

Responding to Secretary of State letter following referral of the permanent closure of consultant-led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital

Paper for the Joint OSC meeting 11 April 2019

At the November meeting the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton Joint OSC) confirmed that in the opinion of the Committee the proposed approach and plan outlined would address the recommendations of the Secretary of State/Independent Reconfiguration Panel. The full plan is available [here](#).

The work streams are progressing to plan and in line with our timetable the papers presented today include updates in the following areas:

Work stream 1 – Engagement. The attached paper provides an update on the Engagement work stream to date.

Work stream 5a – Workforce analysis. We will provide a summary of the current obstetric workforce at the Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) and the different training grades and requirements for training. The detailed work on the modelling is underway and will be presented at the June meeting.

Work stream 5b – Financial analysis. The attached paper provides the baseline financial position for OCCG (spend by provider) and OUH (income by commissioner).

Work stream 6 – Option appraisal, proposed approach for discussion with the Committee.

Other items of interest

Work stream 5c – Travel and Transfer; following the discussion at the HOSC Evidence Day held in December we are preparing a briefing that outlines definitions and a description of NHS incident reporting and its application to ambulance transfers. As part of this both South Central Ambulance Service and OUH have been asked to confirm whether there have been any reported incidents linked to ambulance transfers from any Midwife Led Unit to the John Radcliffe.

At the February meeting we highlighted that we would be reviewing other small units. We have attached a paper summarising the units we are planning to contact and our proposed approach.

The current position with recruitment to the obstetric Trust grade positions is that the candidate who accepted our offer of employment in December is due to start in April now their pre-employment checks (including right to work) have cleared. They will be working at the John Radcliffe for the time being, although supporting clinics at the Horton as appropriate. We have made offers to 4 people from our January/February

round. 1 has declined for personal reasons and the pre-employment checks for the other 3 candidates are being progressed. Two CVs have been received from the international agency but both are not appropriate as they do not have the ability to perform tasks independently, we are working with the agency to identify further candidates. We have not included wider material on workforce (other than mentioned under 5a above), as this will be a key focus at the June HOSC meeting.

HOSC and CPN members have previously demonstrated interest in discussing staff engagement survey results for OUH maternity services. OUH welcomes this interest and would be happy to discuss at a future session. Survey results at this level are not published and HOSC members will understand that we will need to make sure that the anonymity of responses is protected. The full feedback at Directorate level is still being analysed, disseminated and discussed with staff and so OUH are unable to present information at this HOSC but are happy to do so at a future date.

Forward look for Horton HOSC meeting on 24 June

In line with the project plan all other work is in hand and the following will be presented at the June meeting:

Work stream 1- Engagement; The final update will summarise the work undertaken and include the report of the survey and focus groups.

Work stream 3 – Future Vision for the Horton; as the Committee is aware the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the proposed new approach to planning for population health and care needs. This approach is being rolled out to the local ‘Banburyshire’ area and will incorporate further discussions on the future vision for the Horton General Hospital. The approach includes setting up a Stakeholder Group to co-produce the services design, based on a population needs analysis, before future proposals for changes to local health services are brought forward; work is in hand to build on the Community Partnership Network to take this forward.

Work stream 5 – Options Work up; the outcome of the workforce and financial analysis will be part of the information presented with this work stream.

For completeness the following pieces of work will be included with the final reports:

Work stream 2 – Service description (as presented to the February Horton HOSC meeting)

Work stream 4 – Size and Share of the Market (as presented to the February Horton HOSC meeting)

Action requested

HOSC members are asked to review the information presented for all work streams and highlight if there are any other aspects that should be explored.

In particular the HOSC members are asked to consider the proposed options appraisals process:

- Highlight if anything else should be considered as part of the process
- Comment on the membership of the scoring panel
- Indicate whether they wish to take up the offer of having an observer at the panel day

Louise Patten, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire CCG

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