

## Chipping Norton Hospital Action Group 2015 Survey Results

### People ask OCC to think again and return the beds to NHS commissioning

- Over 1400 responses were received showing people in the community are concerned about their Community Hospital and want their voice to be heard by the County Council, David Cameron our MP and Jeremy Hunt Secretary of State for Health
- We understand our 1400 responses is significantly more than the number of replies returned to OCC as part of its consultation. We can only conclude that the poor publicity and distribution of the OCC documents meant people were unable to participate as clearly our survey shows they wished to do
- The analysis of the answers in our survey shows the following:- (note not all respondents answered every question)
  1. 1403 (99%) of those who responded felt that the NHS is best for providing hospital bed based care. Just 6 (0.5%) felt it made no difference and 6 (0.5%) felt OCC was the right organisation to run hospital beds.
  2. The vast majority 1119 (80%) were unaware that OCC had downgraded the Sub-Acute specification for the beds in 2014 with 280 (20%) saying they were aware of a change. This finding supports the Action Group view that the change was done without any public consultation and OCC did little to tell the whole story about what was planned. Awareness in Chipping Norton may have been higher after a local news item this year but that was still well after the event. It is very significant that 80% did not know of the OCC downgrade.
  3. Almost everyone (99.6%) confirmed that Chipping Norton is a Community Hospital. OCC is clearly wrong to deny the hospital's Community Hospital status. We note the David Cameron has written to OCC advising them that **Chipping Norton is a Community Hospital and should be treated as one**. He repeated that belief in a statement read out to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting
  4. Consistent with a Community Hospital service 1255 (93%) of respondents believe the hospital should cater for 'All ages 18 and over'. This was the basis on which the Primary Care Trust wrote the specification and contract in 2011. Just 96 (7%) thought the focus should be on the elderly
  5. 1369 (98%) said they feel OCC has **not** kept people informed about the changes it is planning to make. The Independent Reconfiguration Panel in a letter copied to OCC/OCCG dated October 23<sup>rd</sup> stated *'It appears that information about the consultation has so far only been posted on the county council website. The council together with its NHS partners and all those with an interest in the outcome need to assure themselves this is sufficient'*. **Clearly the people in our community do not feel it was sufficient.**
  6. On the question as to whether people were happy with the OCC plan to save money by removing NHS staffing and management and through the use of fewer qualified nurses

from the Orders of St John 1375 (97%) are unhappy with **well over three quarters being extremely unhappy**. 6 people were very happy and 33 reasonably happy

7. When asked if they felt the statement that if people did not accept the OCC plan Chipping Norton would have no Intermediate Care Beds at all was a threat to the community **1277 (99.2%) out of 1287 respondents felt it was a threat**. The Action Group believes it is impossible for any meaningful dialogue or consultation can take place against such a threatening background. People obviously feel the OCC statement was meant to intimidate.
8. When asked if the beds should be returned to the NHS if OCC has a budget problem an even higher percentage **99.8% felt they should**. This is not unexpected as the beds were promised to the Community as NHS beds following the Primary Care Trust consultation. Sir Barry Norton the Leader of WODC has written to OCC stating that everyone involved at the time understood the beds to be NHS beds to a Sub-Acute standard. The Prime Minister thinks the same. Clearly the Chipping Norton beds should be commissioned by the NHS.
9. Consistent with the Community's belief that Chipping Norton is a Community Hospital 1404 (98.6%) of respondents feel no decision should be taken regarding Chipping Norton's hospital beds until a full countywide review of community hospitals is completed in 2016. The Action Group feels this is the logical and only sensible course of action. Others including The Prime Minister, WODC, Healthwatch, County Councillor Hilary Biles have all made this request to OCC. We ask OCC to reconsider this particularly as we know up to 150 Intermediate Care Beds are to be contracted to relieve bed blocking (75 longer term)
10. When asked if the only way to keep the beds in Chipping Norton was to accept the OCC plan only 4 out of 1264 said they would do this willingly. **676 (49%) would agree very reluctantly with a further 174 (13%) doing so reluctantly. However 522 (38%) said No they would not accept the plan**. Although a majority would reluctantly or very reluctantly accept the change more than a third said they would not. This surprisingly high number of no votes probably stems from the fear in the community that once the beds are removed from NHS staffing and management standards will fall and the distinction between Hospital and Care Home will be gradually lost with the beds ending up as Care Home not Hospital beds. Just 4 people out of 1383 respondents said they would accept the change willingly

This survey was undertaken by the Action Group because it is felt that OCC is not fulfilling its obligations to fully engage with the people of the community for a proposed change of this nature. Indeed we have seen that the County Council did not consult at all in 2014 when it downgraded the specification for the beds. The huge response of 1400 replies demonstrates that people want to be heard so it is disappointing OCC declined to attend the Public Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Overwhelmingly people are not happy to have the NHS staffing and management of the beds taken away.

People do not feel OCC has kept them informed and the overall message is one which asks OCC to think again especially given the latest bed blocking relief (delayed transfer of care) initiative.

Our conclusion is that OCC should give thought to the proposal that the beds be returned to sole NHS commissioning. This would make total sense in view of the OCC budget issue, the countywide bed blocking problem and the need to contract beds to relieve pressure on Acute Hospitals referred to in Q9.

It would also resolve an unanswered question which is why OCC has any involvement at all in commissioning what were promised as NHS beds

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Thank you Chipping Norton Hospital Action Group. If you require more information please call Clive Hill on 01608 683252