

# Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) Wantage Community Hospital Update Report 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

**Report authors:** Wantage Community Hospital sub-group

## 1. Context

1.1 Wantage Community Hospital (WCH) is home to a range of community-based services. The Hospital is managed by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT) and provides a range of NHS services from several healthcare providers. These include maternity services, community therapy services and specialist outpatient services (a number through a current pilot), providing clinical assessment, tests, treatment and therapy for the local community.

1.2 Inpatient beds on the ground floor of the community hospital have been temporarily closed since 2016, following the detection of legionella in the hot water system. In 2020-21 all the old pipework was replaced, and this enabled all the clinical areas of the hospital building to reopen, although the inpatient beds have remained temporarily closed. A trial of a number of different specialist outpatient clinics (clinic-based tests, treatment and therapy) have been running downstairs for the last 18 months, alongside the community therapies, with maternity services operating upstairs.

## 2. Co-production Approach

2.1 Oxfordshire's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) agreed a process of co-production at an extraordinary meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=148&MId=7336&Ver=4>) with Wantage Town Council Health sub-committee and key local stakeholders in recognition of the need for the health and care system to work with the previously engaged community with an aim to achieve a recommended way forward for the future type of services to be delivered from Wantage Community Hospital.

2.2 The Oxfordshire Place Director (of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West Integrated Care Board) and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust confirmed at the outset that they have no plans to close WCH and this commitment of keeping it open remains. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust also confirmed its commitment to continuing to provide maternity services at the hospital.

2.3 The objective of this work is to agree 'How can we use space in Wantage Community Hospital to benefit the health and wellbeing of the local community'.

2.4 The co-production project commenced in June 2023 and the following has taken place up to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Co-production activity</b>	<b>Involvement</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> June 23	Previously engaged community stakeholder workshop. Independently facilitated. Transcript of the day produced.	Stakeholder reference group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emerging themes identified</li> </ul>
18 <sup>th</sup> July 23	Wantage stakeholder reference group further session to develop key areas for development	Stakeholder reference group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refinement of themes into 3 key areas for consideration:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternatives to inpatient beds</li> <li>Urgent care access on the same day</li> <li>Clinic based services</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 23	Reference group check-in	Stakeholder reference group	Meeting to review progress on developing areas of consideration and agree next step Appointment of sub-group
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug 23	HOSC check-in	NHS representatives, HOSC sub-group	Review of progress and agreement of next steps for HOSC updates
29 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept, 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 23	Wantage community hospital sub-group meetings to develop materials for engagement	Sub-group of the stakeholder reference group	Working group to develop co-produced materials for engagement
9 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 31 <sup>st</sup> Sept 23	Wantage community hospital sub-group meetings to oversee public engagement	Sub-group of the stakeholder reference group	Working group to oversee delivery of public engagement and identify additional actions as required
24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 23	HOSC check-in	NHS representatives, HOSC sub-group	Review of progress and agreement of next steps for HOSC updates

2.5 The stakeholder reference group for this project has the following representation:

- Wantage Town Council
- Grove Parish Council
- Vale of White Horse District Council
- Wantage Hospital League of friends
- Wantage Patient Participation Groups
- OX12 Project representatives
- GrOW Families

- SUDEP Action
- Wantage Rural and OX12 Village
- Sanctuary Care
- Oxfordshire County Council
- BOB Integrated Care System & Board (ICS & ICB)
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Wantage PCN
- Vale Community Impact
- Community First Oxfordshire
- Healthwatch Oxfordshire

From this wider stakeholder reference group a smaller working ‘sub-group’ was agreed to push forward the public engagement process. The Sub-group consisted of local councillors, NHS representatives, Vale community impact, OX12 project representative and Wantage PCN.

2.6 Through our co-design process we have also identified there may be needs for other types of healthcare provision in other buildings/ parts of the community to complement effective healthcare pathways.

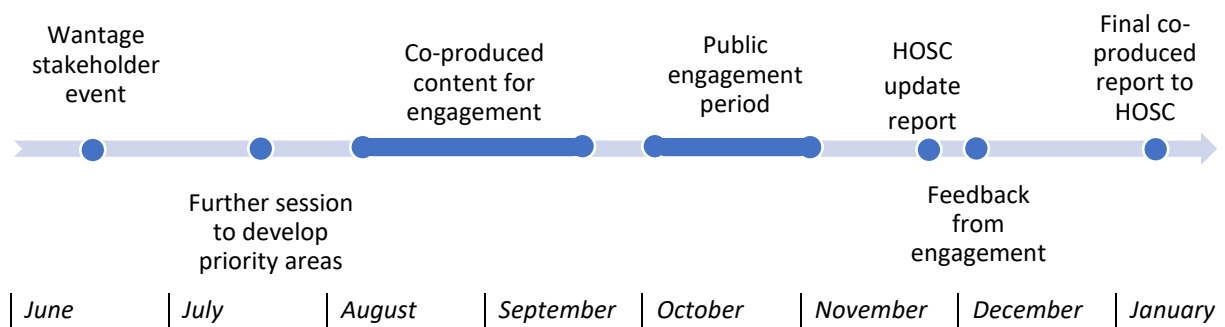
### CIL funding position

2.7 Following the May 2023 HOSC meeting, a meeting was held with the District Council Infrastructure and Development Team Lead who is responsible for CIL funding, which identified that there is £2,503,892 of funding for CIL allocated for Health within the Vale area. We understand that, of this approximately £2m has been identified as required for primary care developments which are currently at the early phases of development. An update on this funding opportunity was brought to the July Reference group session and a discussion took place to explore how this funding might be used in reference to this project.

## 3. Revised Timeline

3.1 During the development of the public engagement materials and approach it became evident that some additional time was required to refine the material and ensure as greater reach as possible during the public engagement phase that a revised timeline was needed and agreed with HOSC.

3.2 Revised timeline:



## 4. Details of the current public engagement exercise

### Scenarios we have engaged on

4.1 The content for the public engagement process was based on co-production starting in June. We have focused on three key service areas when deciding what type of care might be delivered on the first floor of Wantage Community Hospital. The areas are:

- Clinic-based services for planned care appointments. For example, outpatient appointments, tests, treatment and therapy.
- Community inpatient beds and alternatives when care in your own home isn't appropriate.
- Urgent care access needs on the same day. For minor injury, illness or mental health issues.

The survey and supporting information can be found in the appendices.

### Commitment to maintain maternity services

4.2 There has been a commitment that there will be no changes to maternity services. Support remains for their continuation on the first floor of the hospital. Maternity services therefore did not feature within the content of the public engagement exercise.

### Approach

4.3 During October 2023 a period of public engagement has been carried out to understand local views on the areas identified by the stakeholder group. This focused on gaining further insights into the local community's views regarding the future type of services to be provided from WCH and those which may be provided elsewhere in the local community if not provided in the community hospital. This report provides an update on this work and outlines the next steps which are proposed.

4.4 The sub-group agreed to appoint an external organisation called Verve Communications, we have carried out an extensive engagement exercise over a 5-week period in order to gather a range of views within the engagement exercise. The following options have been provided for local people to provide feedback:

#### **4.5 Survey (Open 4<sup>th</sup> October – 6<sup>th</sup> November)**

- Online survey with supporting information to gather views
- Printed survey made available within key local buildings for those who prefer to fill out a hard copy

#### **4.6 Focus groups (mixture of targeted demographics and general public sessions)**

- Wednesday 11th October 12.30pm -2.00pm - Public engagement session at The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire
- Wednesday 11th October 3.00pm -4.30pm - Focus group for People living with long term/chronic health conditions at The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire
- Tuesday 17th October 12.30pm - 2.30pm - Public engagement session at The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2pm - 3pm - Public engagement session via Zoom for those unable to attend a face to face session
- Thursday 19th October 6pm - 7pm - Focus group online- via Zoom for Families with children and young people OR adults 18- 40 years living in or around Wantage and Grove.
- Thursday 19th October 7pm - 8pm - Focus group online- via Zoom for Families with children and young people OR adults 18- 40 years living in or around Wantage and Grove.

## 4.7 Information session

- Saturday 28th October - 10am - 4pm – Drop-in information session at The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire

## Attendance/response rate

4.8 Over the engagement period we have had the following attendance & response rates:

## Survey

4.9 In total we had 270 online responses to the survey the respondents had the following demographic breakdown:

- Age: 5.8% over 60, 28.3% 41-60, 12.7% 26-40, 2.4% 16-25, 0.8% prefer not to say
- Disability: 18.1% of respondents have a disability
- Gender: 74.8% female, 23.2% male, 1.6% prefer not to say, 0.4% not sure how to describe myself
- Gender identity: 98.8% have the same identity as at birth, 1.2% prefer not to say
- Ethnicity: 92.8% white British, 0.8% Asian or Asian British: Indian, 0.4% Asian or Asian British: Chinese, 0.4% Mixed: Asian and white, 0.4% Mixed: Black Caribbean and white, 2.8% prefer not to say, 1.2% any other mixed background, Irish 1.2%

4.10 In addition, we had a further 18 hard copy responses with the following demographic breakdown (note 2 respondents did not complete the demographic information):

- Age: 81% over 60, 12.5% 41-60, 6.25% 26-40, 0% 16-25
- Disability: 18.75% of respondents have a disability, 75% had no disability, 6.25% prefer not to say
- Gender: 50% female, 50% male
- Gender identity: 100% have the same identity as at birth
- Ethnicity: 100% white British

## Focus groups

4.11 The focus groups had the following attendees:

- General public sessions for residents of the Wantage and Grove local area: 21 attendees
- Families with children and young people OR adults 18- 40 years living in or around Wantage and Grove: 2 attendees  
Note: We advertised these sessions online and while we received a large number of expressions of interest, on validating these we identified that only a small number were from the local community
- People living with long term/chronic health conditions from the Wantage & Grove area: 7 attendees

## Information session

4.12 During the day approximately 30 people attended the drop-in at the Beacon centre. In addition, a flyer with a link to the online survey was handed out in the market to encourage people to give their views.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Copy of the co-produced engagement Survey

**Appendix 2:** Supporting co-produced slide pack for the engagement

**Appendix 3:** Summary of communications & engagement activity