

Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 June 2020

Title of Paper: Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Key & Current Issues

Purpose: The following paper aims to provide the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee with an update on:

- BOB ICS
- OX12 Project
- Merger of Horsefair Surgery and Banbury Health Centre
- Windrush Branch Surgery
- OCCG Annual Report

Senior Responsible Officer: Dr James Kent, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: Key and Current Issues

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System

On May 18, Dr James Kent joined the CCG as the new Integrated Care System Executive Lead and Joint CCG Accountable Officer for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). James has more than 25 years of healthcare experience as a doctor, management consultant and Government adviser. Most recently he has been working with the NHS X leadership team on their priority areas for the COVID-19 recovery phase. NHS X is a joint unit bringing together teams from the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement to drive digital transformation of care across the NHS

OX12 Project

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that OCCG has had to re-prioritise many aspects of its work and temporarily pause projects to allow resources to be redeployed. This included preparation for the consultation about the future of the Wantage Community Hospital in-patient beds.

The team at OCCG, including communications and engagement, are supporting our provider organisations and primary care as we manage the Oxfordshire system response to the pandemic. In addition, staff from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, who are involved in the OX12 work, have been and continue to be focussed on the frontline.

As reported in the previous item to HOSC (COVID-19 Response), the Oxfordshire Health and Care system has been working together to ensure essential services remain open and that patients get the care they need, either for exposure to COVID-19 or for other health reasons.

We hope to resume the Wantage work later in the year, but given the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic we will need to think carefully about how we take this work forward while safeguarding staff and the public.

When we are able to move this work forward we will agree a new timeline with HOSC.

Merger of Horsefair Surgery and Banbury Cross Health Centre

The sustainability of primary care in Banbury has been discussed with the HOSC previously ([November 2017](#), [June 2019](#) and [September 2019](#)).

As previously reported, Banbury Health Centre and West Bar Surgery, in Banbury, merged in September 2019; the new practice is called Banbury Cross Health Centre.

Following this, as planned, Banbury Cross Health Centre has now merged with Horsefair Surgery.

As of 26 May 2020, the two practices have merged to offer a greater range of GP services for Horsefair Surgery patients, while also securing the long term future of the combined practice. Banbury Cross Health Centre has been retained as the name of the merged practice. Services will operate from the existing sites and current staff will continue to work for the practice, so little will change for most patients.

Communication to patients at Horsefair Surgery explained that they did not need to take any action as they would be registered automatically with the new merged practice. However, all patients have the option to register with another practice if they wish.

The practice has a single phone number (01295 256261) and one website: www.banburycrosshealthcentre.co.uk

The total number of registered patients at the new Banbury Cross Health Centre is circa 40,000, which consists of 26,000 from Banbury Cross Health Centre and 14,000 from Horsefair Surgery.

PML will run the newly merged Banbury Cross Health Centre. It has run Banbury Health Centre since 2009 and took over the management of West Bar Surgery in May 2019, and Horsefair Surgery in August 2019 as part of a more sustainable solution for primary care in Banbury.

The merger of Banbury Cross Health Centre and Horsefair Surgery was due to take place in summer 2020. However, in discussion and agreement with Oxfordshire CCG, it has been brought forward in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The merged practice will better support Horsefair Surgery patients at this time.

The larger practice will provide improved access to a range of specialists such as physiotherapists, mental health nurses and advanced nurse practitioners and new services as they are developed. The patient groups across the practice will continue to be involved with these developments.

PML was founded in 2004 by a small group of local GPs as 'not-for-profit' organisation which aims to reinvest in patient care. About 40 per cent of GP practices in Oxfordshire and 30 per cent of those in Northamptonshire are associated with PML as part of the PML GP Federation. PML associated practices serve a registered patient population of more than 500,000. PML is both a GP Federation and a CQC registered provider of primary and community health services.

Windrush Branch Surgery, Banbury

Windrush Surgery in Banbury has recently informed its patients that it proposes to close its branch surgery in Bradley Arcade. Windrush Surgery serves more than 8,400 registered patients in Banbury – smaller than the Oxfordshire average of around 11,500. It has a main surgery in West Bar owned by the partners, and a branch surgery 1.2 miles away in Bradley Arcade, leased from Cherwell District Council. In recent years the branch generally offered appointments four mornings per week, while the main surgery offers a full Monday to Friday service.

GP practices in Banbury and elsewhere have struggled with recruiting sufficient GPs for some years. Windrush Surgery has taken successful and innovative approaches

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to making the best use of a wider range of clinical staff – for example pioneering use of paramedics to provide primary care; this includes assessing, triaging and advising patients. They also carry out some diagnostic procedures, carry out home visits where required and run minor illness clinics and play a key part in the primary care clinical team.

The pressure on GP practices running branch surgeries has increased in recent years, with fewer GPs to work in them and fewer resources to pay for them. Operating on two sites is particularly challenging with limited GP staffing; it also stretches other staff resources and tends to be more costly due to the commitment of maintaining an additional building.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and following national guidance, Windrush Surgery has changed the way it cares for patients. This has included a telephone triage-first approach and maximising use of telephone, video and online consultations. This is in line with the way other GP practices are operating across Oxfordshire and the rest of the country.

The practice has an opportunity this year to break from its tenancy agreement for the branch building due to a tenancy clause. Given the changes in the way it works it believes it can provide sufficient appointments and access from the main building in West Bar. The better use of technology, including video and telephone consultations, that has increased during the current COVID-19 pandemic, has shown how working in different ways is effective, safe and benefits patients.

Any closure of the branch is subject to decision by OCCG – the practice has indicated that it intends to apply to close the branch and is currently seeking views from its patients on the impact of the proposed closure. This engagement process seeks to understand the impact the closure would have on patients and how the practice could mitigate any impact.

In making the decision we will use the primary care decision tool that was developed in partnership with HOSC members and patient representatives and will take into account the views of patients and the impact that closing the branch surgery may have.

Annual Report

OCCG has published its [annual report](#) and [annual accounts](#) for 2019/20 which were approved at the OCCG Board meeting on 9 June 2020. A summary of the annual report and an easy read version will be produced in time for OCCG's Annual Public Meeting in September.