

Provision of Intermediate Care beds Chipping Norton

Key messages:

- Following a review of the Henry Cornish Care Centre in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire County Council is continuing to fund the service, which provides important intermediate care for people leaving hospital before they return home. This is a good example of health and care services working closely together.
- Intermediate care is a short term service provided for people either upon their discharge from hospital or to avoid admission to hospital. The service helps people to rehabilitate and regain or retain independence.
- This is not a change to the service being provided to the people of Chipping Norton – just a change in who is responsible for providing that service.
- The Orders of St. John Care Trust (OSJCT) run a similar service at the Isis House Care and Retirement Centre in Oxford which is judged to be fully compliant in all areas by the Care Quality Commission. We carry out multi agency reviews of all intermediate care bed homes. Isis was last reviewed in April 2015 and when it was found to cope well with complex intermediate care patients.
- The **outcomes** for patients are comparable or the same between Chipping Norton and the Isis Care home.
- Oxford Health Foundation Trust staff will be consulted and given the option of transferring to OSJCT or working at one of the Oxford Health Foundation Trust's other community hospitals.

Key facts:

- There are 14 intermediate care beds at the Henry Cornish Care Centre on the Chipping Norton War Memorial hospital site. OSJCT also run a 36 bed care home on the same site.
- The service costs £1327 per bed day as opposed to £823 per bed day for a similar service at OSJCT's Isis House Care and Retirement Centre in Oxford. It is expensive for the Council to Commission NHS to operate small stand-alone units (the most cost effective model is 40-60 beds on a single site). OSJCT can employ the economies of scale to run the whole site.
- Oxford Health Foundation Trust will therefore withdraw from the Chipping Norton Service.
- OSJCT will take over the service at the end of July if the consultation proceeds satisfactorily.
- OSJCT is one of the largest voluntary sector care providers of care in Oxfordshire.
- The Henry Cornish Care Centre is currently rated "good" by the Care Quality Commission

Background

Since 2011 the 14 bed intermediate care unit at the Henry Cornish Care Centre on the Chipping Norton War Memorial hospital site has been run, first by The Orders of St John with nurses seconded from Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust and then by Oxford Health Foundation NHS Trust in a building managed by the Orders of St. John.

It has been decided to revert to the original proposal that the intermediate care beds are run by the Orders of St. John as it has proved impossible to make the system work as it involves two sets of management arrangements.

The Orders of St. John is the body registered with the Care Quality Commission for the provision of intermediate care as part of the care home. They are responsible for the quality of those services. However, Oxford Health is responsible for clinical standards of the nurses because they employ them. Neither the Orders of St. John nor Oxford Health think these arrangements are tenable going forward.

Also the expected costs of continuing the current arrangements in Chipping Norton would be nearly £1,800 a week. This is more than twice the cost of the 20 intermediate care beds provided by OSJCT at the Isis Care & Retirement Centre in Oxford, which also provide intermediate care for people upon discharge from hospital.

Due to the difficulties of the current arrangement OHFT stated their intention to withdraw from Chipping Norton.

Reverting to the original proposal will require Oxford Health to hold a consultation with their employees at the intermediate care unit. This could start in early June and would take 56 days to complete. Staff would be given a choice of transferring across to the Orders of St. John on their existing terms and conditions or being given the opportunity to be redeployed within Oxford Health and stay within the NHS.