in a confidential session with Oxford Health Representatives, Anne Brierley and Dominic Hardisty. Members were briefed that Wantage Community Hospital needs to be closed on safety grounds given the persistent recurrence of legionella in the hot water system in the hospital. This is being treated and there is

no immediate risk to health. However, the treatment is not a long term solution, and the whole site requires re-plumbing in order to permanently eradicate the risk. Oxford Health were asking the committee to consider their proposal to:

- *Temporarily close Wantage Community Hospital from June 2016*
- *Set aside the capital investment required for the plumbing works this year*
- *Delay commencement of the capital works until early 2017, once the public consultation is completed and the future use of Wantage community hospital is determined*

The purpose of this confidential meeting was for Oxford Health to ask HOSC whether the proposed extension of the temporary closure of Wantage community hospital (to allow public consultation outcomes to shape the nature of capital works undertaken) constituted a substantive variation or not.

Oxford Health advised that there is a safety requirement to take planned and proactive action to permanently eliminate the risk of legionella presence in the hot water system.

The Trust recognised that the closure of Wantage Community Hospital at this time may be considered a pre-emptive action ahead of the planned public consultation. However, given the high cost of the estates works required the Trust is concerned that the future use of the building should be determined before expensive publicly funded works are undertaken.

The services currently provided at Wantage Community Hospital – 12 inpatient beds, a midwifery led unit and musculo-skeletal physiotherapy outpatients (MSK) - will all be re-provided locally. Practical assistance in travel arrangements will be offered to patients and staff affected by this relocation.

HOSC members recognised this closure as a substantial change in service. However, they noted the commitment by OCCG and OHT and health organisations to conduct a full countywide Transformation consultation this year. This consultation is expected to run from late summer 2016 for 3 months and HOSC therefore expects a decision to be made regarding provision at all community hospitals – including Wantage - early in 2017.

Meeting Outcome:

HOSC members recognised the closure of Wantage Community Hospital as a substantial change in service and noted the commitment by OCCG and OHT and health organisations to a full transformation consultation later this year.

2. Henry Cornish Centre, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire County Council and Orders of St John

HOSC Members Present

Cllr Yvonne Constance

Cllr Surinder Dhese

Cllr Alison Rooke

Cllr Nigel Randall

Cllr Kevin Bulmer

Cllr Monica Lovatt

Cllr Martin Barrett

Moira Logie (*non-voting co-opted member*)

Anne Wilkinson (*non-voting co-opted member*)

Keith Ruddle (*non-voting co-opted member*)

Council Officers Present

Hannah Iqbal, Policy Officer

Meeting Report and Outcome:

HOSC met on Thursday 14th April to discuss the implementation update regarding the Henry Cornish Centre and the completed substantial changed assessment framework. The outcome of the meeting was that HOSC members do not regard the three month transition period (with an additional one or two month mobilisation period) as a substantial change but note that if it is delayed any longer a full consultation would be required. HOSC members regard the service provided at the Henry Cornish Centre as an important part of the provision of intermediate care and expect that it will be included as part of a county-wide transformation consultation on the provision of community hospitals and intermediate care.

