

## **Update for Oxfordshire HOSC: Temporary Closure of City Community Ward October 2019**

### **Current position**

The ward was temporarily closed to patients on 31st May 2019.

- Staff Consultation was completed on 7th June 2019. All staff members have been redeployed across Community Hospital wards and have settled well.
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OH) Patient Liaison Advice Service (PALS) continue to ask all community hospital inpatients if they experience issues with being visited by family members or being placed further away from home for their rehabilitation. This will enable them to look at the home location to see if there is a negative impact on patients displaced from City postcodes. There continue to have been no issues raised.

### **Recruitment**

- We have had a full review of our recruitment activity including allocating senior operational oversight to the process.
- We have had considerable success throughout the period since temporary closure at all bands, including at ward management level and registered general nurses.
- External candidates recruited are going through employment check processes with a view to start dates throughout October.
- Once staff commence employment with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, they will be inducted on other community hospital wards in readiness for reopening City Community Hospital. All candidates are fully aware of the temporary closure of City Community Hospital.

### **Re-opening**

- We took a paper to our Board on 25<sup>th</sup> September with a recommendation to re-open City Community Hospital. Our plan is to have 12 beds open from the middle of November.
- This recommendation was supported, and we are now actively working towards this timeline.
- Our plan is to bring the City Community Hospital team back together at the end of October to manage induction, training and practical arrangements that ensure we meet this timeline.

### **Maintaining Bed Provision**

- This re-opening will have no impact on Stroke beds. These beds remain at the full 20, based at Abingdon.

- We aim to open an additional 4 beds at City, making the total at that site, 16 beds from early in 2020 to support the system during the Winter period.