

Healthwatch Oxfordshire Report to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 7th March 2017

Phase 1 Oxfordshire Health and Care Transformation Consultation Plan

1 Oxfordshire Transformation Consultation meetings - The Big Consultation, Phase 1

Healthwatch Oxfordshire staff have attended all the public consultation events held to date and concerns raised by the members of the public, include:

- ? *What is the 'real' future of Horton General Hospital?*
- ? *How can we properly comment on the closure of hospital beds when we are not told how the 'closer to home' care will be delivered and how this might impact on Phase 2 of the 'Big Consultation'?*
- ? *What is going to happen in the second phase to community hospitals?*

The panel of experts at every meeting has been quite open about problems facing the NHS - rising demand, predicted shortage of money if 'we do nothing', change in demographic, workforce recruitment and retention. When the future of the Horton has been raised, panel members have been optimistic in stating plans for development of the site, increased numbers of outpatients and day cases (for north Oxfordshire patients) etc. However, this approach does not appear to have allayed fears / suspicions by some attending the 'Big Consultation' events, nor help individuals when deciding how to respond to the consultation exercise, and we believe that is because of insufficient detail being given by the authorities.

People are asking questions that are not addressed in the current consultation documents including about the impact on parking if the more outpatient appointments are delivered from the Horton; and the capacity in community hospitals and the care sector to support the 'closer to home' health care strategy.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire has written to both Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHT) asking them to publish their plans for the Horton General hospital 'so that the consultation can be meaningful, or postpone the consultation until the Oxfordshire health transformation plan for the rest of the county is worked through in detail so that consultation is meaningful'.

2 Social care

An obvious gap in the information supplied in the Big Consultation documents has been any reference to the impact on social care, third sector partners and carers by the drive to 'closer to home' delivery of care. The decision by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Cabinet on 21st February 'not to support the proposals based

on the lack of information on the impact on council services' focused on their concerns.

The impact on the voluntary sector, and stated willingness of the sector to work with partners through the transformation were confirmed at the Healthwatch Voluntary Sector Forum in February.

Healthwatch is concerned that were the second phase of consultation (that could include community hospitals, primary care - GPs, care in the community), developed without active input by Oxfordshire County Council and third sector partners that a similar response will be forthcoming from OCC.

3 Summary

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would have preferred a single health and social care transformation consultation.

However, to support the public in their response to the current consultations Healthwatch believes that the publication of the overall plans for the Horton General Hospital is key to achieving an informed response to the questions asked in the current consultation programme. These plans, even in very draft form should also be included in the engagement process prior to the second phase consultations,

Healthwatch Oxfordshire want to see a Phase 2 consultation that is presented as a joint health and social care transformation document. The current draft OCCG timetable for the launch of Phase 2 of the transformation consultations is due to begin in November 2017. Surely this is sufficient time for the commissioners and providers to work together to achieve a health and social care transformation plan that will present the people of Oxfordshire with a system wide vision for the future on which to be consulted?