

## OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 May 2023 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 10.55 am

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor Jane Hanna OBE – in the Chair

District Councillor Paul Barrow (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Damian Haywood

Councillor Nick Leverton

Councillor Dan Levy

Councillor Dr Nathan Ley

District Councillor Sandy Dallimore

City Councillor Jabu Nala-Hartley

District Councillor Elizabeth Poskitt

District Councillor David Turner

**Co-opted Members:** Jean Bradlow

**Other Members in  
Attendance:**

**By Invitation:**

**Officers:**

Whole of meeting Marco Dias, Scrutiny Officer  
Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Manager

Part of meeting Dan Leveson, Place Director for BOB HOSC  
Ben Riley, Executive Director for Oxford Health NHS  
Trust  
Kerry Rodgers, Director of Corporate Affairs, Oxford  
Health NHS Trust  
Karen Fuller, Corporate Director of Adults and Housing,  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director of Public Health,  
Oxfordshire County Council

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.*

**1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Cllr Champken-Woods tendered apologies for the meeting. No substitutes present.

**2/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**

(Agenda No. 2)

Cllr Haywood declared the fact that he had been offered a job within an NHS commissioning organisation: South, Central and West.

Cllr Hanna reiterated her ongoing interest as Chair of SUDEP Action.

**3/23 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**

(Agenda No. 3)

None

**4/23 WANTAGE ENGAGEMENT**

(Agenda No. 4)

Following the meeting held by the Wantage Hospital Substantial Change sub-group on 20 April 2022 Dan Leveson, Place Director for BOB HOSC, Ben Riley, Executive Director for Oxford Health NHS Trust, Kerry Rodgers, Director of Corporate Affairs, Oxford Health NHS Trust, and Karen Fuller, Corporate Director of Adults and Housing, Oxfordshire County Council attended the meeting to present the agreed outcome of the Working Group meeting – a planned process for engaging with the community in Wantage around how the hospital will be used in the future.

Dan Leveson introduced the plan, which represented a process to re-engage the local community and stakeholders in order to resolve the future provision of services at Wantage Hospital. The process would be based on co-production, with an aim to develop a report based on consensus views across stakeholders developed primarily through an all-day co-production workshop. Details of the timing and membership of this workshop were still under discussion. The HOSC would have an opportunity for comment formally on the proposals in the report over the summer, following which public consultation would occur, with the expectation of a final report being put forward in November. The need to work with communities and avoidance of NHS commissioners presenting a fait accompli was reiterated. Resources to support this work were already in place, with Transformation Director Susannah Butler heading up a team with responsibility for this.

In response, the Chair summarised key points agreed from the discussion at the Wantage Hospital Substantial Change sub-group.

- It was recognised by all present that, approaching seven years after the announcement of the temporary closure of hospital beds at Wantage Hospital, the closure had ceased to be temporary. It was important for members of the

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public to have a clear understanding around timelines over what would be happening next.

- That there is a reconfiguration of the way services are delivered in Oxfordshire generally, which goes beyond Wantage on its own
- That it is necessary to match up the fact that people in Wantage should be able to have their say on how services are delivered locally, but that must also feed in to the broader strategy. Consequently, engagement and co-production between system representatives and the local community is vital in achieving this balance.
- The working group requested a timeline for that engagement and co-production be put to the Committee.
- No decision was taken in relation to whether to make a referral to the Secretary of State.

The Chair also requested that the timeline presented to members of the HOSC also be shared with Wantage Town Council, which was agreed.

Issues addressed by the Committee and discussions held included the following:

- The importance of ensuring a broad section of the community who made use of Wantage Hospital were involved in the co-production exercise, including those in the villages beyond the town of Wantage who would nevertheless be using Wantage Hospital. It was committed that, when agreed, the list of stakeholders would be circulated to HOSC members and feedback welcomed.
- The importance of enabling community stakeholders to participate by providing sufficiently detailed information to make informed decisions around their preferences for clinical provision at the hospital. This was committed to.
- For the community to trust the process being put forward it would be necessary and clear that NHS stakeholders would not be involved in discussions having pre-determined the outcome.
- The degree to which there would be equality of provision across different areas of Oxfordshire. To this, it was assured that NHS colleagues had been considering this issue already for a number of years, working with colleagues across both the health and social care systems to identify the models which would most effectively deliver provision in Oxfordshire in the much-changed health and social care landscape since the original closure, particularly post-Covid. Recent work had been undertaken with Public Health to understand health inequality information at local levels, to allow for matching of provision to need in order to maximise positive health outcomes.
- Recognising that in the seven years since the bed provision at Wantage Hospital was suspended, originally on a temporary basis, there had been multiple undertakings by health colleagues which had not been met. Although it was noted that the personnel currently involved were not necessarily those who had made those undertakings, it was suggested that a shared, owned history would be valuable in helping all stakeholders move from focusing about issues which had taken place in the past to planning for what would be best for residents in the future. The Committee noted the size of the area which would use Wantage Hospital, and recognised that if beds were to be lost at Wantage Hospital the community would expect something new to be provided to those people in return.

- Feedback was provided to NHS colleagues that there was a public expectation that formal consultation would need to be undertaken in light of the substantial change which had taken place, but that it was the Committee's view that if the level of co-production and engagement with the community planned was indeed delivered beforehand this consultation need not be excessively onerous.

The following actions were **AGREED**:

- 1) That the HOSC would provide a history of the Wantage Hospital closures to NHS colleagues as a stepping-point for stakeholder discussions on the future provision
- 2) That any decision to refer to the Secretary of State would be deferred pending the progress made at the planned co-production stakeholder event, and that there would be an extraordinary meeting in late June to consider views on this.

### **5/23 CO-OPTEE APPOINTMENT**

(Agenda No. 5)

Members of the Committee were reminded of the contents of the report before them, that it had been agreed Cllrs Hanna and Dallimore, as well as the Scrutiny Manager, Tom Hudson, would undertake interviews for the vacant co-optee position arising in light of Barbara Shaw's term ending. The Committee was updated that these interviews had been undertaken the day before, and informed that the interviewing panel had unanimously agreed that two positions should be offered from the pool of candidates for the two vacant co-optee positions: the reappointment of Barbara Shaw for a further term, and the appointment of Siama Ahmed.

It was **AGREED** that Barbara Shaw and Siama Ahmed be appointed as co-optees to the Committee, subject to their fulfilling the requirements of the Councillor Code of Conduct as it relates to co-opted members. Both were welcomed by the Chair and the Committee.

### **6/23 DENTISTRY ACTION**

(Agenda No. 6)

Members of the Committee were reminded by the Chair that at the meeting on 20 April 2022 the Committee had decided as part of its item on dentistry to defer agreeing the final wording of the recommendations to the following meeting. It was noted that the suggested wording contained a clerical error and one recommendation was missing. It was asked that this be corrected. The Committee also shared its wish that greater emphasis of underspends arising from Oxfordshire be used for the benefit of Oxfordshire residents.

Including the originally-omitted recommendation, it was **AGREED** in relation to the dentistry item on 20 April 2022 that:

- 1) The following recommendations be made to NHS England and the Integrated Care Board:

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- a. To collaborate with the Place Based Partnership, Public Health and providers with view to creating a base line dentistry data set that will mean local improvements to poor dental health of residents can be achieved and clearly communicated.
  - b. To resolve any remaining uncertainty regarding the local flexibilities available to the ICB at and to consider investment of the underspend in Oxfordshire in targeted action to improve access to health and better serve Oxfordshire's children and residents with the greatest need.
- 2) The Committee: i) Delegates to Cllr Hanna in consultation with Cllr Barrow and Scrutiny Manager the drafting of a letter to the Secretary of State to: a) Provide local evidence concerning access to and the affordability of dentistry b) Identify the feedback provided on barriers and enablers, to include tackling delays in new dental trainees registering for NHS practice, further reform necessary to the NHS Dental Contract to enable prevention work supporting Public Health, and enabling local systems to deliver the improvements needed for Oxfordshire residents. c) State the committee's recognition of the clinical benefit for oral health of fluoridation of drinking water in the county, recommending that the Secretary of State undertake a consultation to determine the level of local support or opposition to the fluoridation of the county's drinking water. ii) Agrees that a copy of the draft letter be sent to Leaders and Chief Executives of the District, City and County Councils in Oxfordshire before sending to the Secretary of State.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....