

Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

19 November 2015

Chairman's report

Meetings/Events

Since the last HOSC meeting on 17 September 2015, I have attended the following meetings/events:

- 24 September: Annual Meeting of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and noted their progress on performance targets ahead of schedule;
- 30 October 2015 2015: INLOGOV training event for Scrutiny Chairmen at Birmingham University which I attended with the County Chairman of Education Scrutiny. We were pleased to find that we do follow best practice at Oxfordshire County Council and glad to be reassured from experience elsewhere;
- 5 November 2015: Progress meeting with senior management at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – the first since the arrival of the new Chief Executive, Bruno Holthof. Though it was not possible for him to attend, having been summoned to London, we discussed current performance, which is constant and constructive. I noted the concerns about managing winter pressures ahead, as the current mild, moist weather is forecasted to change to very cold and wintry conditions by January 2016. The Trust is thinking well ahead and is considering new approaches to managing care through the winter:
- 6 November 2015: Visit to Intermediate Care Unit at Henry Cornish, Chipping Norton with five HOSC members interested to see the Unit and better understand the issues around who provides what care in the Unit, which are currently out to consultation with the local community until December. We saw the neighbouring community hospital site and the separate building; and provision for the Intermediate Care Unit which is attached to the OSJ Care Home but not part of that service. The 14 bed Intermediate Care Unit is currently served by nurses supervised by an NHS nurse manager whom we met along with OSJ nurses and the OSJ Strategic Director. We were very impressed with the care which was in a pleasant, homely setting and were delighted to breakfast on delicious walnut cake cooked for us by the Unit's chef, noting the special emphasis on home-cooked food as part of the rehabilitation programme provided by the Unit. We discussed and understood more clearly the history of the expectations in Chipping Norton and noted that intermediate care is essentially about reablement and rehabilitation which the Unit at Henry Cornish does to the highest standards.

Toolkit on Substantial Change

- Following comments raised by Cllr Mills at the last meeting, officers have been reviewing the Toolkit on Substantial Change. We are seeking legal advice on the process and plan to share with partners before bringing it back to HOSC.

Claire Phillips

Please note that Claire Phillips, our much valued policy officer, is leaving on maternity leave at the end of November. We wish her a happy second baby and welcome Belinda Dimmock-Smith as policy officer in her absence. Belinda has been reading and understanding at an impressive rate and has accompanied me on the most recent visit to the JR and to Chipping Norton.

Cllr Yvonne Constance
Chairman

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