

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22nd April 2021

Chairman's Report

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (BOB HOSC)

1. At Oxfordshire Joint HOSC's meeting on 12 March 2021 the committee approved (by a vote) the draft Terms of Reference for a new BOB HOSC. The Terms of Reference had been updated with BOB local authority partners since the previous version was approved by Oxfordshire Joint HOSC and Council in late 2020.
2. The same Terms of Reference were approved by Oxfordshire's Council on 23 March 2021, again by a vote. Council also approved Joint HOSC's request for a delegation so that the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the HOSC Chair and Vice-Chair, might make minor changes to the Terms of Reference should other councils' approval processes require it.
3. The same Terms of Reference have since been approved by Reading Borough Council's ACE (Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education) Committee. The Terms of Reference are due to be considered for approval as follows:
 - a. Buckinghamshire's Council meeting on 21 April
 - b. West Berkshire's Council meeting on 4 May
 - c. Reading's Council meeting on 26 May
 - d. We are awaiting confirmation of Wokingham Borough Council's timetable
4. As agreed at the 12 March Joint HOSC meeting a review of BOB HOSC after 12 months has been added to the Oxfordshire Joint HOSC's Forward Plan.

Scrutiny Toolkit for the BOB HOSC

5. At Oxfordshire Joint HOSC's meeting on 12 March 2021 committee members reiterated the importance of agreeing a toolkit to support health scrutiny decision-making once BOB HOSC has been established. The BOB HOSC Terms of Reference state that the process for determining the appropriate level of scrutiny (system or place/neighbourhood) will be in accordance with an agreed toolkit which will set out the process for initiating early dialogue between health and care system leads and the members of the BOB HOSC.
6. The toolkit will be developed and agreed before BOB HOSC meets. The toolkit will help to ensure that local health scrutiny arrangements retain their integrity and primacy.

7. Initial work on the new toolkit began in January 2021. Following approval of the updated Terms of Reference by Oxfordshire County Council in March, Policy and Scrutiny Officers in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (as the two BOB authorities furthest advanced in approving the Terms of Reference) resumed the work to devise a template and guidance which will form the basis of the new toolkit. This work will progress in line with the timetable for approval of the Terms of Reference.
8. The intention is that BOB Integrated Care System leads will use the toolkit's template to set out change activities and proposals, and that the information in the templates will be considered by local Monitoring Officers and Health Scrutiny Chairs using the system / place / neighbourhood definitions in the Terms of Reference. The agreement of all BOB authorities will determine whether the matter in question is scrutinised by BOB HOSC or local committee.

Scrutiny of the Community Services Strategy

9. OCCG's latest update on progress with the Community Services Strategy sets out the stages and timetable for this work. Oxfordshire Joint HOSC should give consideration to the most appropriate mechanism for scrutiny of this work. Options include scrutiny by the full Joint HOSC, or by a smaller group of HOSC members on similar lines to a Task and Finish Group.
10. There are pros and cons with both options. For example, members would wish to consider whether a new, smaller group might offer (through appropriate terms of reference) greater agility and flexibility than the main committee. Or, whether or not a smaller group – such as would typically focus on a particular service or geography – would be appropriate for scrutiny of a broad county-wide strategy. Equally, if the main committee were to be the preferred scrutiny body, members would wish to consider the extent to which the emerging Strategy might dominate the committee's agenda and reduce the time for other scrutiny business.

Committee briefings and communication

11. The committee received the following written briefings since its meeting on 4 February 2021. These are in the Appendices of this report and are on:

| Appendix | Name | From | Received |
|-----------------|---|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Briefing on Chipping Norton War Memorial Community Hospital | System | 5/2/2021 |
| 2 | System stakeholder briefing – 5 February | System | 5/2/2021 |
| 3 | System stakeholder briefing – 19 February | System | 19/2/2021 |
| 4 | System stakeholder briefing – 5 March | System | 5/3/2021 |
| 5 | An update on critical care at the John Radcliffe Hospital | System | 5/3/2021 |
| 6 | System stakeholder briefing – 19 March | System | 19/3/2021 |
| 7 | System stakeholder briefing – 9 April | System | 9/4/2021 |