

HOSC Confidential Meeting Record

Meeting Details

Date: 12/12/16

Time: 10am

Location: County Hall

Healthcare Organisation

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Healthcare Representatives Present

David Smith, Chief Executive

Julie Dandridge, Deputy Director, Head of Primary Care and Localities

Jill Gillett, Senior Commissioning Manager Primary Care

HOSC Members Present

Cllr Yvonne Constance

Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods

Cllr Laura Price

Cllr Andrew McHugh

Cllr Surinder Dhesi

Cllr Alison Rooke

Cllr Kevin Bulmer

Cllr Jane Doughty

Anne Wilkinson (*co-opted member*)

Keith Ruddle (*co-opted member*)

Officers Present

Katie Read, Policy Officer

Julie Dean, Committee Officer

Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer (*present for pre-meeting*)

Meeting Outcome and HOSC Statement

On Monday 12th December members of HOSC (8 voting members and 2 co-opted members) met informally with CCG representatives David Smith, Julie Dandridge and Jill Gillett to discuss whether the Committee would be likely to consider the closure of Deer Park Medical Centre a substantial change in service.

Committee members were briefed on the reasons behind the intended closure of Deer Park in March 2017, how patients are being supported to move to alternative practices and the measures that have been put in place to mitigate the impact of patient transfers on other surgeries.

Some context on the national and local direction of travel for primary care was

provided, including an overview of the 'neighbourhood hub' initiative, from which Witney practices already benefit. Greater use of the Hub was presented as one measure to manage the changed capacity requirements for other Witney surgeries.

HOSC members noted that a decision to close the surgery had been made because of the absence of any suitable provider. They also noted that the sustainability of small GP practices, such as Deer Park, was a real issue and the CCG was unlikely to have any success in retendering, certainly not before closure in March 2017.

The Committee members acknowledged that proposals to mitigate the impact of the closure were consistent with the strategic direction for primary care in Oxfordshire, including a move towards larger practices and the use of neighbourhood hubs and a range of clinicians to deliver primary care.

Some members expressed concern that issues were still being raised about whether the CCG had complied with its legal duties to 'involve and consult' the public during the procurement process, as well as the cost implications of the changes.

The CCG maintained that the closure of the surgery is not a substantial change in service. HOSC members considered that closing the surgery *is* a substantial change and recommended that the matter be considered at a formal meeting of the Committee. Members cited the grounds for this as:

- Deer Park patients would experience some reduction in service, such as longer waiting times for routine appointments at other surgeries and the loss of a twice weekly walk in clinic.
- The closure would present travel and access issues for patients, for which the CCG did not provide adequate mitigations.
- The proposed mitigations would introduce elements of a new operating model for general practice that should be the subject of public consultation.
- The views of local stakeholders, including West Oxfordshire District Council, Witney Town Council and the Deer Park Patient Participation Group, were that patients at the surgery would be significantly affected by the closure.

The CCG was advised that a formal HOSC meeting will be scheduled in early 2017 for the Committee and the CCG to reach agreement on what form of consultation may be required and when.

The following additional information was requested for this meeting:

- Detail on the number of appointments due to be lost from Deer Park compared with the additional resource being commissioned for the Witney area.
- Detail on the cost implications of closing Deer Park Medical Centre or a re-procurement.
- A demonstration of how the CCG has met its statutory duties to involve and consult the public under s.242 NHS Act 2006 in the case of the Deer Park closure.
- Possible options for consultation.

Next Steps:

In light of legal proceedings for judicial review, which have begun since this confidential meeting took place, advice from the County Council's legal team will be sought on the implications for HOSC's consideration of this issue.

The above statement will be published for the next formal Committee meeting.

Any learning from the toolkit meeting will be used to inform a review/refresh of the substantial change assessment process.