



South Warwickshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Our ref: SG/se

7th December 2018

Sophie Gilkes
Director of Development
Management Corridor
Warwick Hospital
Lakin Road
Warwick
CV34 5BW

Cllr Arash Fatemian
Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and
Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Tel: 01926 495321 X 8011
Fax: 01926 482603
Email: Sophie.Gilkes@swft.nhs.uk

Dear Cllr Arash Fatemian,

Thank you for your letter on the 5th December 2018 regarding the Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on the 19th December.

I understand that you are seeking the views of stakeholders from surrounding areas regarding the decision by Oxfordshire CCG to close the obstetrics unit at Horton General Hospital in Banbury.

I can confirm that Oxfordshire CCG has been discussing these proposals with South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust for quite some time and so we were aware that these changes may happen and therefore modelled the impact of these changes into our current and future plans.

Part of our planning has led to the development of a new £1.4million Midwifery led unit onsite at Warwick Hospital called The Bluebell Birth Centre. With its own separate entrance, the new facility offers four birthing rooms, with birthing pools available in all of them. To help create a welcoming and calming environment there is also a separate room for parents to relax in, as well as a private garden. The new facility ensures low risk women avoid unnecessary medical interventions.

I understand that the Trust has been asked to respond to three specific questions and responses can be found below;

What has been the impact and experience for your organisation, patients and your local area of the closure of an obstetric unit at the Horton General Hospital?

Chair: Russell Hardy

Chief Executive: Glen Burley

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SWFT can accommodate a total of 3500 births and current birth figures are shown below;

Financial Year	Births
2015/16	2,658
2016/17	2,863
2017/18	2,861

Further analysis shows that in 2016/17 49 women gave birth at Warwick from an Oxfordshire CCG referral and in 2017/18 this was 98. These figures are included in the above table and therefore SWFT have already seen the impact of the closure and has been able to accommodate the births in addition to our South Warwickshire population.

The team continue to receive high patient satisfaction scores and excellent feedback from women birthing at the unit and we still have capacity to grow this service up to 3500 births.

What do you think would be the impact of a permanent closure?

We have seen the impact of the last two years since the unit was closed and as we were aware of these changes by Oxfordshire CCG, our planning assumptions have considered this for the future. Based on these assumptions we feel that SWFT can support the additional births created by this closure across our obstetric unit and Midwifery Led Unit.

How important an obstetric unit at the Horton General Hospital is for your organisation, patients and your local area?

It is important that local women understand that SWFT has planned for the impact this closure may have and has capacity for it not to impact on their local place for delivery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Sophie Gilkes
Director of Development

Chair: Russell Hardy

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