

Date: 31 July 2018

**Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview
and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND**

Mrs Louise Patten
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
louise.patten@oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Mr Stuart Bell
Oxford Health Foundation Trust
Stuart.bell@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Contact: Sam Shepherd, Senior
Policy Officer
Direct Line: 07789 088173
Email:
samantha.shepherd@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Patten and Mr Bell,

Re: Wantage Community Hospital

I am writing to request greater clarity by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and Oxford Health Foundation Trust (FT) over the future options for Wantage Community Hospital and the likely timescale for such options to be available for public consultation.

On the 14th of April 2016, Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) members met with representatives to consider whether the following Oxford Health FT proposal contained within a toolkit assessment was a substantial variation in service:

- Temporarily close Wantage Community Hospital from June 2016 (due to the persistent recurrence of legionella in the hot water system in the hospital)
- Set aside the capital investment required for the plumbing works (in 2016/17 financial year)
- Delay commencement of the capital works until early 2017, once the public consultation is completed and the future use of Wantage community hospital is determined

Through the Chairman's report at its meeting of the 21st of April 2016, HOSC stated that it recognised the closure of Wantage Community Hospital as a substantial change in service. HOSC members noted the commitment by OCCG and Oxford Health FT and health organisations to a full transformation consultation which was planned for the autumn of 2016.

Wantage Community Hospital was closed for inpatient admissions from the 1st of July 2016. We understand this decision, taken by Oxford Health was on safety grounds in anticipation of a formal public consultation across the Oxfordshire health and care system which was due to conclude in spring 2017. On the 15th of September 2016, OCCG and

Oxford Health FT reported to HOSC that there would be a delay in launching the consultation and that the new date was early January 2017. By their meeting of the 17th of November 2016, HOSC were informed that consultation over proposals contained within the transformation programme would occur in two phases, with consultation over community hospital services, including the future of Wantage Community Hospital, coming in Phase Two of the programme. At this time, OCCG reported the consultation for Phase Two was planned for the beginning of May 2017.

It was not until the beginning of March 2018 that the NHS in Oxfordshire issued a joint statement from the System Chief Executives signalling a change to the approach to service transformation. This was reported to HOSC at its meeting on the 19th of April 2018 and was understood to have resulted from reflection on the experience of running Phase One of the Oxfordshire Transformation Programme and from CQC emphasis on better health and social care planning.

HOSC is supportive of the approach to better integration and the place-based approach outlined by OCCG during its meeting of the 19th of April 2018. The committee understands that local discussions to address the needs of the local population, taking into account geography and available services, is important to determine options for local provision. However, given the fact that in April 2016, the committee took the view that the closure of Wantage Community Hospital was a substantial service change and over two years has passed without public consultation on the issue, I am writing to you to address the future options for Wantage Community Hospital and the likely timescale for such options to be available for public consultation as a matter of priority.

At HOSC's meeting on the 21st of June 2018, the topic of Wantage Hospital was raised and OCCG tasked with outlining the timetable and framework for working with local communities to review local health needs, current and projected demographics and local assets to inform service change (including the physical assets, describing what population needs are, if significant change to services, have a duty to consult). There was also a request to outline how the closed beds in Wantage have been reallocated as was indicated would be the case to the committee back in April 2016.

I have asked that the above information be considered at HOSC's next meeting on the 20th of September 2018. During this item, I would like to understand the specific timeframe and consultation plan for developing options for the local area that includes Wantage Community Hospital.

I very much hope that you are able to share this information in September, so that we can ensure local health scrutiny continues to strengthen the voice of local people in the commissioning and delivery of health services in Oxfordshire.

Yours Sincerely



Cllr Arash Fatemian
Chairman Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee