

Statement to Oxfordshire County Council – Tuesday 12 December

Daniel Leveson, Place Director for Oxfordshire (Integrated Care Board)

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge that we (as a health and care system) could have communicated new services and changes in our urgent and emergency care system better.

In recent weeks I am glad we have been able to meet with Henley Town Councillors and local GPs to discuss our plans. As we progress, we will put more into our engagement efforts.

Our plans for urgent and emergency care have been developed as a partnership between NHS and Local Authority. We followed our governance processes approving our plans at our Urgent and Emergency Care Board before bringing them to both Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). I welcome further scrutiny when our plans and decisions regarding short stay hub beds are discussed at January's HOSC.

I am confident in the model of urgent care we are delivering in Oxfordshire. It is a model of care that prioritises supporting people, whenever possible, in their own homes.

If someone needs bed-based rehabilitation or ongoing complex medical oversight they will go to a community hospital bed. If they need reablement or longer-term social care assessment in a bed they will go to a short stay hub bed. As we increase support in people's homes, we will reduce the need for these types of beds.

In November last year we introduced a Transfer of Care Hub. This is a multidisciplinary team responsible for planning people's discharges as soon as they are admitted. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) successfully engaged domiciliary care providers and as a result they have been able to increase the hours of home care delivered by 19% to over 30,000 hours per week.

We have a countywide hospital at home service, caring for acutely sick people in their homes avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions. We are also developing integrated neighbourhood teams that provide continuity of care for people with long-term conditions and older frail people, again avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions.

As a result of these initiatives and our commitment to working as a system we are bucking the national trend, reducing delays in discharges from hospitals meaning people spend more time at home – where they want to be.

This is good news for the people of Oxfordshire. This is a model of care to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's population now and in the future. As we enter 2024, I hope we can continue to build on the momentum we have created in 2023.