

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2 February 2017

Chairman's Report

Liaison meetings

The Chairman attended the following briefings with representatives from health and social care organisations between November 2016 and February 2017:

- 1 December – Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
An update on issues in general practice and a discussion about communicating plans for a primary care framework.
- 8 December – Oxfordshire County Council
An introductory meeting with the new Director of Adult Social Care, Kate Terroni.
- 12 December – Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
An informal meeting attended with other Committee members to discuss the substantial change toolkit assessment completed on the closure of Deer Park Medical Centre, Witney.
- 16 January - Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
A briefing attended with the Deputy Chairman on proposed CCG savings plans for 2017-18. A substantial change toolkit assessment will be completed for the proposals to inform future discussion with the Committee.

Letters sent on behalf of the Committee

1. The Slade site, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

The Chairman received a letter from representatives of the Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN) raising concerns about Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's plans for the Slade site and urging HOSC to scrutinise the situation. OxFSN's letter and the letters sent by the Chairman in response are below:



Oxfordshire Family Support Network
The Charter, Level 2, Abingdon
OX14 3LZ

FAO Councillor Yvonne Constance
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Oxfordshire County Council
New Road

Oxford
OX1 1ND

31st October 2016

Dear Councillor Constance,

Oxfordshire Family Support Network wishes to raise a serious concern with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the potential sale of the land at the Slade site that is currently owned by Southern Health Foundation Trust when they withdraw from providing learning disability services in Oxfordshire.

My colleague, Gail Hanrahan and I attended a meeting on 17/03/16 where Mark Morgan a Southern Health Director was present, where he made it very clear that Southern Health had the legal right to do what they wished with the site as they now owned the assets and had been advised by Monitor (now NHS Improvement) that they could go ahead and sell the land, benefitting from the sale.

Whilst that may be the legal position, we feel that there is a strong **moral** case that they should not be allowed to asset-strip Oxfordshire's resources, given the many failures in service quality. This was the site where Connor Sparrowhawk died, a preventable death at the age of 18, something that families in Oxfordshire will not easily forget.

Our understanding is that Southern Health cannot simply dispose of a Capital Asset (the Slade site); to do this they must go through a documented procedure via NHS Improvement.

We want to ask the following questions:

1. What actions are Southern Health, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England taking to act in the best interests of any patients who remain on that site?
2. Have Southern Health Foundation Trust notified NHS Improvement of their plan to dispose of this asset and if so, when did they do this?
3. Have they explained why they no longer require this asset?
4. Have NHS Improvement sought written agreement from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) who commission health services provided on that site?
5. Has there been agreement to disposal of that asset or not by OCCG?
6. If they have agreed to disposal, are there any terms and conditions attached to that approval e.g. That the proceeds of any disposal are used for a particular purpose.
7. Can the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be confident that the published procedures have been followed by all parties involved?

8. We would like to clarify what the position of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is on this matter of the proposed sale of the site, and what agreements they have arrived at, if any?

9. We understand that Southern Health has a Capital Asset Register. Have they stated their intention to dispose of this capital asset in their financial statements as part of their latest Annual Report?

In our view, it is deeply unsatisfactory that Southern Health Foundation Trust should be allowed to profit from failure on such a scale, merely to bolster their ailing finances.

We strongly urge the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the situation and to press NHS Improvement, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Southern Health Foundation Trust to release the asset to Oxford Health Foundation Trust who will be taking on the majority of the Southern Health Services (with the exception of Evenlode Medium Secure Unit).

We wish to see the funding used specifically to develop better care for extremely vulnerable people with learning disabilities and autism, who have mental health needs or distressed behaviours who live in Oxfordshire.

Releasing the money from the sale of the land to re-invest in local services to the benefit of people with learning disabilities and autism and their families in Oxfordshire would seem to be a better use of scarce NHS resources and a fitting tribute to Connor Sparrowhawk's memory.

We look forward to hearing your response to our request to scrutinise these issues.

Please acknowledge safe receipt.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Sunman and Gail Hanrahan

On Behalf of Oxfordshire Family Support Network

Email: info@oxfsn.org.uk

Jan Sunman mobile: 07596 784 947

Gail Hanrahan mobile: 07891 734987

Cc:

John Jackson, Director of Social Services

David Smith, Chief Executive Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Stuart Bell, Chief Executive of Oxford Health Foundation Trust

Martin Bell, Chairman Oxford Health Foundation Trust

Julie Dawes, Interim CEO, Southern Health Foundation Trust

Rosalind Pearce, Executive Director, Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood MP

Robert Courts MP

John Howell MP

23 January 2017

Victoria Prentis MP
Andrew Smith MP
Ed Vaizey MP

OJHOSC

Oxfordshire Joint Health
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

Oxfordshire Family Support Network
The Charter, Level 2
Abingdon
OX14 3LZ

28th November 2016

Dear Ms Sunman and Ms Hanrahan,

Sale of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's Slade Site

Thank you for your letter of 31st October outlining your concerns about Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's sale of the Slade Site in Oxford.

The remit of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to review and scrutinise the planning, provision and operation of health services for Oxfordshire. Where proposed service changes are substantial, HOSC also has a role in ensuring public consultation is adequate.

As Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust has not put forward any proposals for changes to services delivered from the site, HOSC would be acting outside its remit to scrutinise a potential decision about which we have no details. I will write to the Trust on behalf of HOSC to request information about their plans for the Slade site.

My understanding is that, should the Trust wish to dispose of the site, they have an obligation to offer it to other public sector bodies for purchase before releasing it on the open property market. I am aware that the Trust has been exploring options for the future use of the site with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the County Council.

Should any future proposals relating to the Slade site constitute a substantial service change, I can assure you that the Committee will act in the best interests of Oxfordshire residents in scrutinising and reviewing any such plans.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Email: yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OJHOSC

Oxfordshire Joint Health
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

Ms Julie Dawes
Interim Chief Executive
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
Tatchbury Mount, Calmore
Southampton, SO40 2RZ

1 December 2016

Dear Ms Dawes,

Re: Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust's plans for the Slade site

I write to request information for the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) about the Trust's intentions for the Slade site.

It was recently brought to my attention that the Trust is looking to dispose of this asset and the Committee will be keen to understand the impact of this on the health services provided from the premises and across the county.

I understand that the Trust has been exploring options for the future use of the site with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the County Council. Please elaborate on your plans for the site, the process you are following for its disposal and your assessed impact on patients and the public accessing services based there.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Email: yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Cc:

Mark Morgan, Director of Operations (Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Social Care), Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

David Smith, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Kate Terroni, Director of Social Services, Oxfordshire County Council

2. The CCG's two phase Oxfordshire transformation consultation

The Chairman received a letter from Ian Davies, Chairman of the Community Partnership Network, raising concerns about the effect of the CCG's decision to split the Oxfordshire health and care transformation consultation into two phases. The letter and the Chairman's response are below.

(Received by email 19 December 2016)

Dear Councillor Constance

Two Stage Oxfordshire Transformation Consultation Process

I write on behalf of the Community Partnership Network (CPN) as agreed at its meeting on Friday 16 December 2016 to ask that the Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee review its decision to endorse OCCG's intention to run a two stage consultation process.

You will understand the CPN's focus is on the Horton General Hospital but there is a clear understanding locally of the relationship of this with the other OUHFT hospitals. Our request for review is based on a number of factors.

The starting point is that the Horton has historically provided a local acute service which has provided three core services: A 24-hour emergency service for adult medical emergencies: somewhere to have a baby, and somewhere to take a sick child. The first of these core functions is threatened if, as we understand it, the first consultation proposes the removal of critical care and acute stroke services. There are clear linkages between obstetric, paediatric and anaesthetic services. The withdrawal of obstetrics has caused the removal of the Special Care Baby Unit and

with it specialised nursing skills as well as demand for the expertise of paediatricians and anaesthetists. The OCCG of course do not support this view.

If the result of the stage 1 consultation were to be the permanent removal of critical care, stroke, obstetric and SCBU services, it is apparent that not only is the ability of the Horton to treat unselected adult medical emergencies compromised, even though the Emergency Department would still be in place, but the paediatric service would be weakened leaving both services potentially vulnerable to being removed as a result of the second stage of consultation.

The stratification of consultation means that there is no clarity as to what will be the ultimate outcome and fails, in the case of the Horton, to set out for North Oxfordshire residents what the shape and extent of the future local acute secondary care services they can expect to receive locally. This would in turn compromise the public's ability to respond coherently to the proposals being put before them and probably fail the key test of public consultation – consistency with the need for patient choice. This position is compounded by the position of OCCG in that decisions on the services consulted in the first stage consultation will be taken before those in the second stage are consulted or consultation is completed.

Most of the local MPs have communicated with you in similar way expressing their concern over this matter. The County Council did receive their letter before the meeting where your Committee took the decision to endorse the two stage consultation but for some reason this communication was ignored. It is also Cherwell District Council's view that the greater good is achieved through a single stage consultation of the whole of the Horton Hospital (ambulatory/DTOC/bed reductions apart) and the OCCG have been informed of this.

In the circumstances, the CPN is suggesting strongly that, in order to meet your obligations to the public, a single stage consultation setting out the consequences for the services at the Horton General Hospital for each of the options would be the appropriate course of action. This would ensure that the general public understood, even if they might not agree with what was on offer for the long term. The Horton would then be part of a comprehensive consultation about the totality of services enabling the public to make the link between enhanced primary health care and improving hospital services.

This approach would also be consistent with the whole hospital approach adopted by the OUHFT when engaging earlier this year to develop its emerging options. It would be in tune with the acknowledged need to consult early upon the Oxfordshire-wide ambulatory care proposal, in order to care for people in the setting appropriate to their needs and minimising delayed discharges, which we support. Furthermore, it would eliminate the risk of a legal challenge to staging the consultation on Horton-related services.

Ian Davies
Chairman
Community Partnership Network

10 January 2017

[Sent by email]

Dear Ian,

Two Stage Oxfordshire Transformation Consultation Process

Thank you for your email of 19 December, sent on behalf of the Community Partnership Network.

At the November HOSC meeting the Committee made clear its concern about the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) decision to separate the transformation consultation into two phases and also heard concerns from members of the public. The letter from local MPs to David Smith and Stuart Bell that was copied to me arrived late, but was sent electronically to members the evening before the meeting.

At the meeting the Committee sought assurances from the CCG that communities would be made aware of any specific impacts of the proposals on them and emphasised the need for the CCG to rebuild trust with the public, particularly in the north of the county.

Whilst we stressed that a single consultation would be more coherent, the CCG's plan is in line with HOSC's request that they consult on changes to obstetrics at the Horton and acute bed reconfiguration proposals in January, as agreed at the September HOSC meeting.

As a joint committee HOSC benefits greatly from the input of its district council representatives and particular concerns were raised in the meeting about the effects of decoupling the consultation on the Horton Hospital. The Committee therefore, agreed that the CCG should proceed with Phase 1 of the consultation in January, with the request that:

- Any proposal that impacts on services for obstetric/midwife-led units in the north of the county is included in the consultation;
- Options around the closure of any other service at the Horton Hospital be included and considered together, and if not included in the first phase, then nothing in the first phase should prejudice the second phase;
- The proposed delivery of planned care at the Horton Hospital is included in Phase 1 of the consultation;
- The geographical detail be easily identifiable so that the public can be clear about proposed changes to services in their locality; and
- There is clarity on the meaning of 'ambulatory' care.

The first phase of consultation is expected to begin by mid-January and HOSC will continue to monitor this very closely to ensure the above requirements are fully met.

Following the publication of Phase 1 proposals for consultation, HOSC will formally scrutinise these at a specific meeting in March and invite submissions from key stakeholders and members of the public to inform its discussion. I am certain that the Committee will be keen to hear the views of the Community Partnership Network as part of this process.

Yours sincerely



Clr Yvonne Constance OBE
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Email: yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

3. The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP)

The Chairman has been asked by the Chairman of West Berkshire Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission to consider joining a BOB-wide joint health scrutiny committee to provide appropriate public visibility of the plan and to robustly challenge its aims and the achievement of them.

The Chairman has responded positively to this invitation, but is keen to ensure no such arrangements replace local scrutiny of the STP or remove any powers of the OJHOSC. The Chairman's response is below. At this time, no further proposals have been made as to the form, function and membership of a BOB-wide group.

OJHOSC

Oxfordshire Joint Health
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

David Lowe
Strategic Support
Council Offices
Market Street Newbury
Berkshire RG14 5LD

10 January 2017

Dear David,

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)

Thank you for your letter of 22 December inviting me to join a joint committee to carry out scrutiny of the STP at a BOB level.

I am keen for myself and other Committee members to engage with BOB-wide discussions about the STP, but would not see this as a replacement for local scrutiny and would not wish to transfer any powers to such a group.

The Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OJHOSC) will want to look in detail at the impact of the STP on the county's local health services and plans to scrutinise the formally published STP during our next meeting on 2nd February. This is in addition to its scrutiny of the Oxfordshire Health and Care Transformation Plan, which is being consulted on in phases from January and pre-dates the STP.

As such, I see convening a BOB-wide group as an opportunity to exchange views and questions following our local scrutiny of the STP and to return with shared learning for our respective local areas. I would envisage this being an informal arrangement to facilitate open and frank discussion.

These are my suggestions, but please liaise with OJHOSC's policy officer, Katie Read, on the detail going forward and any further proposals about the shape and purpose of a BOB-wide group.

If this goes ahead, I would like to inform members of the OJHOSC at our February meeting and agree who should attend from Oxfordshire.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Constance', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Email: yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk