

JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 February 2023

CHAIR'S UPDATE

REPORT BY CLLR JANE HANNA, COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

1. Note the report;

UPDATES

Reopening of the Wantage and Chipping Norton Midwifery Led Units

On 6 January 2023, I was pleased to receive the positive news, which was sent to the JHOSC and to the Councillors in the affected communities, that after a significant period of closure, the Midwifery Led Units at Wantage Community Hospital and Chipping Norton Cotswold Birth Hospital were to be reopened.

This follows significant dialogue and work together with Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) by the Committee, as well as a resolution at the November Committee meeting to consider a completed substantial change toolkit form in respect of the services.

The return of the live-births at Wantage Community Hospital was a service which was closed in April 2020 and was reopened in 2021 as an indicator of the commitment to a return and the development of services at Wantage Community Hospital at the request of the HOSC; as a previously worked with community. Members of the Wantage Town Council Health Sub-Committee and members of the Joint HOSC were able to see the new maternity beds funded by the Wantage Community Hospital League of Friends during a site visit to the hospital in June 2022. A full history in respect the Community Hospital is captured in my Chair's report to the Committee from July 2022.

I thanked David Walliker on 6 January 2023 for all the hard work undertaken to reopen the hospital during a challenging national context. I'd especially like to thank all colleagues at OUH and especially those in midwifery at Wantage and Chipping Norton Community Hospitals.

Wantage Community Hospital Pre-engagement Workshop Offer

I was pleased to have a productive meeting with Dan Leveson, the ICB Oxfordshire Place-Based Director, in order to have a discussion on the future consultation and engagement on Wantage Community Hospital.

I welcomed an offer from the ICB for a co-produced pre-engagement workshop between the ICB, Oxford Health; and the Wantage Town Council Health Sub-Committee. It is anticipated that the event would reengage, look over the lessons learnt from previous engagement work, acknowledge the previous work with the community and discuss the future of health provision at the hospital. It was felt that the workshop could discuss areas such as care at home; the role of digital health and virtual wards; and the suitability of services such as a Primary Care First Aid Unit or a Minor Injuries Unit.

BOB Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (BOB JHOSC) Meeting

Myself, Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods and Cllr Dan Levy attended the first formal meeting of the BOB Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in Aylesbury on 25 January 2023. During the meeting, Councillor Jane MacBean, Chair of Buckinghamshire Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was elected as Chair of the BOB JHOSC and I was elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee. The Committee considered the draft BOB Integrated Care Partnership Strategy, and offered valuable feedback on the specific priorities and made comments on the role for scrutiny when such strategies come forward and the level of public engagement. As a follow-up to the Committee Meeting, a formal letter will be sent outlining the feedback of the BOB JHOSC to the Integrated Care Partnership. This will also include the Oxfordshire comments which weren't able to be forward at the Committee meeting, due to time constraints.

Oxfordshire Age Related Hearing Loss Contract

Barbara Shaw attended a meeting with representatives from the Integrated Care Board and local stakeholders, on behalf of the Committee, in order to receive an update on the Oxfordshire Age Related Hearing Loss Contract.

The meeting were advised that historically earwax removal services were provided by primary care. However recently the service had been provided by a number of different providers across Oxfordshire as part of the existing audiology contract. A number of topics in relation to the service were raised including patients not being aware that earwax removal could be accessed for free via the NHS, the payment mechanisms relating to the provision of the service, and access to earwax removal to those below the age of 55.

The Committee will continue to monitor the service; and together with the other stakeholders will be receiving a more detailed report by the Commissioner which were outline the state of the age-related hearing loss service which will be appended to the Chair's Update Report in April.

Presentation of the HOSC Recommendation to Cabinet

On 24 January 2023 I was pleased to present to cabinet the HOSC recommendation on Primary Care in respect of ways in which the Council could work with the ICB to explore ways in which it could change the public narrative around Primary Care in Oxfordshire. I look forward to the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Equality presenting his response to HOSC and would welcome his work with other cabinet members on the formulation of his response.

Committee Correspondence

The Committee received several pieces of correspondence from the Save the Keep The Horton General Group (KTHG) in respect of obstetric services at The Horton General Hospital and OUH engagement with the Horton Community. I have subsequently written to OUH to suggest that they meet with the KTHG Campaign Group and other known community stakeholders to update on maternity matters and to continue to build positive working relationships.

I have also appended the correspondence which I sent on behalf of the Committee following its resolution at its November meeting in respect of the consideration of the temporarily closed services in Oxfordshire.