

CABINET – 19 MARCH 2024

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

<p>1. COUNCILLOR STEFAN GAWRYSIAK</p> <p>'Here is an FOI request to the ICB and Dr Nick Broughton Chief Executive of the ICB BOB.</p> <p>He clearly states that the Chiltern Court Beds were funded by the NHS, continue to be funded by the NHS and that their status as NHS beds has not changed. As John Howell MP has stated that the beds were NHS then their removal warrants and needs a consultation.</p> <p>"</p> <p>The beds have not 'lost NHS funding'. At the point of the contract variation in Dec 2016 the beds were funded from the pooled budget between the Council and the CCG."</p> <p>Therefore</p> <p>Q1 - As they are NHS Beds then reinstate them and if you can prove the need for their removal then institute a consultation for removal?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Q1 - The Council contracts for a number of services that are joint funded with the NHS through our s75 NHS Act pooled budget arrangements.</p> <p>In this specific instance the Council was asked in 2016 to vary its contract with Order of St John Care Trust to include 7 additional beds at Chiltern Court as short stay hub beds</p> <p>The beds were contracted by the Council, jointly funded by the Council and the NHS and overseen clinically and operationally by the multidisciplinary team hosted by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>The Council is acting on behalf of and in agreement with the wider health and care to reduce short stay hub beds in line with national policy and our local commitment to enable more people to go directly home when they are discharged from hospital.</p> <p>The Council therefore negotiated with OSJ to close the remaining Chiltern Court beds and that came into effect 31/12/23</p>
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Q2 - Please confirm that there are no short stay Hub beds in South Oxfordshire and justify why that is the case. Why are these beds not geographically spread throughout Oxfordshire?’

The Council’s position is that it did not and does not need to consult on this change which is operational/contractual business as usual. There is no plan to reinstate the beds.

The question of whether this change amounts to a service change that would meet the threshold for formal NHS consultation should be directed to the ICB. The ICB has been fully involved in the processes set out above.

Q2 - The Council contracts **15** short stay hub beds in a care home in the South Oxfordshire DC area at Burcot.

The short stay hub beds contracted by the Council since Nov 2019 are distributed across the county in Banbury, Chipping Norton, the City and Burcot (as above). The beds commissioned in November 2019 were procured by the Council on the open market in line with legislation and regulations.

The tender was open to any interested care home on our Dynamic Purchasing System but the short stay hub model carries specific operating requirements of care homes and not all homes could or would want to bid for the business.

Contracts were awarded on the basis of quality and price as well as ensuring that there was a care home in each of the following zones:

- Central (covering Oxford City);
- North (covering Cherwell and West Oxfordshire DC areas); and
- South (covering Vale of White Horse and South Oxon DC areas).

The procurement succeeded in purchasing beds against this plan.

<p>2. COUNCILLOR TRISH ELPHINSTONE</p> <p>On two occasions, over a whole month, I wrote to the Resident Support Scheme to follow up an application for funding to replace a key appliance for a resident who is on universal credit. I did not get a response from either email. Neither has the Rose Hill Advice Centre who initially put forward the claim on behalf of the resident. As I understand it, help can be offered in some circumstances with white goods for emergency need.</p> <p>The resident was refused help on the grounds that they should have saved in advance. As outlined in the email from the Rose Hill Advice Centre, the appliance has unexpectedly broken down and there is no way that this resident could have pre-empted or saved under their financial situation. This was emergency and not a case of wear and tear.</p> <p>I would like to ask under what circumstances is help given from the Resident's Support Scheme to replace white goods under the current guidelines and can we get a formal response from Oxfordshire Residents Support Scheme to this case please? I have</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY</p> <p>Can I first apologise if Cllr Elphinstone did not get the response she should have had. Officers will follow up with the relevant team to investigate why a response was not forthcoming. I have also asked Cllr Elphinstone for the specific details of this case so that we can get on and investigate the individual case prior to cabinet and provide a further response. The scheme does deal with applications and enquiries promptly. Applications for cash equivalent support are dealt with within 24 hours, and those for tangible goods within 10 days. Less than 5% of calls are abandoned.</p> <p>The Resident Support Scheme (RSS) was launched on 1 June 2023, and has so far supported 3,363 households with support packages worth £689,809.29.</p> <p>Unlike national benefit programmes, the RSS budget is cash limited and while need is extensive, the RSS necessarily needs to have a relatively high-bar for applications or it will run out of funding during the year and have to close, as has consistently happened with previous mechanisms for distributing emergency funding. There is therefore a financial assessment of each applicant. Each circumstance is unique and there is an appeals process and a mechanism for escalating issues of need that the policies are not meeting. There have been 320 such appeals submitted, of which 170 have been successful</p> <p>The scheme is still within its first year and so we are learning whether our policies are right and whether they are helping us get the support needed to those who need it most. As such we are grateful for all</p>
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the case reference number available for the Cabinet Member if appropriate.	feedback and the support from voluntary sector advice agencies, including the Rose Hill Advice Centre.
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Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.