

# OJHOSC

Oxfordshire Joint Health  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Cabinet

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OJHOSC) met on 5 December 2015, and although not on the agenda, a number of OJHOSC's members raised concerns regarding the consultation process being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council (regarding the Henry Cornish Centre Intermediate Care service provision).

This matter had formally been brought to the OJHOSC on 17 September 2015 where it was agreed that the results of the consultation and the recommended/agreed course of action be discussed at the OJHOSC in February 2016. However, OJHOSC members were now concerned that this timescale does not provide an opportunity to express any concerns prior to the Cabinet decision on 26 January 2016.

OJHOSC members were concerned about the effectiveness of the consultation process and wanted reassurance that, as a minimum, it met the OCC policy on Consultation and that the actions agreed at the September OJHOSC meeting were implemented.

Therefore, the OJHOSC is concerned:

1. That the intention of the consultation exercise, as stated in the Cabinet paper on 15 September 2014, has not been fully achieved. The Cabinet paper stated:

*“The public consultation will allow for wider engagement with the people of North Oxfordshire and others affected by Intermediate Care provision, to hear the range of ideas and views which they have about Intermediate Care. The public, organisations and individuals with an interest in Intermediate Care provision will be engaged through meetings, questionnaires and focus groups. The ways people can get involved will be widely publicised including through the local media, newsletters and digital platforms such as Twitter.”*

HOSC would like to know if the consultation responses (quality and quantity) demonstrate evidence of achieving the objectives. OJHOSC notes the response rates:

- 7 people were consulted as part of the 'Interview Process' (of people currently receiving Intermediate Care)
- 32 questionnaires were returned
- 44 attendees signed in to Public Meeting

2. That the Council's policy on consultation (as described on the website) has not been fully implemented – the policy states the following key principles:

“The council follows six key principles of consultation:

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- keep an open mind and run consultations in an open and honest way
- be clear about what we are consulting on and what we will do with the findings
- give all relevant parties the chance to have their say
- provide sufficient time and information to enable people to engage
- take views expressed in consultations into account when we make decisions
- provide effective and timely consultation feedback” (as cited on the Council Website)”

Concerns have been raised by OJHOSC about the wording in the publicity posters, “Have your say on Intermediate Care Provision in North Oxfordshire”. It is noted that the publicity does not mention the Henry Cornish Centre, Order of St John Care Trust or NHS. It is not clear that people were being asked for their views on the Order of St John Care Trust and not the NHS providing the care or that the intermediate care unit at the Henry Cornish Care Centre be closed. In particular, OJHOSC has raised concerns that the second key principle ‘be clear about what we are consulting on’ and the fourth key principle ‘provide sufficient information to enable people to engage’, have not been fulfilled.

3. The actions suggested and agreed (and noted in the minutes) at the OJHOSC meeting in September have not been fully implemented: *“Members of the Committee felt it was essential that the fine line between intermediate care and home care and sub- acute care at Community Hospitals be made clear within the consultation. John Jackson commented that was very helpful and that he would attempt to address the issue that sub- acute and intermediate care had very different processes. He added that also that there would be a map of the county showing where people requiring intermediate care beds would be going and the same for those people requiring sub -acute care.”*

We raise these matters with you today to support and inform your decision making on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Yvonne Constance

OJHOSC Chairman



Martin Barrett

OJHOSC Deputy Chairman