



# **Scrutiny Annual Report**

## **2019-2020**

## Foreword

The Overview and Scrutiny function forms an integral part of the Council's operations. Its influence can be seen in the budget setting process, policy development, performance monitoring and the drive for continuous service improvement.

This annual report highlights some of the work undertaken by our scrutiny committees to address current and emerging issues and to deliver improved services for the residents of Oxfordshire. Our aim has been to provide challenge and insight to ensure that activities proposed or undertaken by the Council or the NHS serve the residents of Oxfordshire as fully as possible.

The committees have completed a vast amount of work via formal meetings, working groups and visits. Through the information received, scrutiny committees have made recommendations to Cabinet and partners in the NHS for policy changes and service improvements. In addition, the two Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have made a referral each to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to draw attention to issues of concern.

We are proud of the achievements that the scrutiny committees have made this year and look forward to building on this. We hope you find this report interesting and informative.



**Cllr Liz Brighthouse OBE**  
Chairman of the  
Performance Scrutiny  
Committee



**Cllr Arash Fatemian**  
Chairman of the  
Oxfordshire Joint Health  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee and  
Chairman Horton Joint  
Health Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee



**Cllr Michael Waine**  
Chairman of the  
Education Scrutiny  
Committee

## Executive Summary

Overview and scrutiny play a crucial role in holding decision makers to account, enabling the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and driving service improvement. The Council delegates scrutiny responsibilities to four committees; three of which are long standing committees, one (the Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) is a more recently established committee.

In 2019-20, the County Council's overview and scrutiny committees focused on areas where they could have the greatest influence on outcomes for the people of Oxfordshire including scrutinising significant service redesign across the Council.

The **Performance Scrutiny Committee** has used the move to monthly business management reporting as a key method of identifying areas requiring further in-depth scrutiny across the Council. This led to a special meeting to understand the reasons behind delayed transfers of care from hospital into residents' homes or supported living. The committee continued to play an important role in scrutinising the development of the Council's Corporate Plan and Service and Resource Planning approaches.

The committee has scrutinised key partnerships throughout the year including Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding Adults Boards and Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner also participated.

**Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)** has met formally six times in 2019/20 and in addition, established a Task and Finish Group to review the ongoing rollout of the Population Health and Care Needs Assessment Framework in the OX12 locality.

**The Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Horton HOSC)** has continued its work to scrutinise proposals for maternity in the Horton Hospital, meeting three times throughout 2019/20.

Both HOSC committees have used their delegated powers to make a referral each to the Secretary of State. Referrals can be made by a health scrutiny committee when the local committee is not satisfied they have been consulted effectively, or that a change is not in the best interests of local health services. For the Oxfordshire Joint HOSC the referral was in relation to PET-CT (cancer) scanning and the NHS England decision to award the contract for services to InHealth. For the Horton HOSC, the referral was in relation to consultant-led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital and a decision to not return to obstetric-led maternity services, in favour of establishing a Midwife Led Unit (MLU) at the hospital.

The **Education Scrutiny Committee** has continued its focus on previously identified key areas of concern through 'deep dive' committee working groups including the completion of a review into educational attainment.

The committee was also pleased that representatives from the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office and regional representatives from Ofsted attended to answer questions from.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report summarises the activities of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees between April 2019 and March 2020. Membership of the committees is included at annex 1 of this report.
- 1.2 This report highlights key areas of work each committee has undertaken over the last year and where the influence of scrutiny has been greatest.
- 1.3 This year the scrutiny chairmen balanced the committees' time between performance monitoring, deep dives into specific areas, policy development and scrutiny of partnership arrangements.

## 2. The Role of Scrutiny

- 2.1 Overview and scrutiny arrangements were established under the Local Government Act 2000. They are a mechanism for non-executive Councillors to examine the policies and decisions of Cabinet and other executive decision makers, identify problem areas and issue reports. Overview and scrutiny also have a role in scrutinising crime and disorder issues, flood risk management and health.
- 2.2 Specifically, the powers and functions of overview and scrutiny committees include the ability to:
  - Hold inquiries and produce reports and recommendations to the Cabinet
  - Require Cabinet members and officers to appear before them; and
  - Require a response to its reports within two months
- 2.3 Scrutiny provides the opportunity to challenge policy and decision makers through an evidence based investigative process that aims to resolve problems in the public interest and drive service improvements. It does this by holding the Cabinet and senior officers to account but also through constructive dialogue between the public and councillors. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) stated that scrutiny has four principles:
  - Provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision makers,
  - Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard
  - Is carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process,
  - Drives improvement in public service.
- 2.4 HOSC committees have specific health scrutiny powers governed by statute. Chief among these powers is the ability to:
  - Require officers of NHS bodies to attend committee meetings.
  - Require the local NHS to provide information about the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area.

- Make reports and recommendations to NHS bodies.
- Refer proposals for substantial changes to health services to the Secretary of State for decision if the committee believes the consultation has been inadequate, if there were inadequate reasons for not consulting, or if the proposals would not be in the interests of the local health service.
- The NHS is obliged to consult the HOSC on any substantial changes it wishes to make to local health services, in addition to its wider responsibility to involve and consult the public. The Committee and local NHS have an agreed process to help both parties determine if a proposal constitutes a substantial change, known informally as 'the toolkit'.

### **3. PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

3.1 The Performance Scrutiny Committee has a membership of 11 county councillors and is chaired by Cllr Liz Brighthouse OBE. Cllr Jenny Hannaby is the Deputy Chairman. The committee met eight times during 2019-20.

3.2 The committee's key functions, as outlined in the constitution, include:

- Scrutinising the performance of the Council;
- Providing a focused review of corporate performance and directorate performance;
- Scrutinising financial reporting and budgets;
- Raising queries or issues of concern that may occur over decisions being taken in relation to adult social care, effectively providing a specific committee for addressing such queries;
- Discharging the Council's scrutiny responsibilities under the Police and Justice Act 2006; to review and scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken by community safety partners
- In addition, scrutiny has a role in developing and revising Council policies

#### **Performance Management:**

3.3 From April 2019 the Council moved to monthly performance reporting, which has been welcomed by the committee. The committee has continued to use the new monthly Business Management and Monitoring Report as a means for holding the Council to account for the pledges it makes in the Corporate Plan and for determining future areas for scrutiny. Through examining overall performance, the committee plays an important role in driving improvement across some of the Council's highest priority areas.

3.4 By using data from these reports, the committee has undertaken in-depth scrutiny into delayed transfers of care (DTC) and intends to undertake further scrutiny jointly with the Education Scrutiny Committee into the reasons for underperformance against our Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHCPs) targets.

**Key Areas of Scrutiny in 2019-20:**

- 3.5 Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP):** In May 2019 senior representatives from the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership answered questions from councillors about the role and activities of the LEP. Councillors sought to understand how the Skills Board, a sub-group of the LEP, were working to help people in deprived areas gain vital skills to enter employment. The committee also asked questions about how the Board were working to address skills shortages in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) areas of employment and to understand why apprenticeship growth in the county has been lower than other comparable areas.
- 3.6 Draft Investment Strategy (July 2019):** The committee undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's draft Investment Strategy. Members asked officers to include greater information about the need to invest in carbon neutral or green energy projects to address the Council's climate change commitment. The committee also asked for greater transparency in the strategy in relation to the way in which local councillors would be consulted if potential land purchases were in their division. This strategy was seen at a draft stage which meant that comments from the Committee were able to directly feed into the final version that was agreed by Cabinet.
- 3.7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Report (July 2019):** The committee considered the first HMICFRS inspection report of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service where the Service had been rated 'Good' across all service areas. The committee scrutinised the Chief Fire Officer and asked questions about the areas where the service had been graded as 'requiring improvement' and learnt that actions had already been undertaken including the replacement of outdated computer software with tablets to assist with understanding the risk of fire and other emergencies.
- 3.8 Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and the Thames Valley Police (TVP) Delivery Plan 2019-20 (September 2019):** The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police attended to give a presentation of the TVP Delivery Plan and answer questions posed by the committee. The committee asked TVP about the steps they were taking to tackle County Lines drug trafficking issues, the importance of tackling rural crime and the use of police tasers.
- 3.9 NHS Long Term Plan (October 2019):** In October the committee held a special meeting to look at the progress towards the future of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System (ICS) to understand the impact on social care. The committee asked the Corporate Director of Adult and Housing Services questions about the development of Primary Care Networks, scrutiny arrangements and how scrutiny of pooled budget arrangements between health and social care will take place through an ICS.

- 3.10 Mental Health Outcomes Framework (February 2020):** The committee held a special meeting in February to scrutinise the Council's Mental Health Outcomes Framework contract. The contract exists between Oxford Health Foundation Trust and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, with the Council also contributing money towards the contract. The contract covers the delivery of all mental health support for people with specific conditions including inpatient care, community support, wellbeing and housing. The committee considered this matter from a Council perspective before it was scrutinised by the Joint Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, demonstrating strong joint working between both Committees.
- 3.11 Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) (February 2020):** DTC performance in Oxfordshire has consistently been identified in the bottom quartile nationally for performance. In February the Committee received a detailed presentation from the Corporate Director, Adults and Housing Services to understand the reasons for this and the approaches the Council is taking with health partners to address this area of underperformance. The committee learnt that delays are caused by a range of issues including the availability of care, particularly home care, difficulties in recruiting care workers and seasonal variances. The Council is seeking to address these issues through the Home Care 2021 Project to develop a new partnership model and business offer which will involve co-designing a new care home model and contract offer. The Council is also focusing on a strengths-based approach that draws on an individual's strengths and assets to design a plan which meets their needs and identifies how they can be supported in their community.
- 3.12 Corporate Plan and Service and Resource Planning 2020/21 (January 2020):** The committee needed to take a different approach to scrutinising Service and Resource Planning this year due to the General Election taking place in December. Instead of its usual December meeting, in January 2020 the committee took a combined look at the revised Corporate Plan and Outcomes Framework alongside the draft budget. The committee made several overarching points on the budget noting that whilst the committee welcomed the 'invest to save' measures taken in the budget, it will be keen to monitor the return on investment during the next financial year. The committee also welcomed the introduction of specific actions to address the climate change emergency and the inclusion of a £2.5m fund in the Capital Programme to address climate action. In relation to the draft Corporate Plan the committee felt that consideration needed to be given to including clearer measures in the Outcomes Framework (the set of performance indicators by which the Council monitors and reports on its performance) in relation to income generating activities and aspirations.
- 3.13 Other key matters considered by the committee during 2019-20:**
- Use of co-production i.e. service users and providers designing services together
  - Development of the new Family Safeguarding Model
  - Safeguarding Children Annual Report
  - Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
  - Serious Case Review and Mental Health Homicide Review
  - SEND Inspection Re-Visit report from Ofsted.



### 3.14 **Forward Plan:**

- In partnership with the Education Scrutiny Committee, Performance Scrutiny Committee will review performance in producing Education, Health and Social Care Plans (EHCPs) within the intended twenty-week government timescale
- The committee will also continue the committee's watching brief on delayed transfers of care via scrutiny of home care budgets
- The committee will receive updates on the development of the Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

## 4. **Joint Transformation Sub-Committee:**

4.1 The Joint Audit and Governance and Performance Scrutiny Transformation Sub-Committee (Joint Transformation Sub-Committee) was jointly chaired by Cllr Liz Brighthouse (Performance Scrutiny Committee Chairman) and Cllr Nick Carter (Audit and Governance Committee Chairman). The committee met three times during 2019-20 before the sub-committee formally agreed to disband at their meeting on 30 January 2020.

4.2 The committee monitored quarterly performance reports in relation to the Council's transformation programme including progress with the redesign of Financial Services, Strategic Capability and the Provision Cycle and the implementation of the ICT Digital Strategy. Scrutiny of the Council's approach to transforming services will now be undertaken via the respective parent committees.

## 5. **EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

5.1 The Education Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Cllr Michael Waine and the Deputy Chairman is Cllr John Howson. The committee met four times during 2019-20.

5.2 A key area of work during for the Education Scrutiny Committee was the completion of a deep dive into educational attainment levels. The deep dive sought to understand why an educational attainment and progress gap exists for disadvantaged children both nationally and locally. The working group visited four secondary schools in Oxfordshire in urban and rural areas with varied demographics in their local communities who had all successfully reduced the educational attainment gap for disadvantaged pupils. The working group also worked closely with the Council's Education team and met with the Headteacher of the Virtual School (Oxfordshire's education service for looked-after children and care leavers aged from 0-25).

5.3 The findings from the working group fell into four categories:

- Teaching excellence: good teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils
- Post-16 Education and aspiration: The schools visited by the working group all offered varied post-16 vocational courses alongside academic subjects

with an eye to maintaining educational engagement and keep post-16 children learning

- Recruitment and retention: all of the schools visited face an ongoing challenge of retaining excellent teachers, particularly due to the high cost of living in the county
- Attainment for all children in Oxfordshire: work to improve educational attainment and achievement of disadvantaged and vulnerable children by definition addresses existing inequalities of opportunity. The working group felt strongly that collaboration and innovation is needed to overcome these barriers.

5.4 The working group concluded that the committee should consider adding annual monitoring reports of both the progress and attainment of disadvantaged children across primary and secondary school to their work plan. It also recommended that the committee use a future visit by the Regional Schools Commissioner to ask how best practice can actively be shared to foster collaboration between academies to improve educational outcomes. The working group also asked Property Services Officers to consider investigating how the county council might work with partners including district councils, universities and the diocese to support accommodation access for teachers.

#### **Key highlights from 2019-20 Committee meetings:**

5.5 **Regional Schools Commissioner (June 2019):** representatives from the Regional Schools Commissioner's office attended to answer questions from the committee about the role of the Commissioner, its relationship with other statutory bodies and how the Commissioner supports academies in areas including attainment and finance.

5.6 **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy:** the committee has received updates throughout the year about the development of a new SEND Strategy for the county and provided comments on a draft version at their meeting in June 2019.

5.7 **Alternative Provision Strategy (September 2019):** the committee requested a progress update on commissioning arrangements for alternative provision for Oxfordshire's children. The committee had previously expressed concerns about the increase in permanent exclusions particularly the number of SEND children who were excluded and the number of children who were excluded that had a Team Around the Family (TAF) in place. The committee learnt that the review of commissioning arrangements would help to deliver the Council's vision in the new Learner Engagement Strategy. The strategy aims to assess and manage the financial implications of the increased demand in alternative provision; ensure good quality, value for money alternative provision is in place and robustly monitor providers to demonstrate improved outcomes for young people requiring alternative provision.

5.8 **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) Report Investigation Report Outcomes (November 2019):** the committee received a report on the outcomes of LGO recommendations made to the council. These

recommendations were made to remedy an issue about suitable education for a child unable to attend school for medical reasons. The committee learnt how the council had undertaken several steps in line with LGO ruling including a full audit in relation to Children Missing Education (CME), a revised Fair Access Protocol and the development of a new Learner Engagement Service. This now means a single point of contact is in place to help ensure that children are in school as much as possible. The committee noted that academies can refuse to take children through the Fair Access Protocol procedure and asked the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services to write to the Secretary of State on the issue.

**5.9 Improving Education Outcomes (February 2020):** the committee participated in a strategic review that the Council was undertaking to develop joint priorities to improve educational outcomes for young people. The review involves working with key stakeholders including schools, Trusts, Diocesan Authorities and parents and was commissioned by the Director for Children, Education and Families.

### **Forward Plan**

5.10 In the coming months the Committee's agenda will include:

- Review of performance in developing Education Health and Care Plans (jointly with the Performance Scrutiny Committee)
- A further visit from representatives of the Regional Schools Commissioner, Ofsted and the Schools Funding Agency
- An update on alternative provision commissioning progress.

## **6. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

6.1 The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is a joint committee comprising 12 non-executive voting members (seven county councillors and five district/city councillors) and three co-opted non-voting members. During 2019/20 the committee has been chaired by Cllr Arash Fatemian, the Deputy Chairmanship rotates annually and in 2019/20, this was Cllr Sean Gaul (Cherwell District Councillor). The committee met formally six times in 2019/20 and in addition, established a Task and Finish Group to review the ongoing rollout of the Population Health and Care Needs Assessment Framework in the OX12 locality (Wantage and the surrounding communities).

6.2 Following a referral by Oxfordshire HOSC to the Secretary of State on the closure of obstetrics at the Horton General Hospital in 2017, a new Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established to scrutinise these specific proposals. The activity of the 'Horton HOSC' during 2019/20, is reported in the section below.

6.3 HOSC has a statutory role in reviewing or scrutinising, health services commissioned or delivered in Oxfordshire, or jointly with any other local authority where such services are commissioned outside Oxfordshire but are delivered to the inhabitants of the county. HOSC holds health scrutiny powers, which include the ability to request

information and the attendance of health commissioners and providers to the committee. HOSC is also able to make referrals to the Secretary of State where it is not satisfied that:

- Consultation on any proposal for a substantial change or development has been adequate in relation to content or time allowed (NB. The referral power in these contexts only relates to the consultation with the local authority, and not consultation with other stakeholders).
- That the proposal would be in the interests of the health service in Oxfordshire.
- A decision has been taken without consultation and it is not satisfied that the reasons given for not carrying out consultation are adequate.

6.4 The following describes some of the items considered by the committee in 2019/20, starting with details of the most significant issues which resulted in extraordinary action by the committee:

### **Referral on PET-CT (cancer) Scanning Service**

- 6.5 At its first meeting of the 2019/20 financial year, in April 2019, HOSC received a report from NHS England detailing the commissioning and procurement process which led to the award of a contract for cancer scanning services. The contract for the regional Positron Emission Tomography and Computed Tomography (PET-CT) scanning service was awarded by NHS England to the private healthcare company, InHealth. The service in Oxfordshire had been provided by the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH). The item drew large public interest and concerns were raised around the quality of scans, which would increasingly be delivered by mobile scanners under InHealth. The committee felt that the process and potential change in service had not been effectively communicated to the committee prior to the procurement process or contract awarding.
- 6.6 HOSC members agreed to use their delegated powers to make a referral to the Secretary of State in May 2019 on the grounds that the committee had not been consulted prior to the contract going out to bidder status and additionally that the proposal was not, in the committee's view, in the best interest of the patients.
- 6.7 The Secretary of State rejected the referral on the basis that discussions for a partnership between NHS England, InHealth and OUH were taking place, to try and come to an arrangement that would see OUH continuing to deliver an element of the service. At a HOSC meeting in September 2019 it was confirmed that an arrangement had been met which would see OUH delivering the service for Oxfordshire residents. NHS organisations reflected on the value of thorough scrutiny and the learning from this exercise will help inform future engagement with procurement exercises.

### **Oxford City Community Hospital**

- 6.8 HOSC held an extraordinary meeting in May 2019 to consider the decision by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT) to temporarily close the Oxford City Community Hospital from 31 May 2019. The decision to close was based on safety grounds and an inability to maintain safe staffing levels. Committee members

expressed concern that there was a lack of planning and commitment to reopen community hospitals. Committee members also raised concerns that advanced notice of the decision had not been communicated to the committee in line with the agreed 'no surprises' way of working, as per the HOSC Working Protocols.

- 6.9 As a result, the HOSC Chairman wrote to the Chairman and Board of Oxford Health Foundation Trust expressing their lack of confidence in the management of Oxford Health and their understanding of the agreed principles between health providers and HOSC. Following this, the Oxford Health Chairman reported back to HOSC to signal their intention to work collaboratively with HOSC in future.

### **Population Health and Care Needs Assessment Framework in OX12**

- 6.10 In July 2018, the HOSC Chairman wrote to request greater clarity from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and Oxford Health Foundation Trust over the future options for Wantage Community Hospital. This was because the Hospital had been temporarily closed in an emergency in July 2016, on the grounds of health and safety. HOSC wanted to establish the likely timescale for options to be available for public consultation. OCCG and Oxford Health FT presented a paper at the 20 September 2018 HOSC meeting. The report set out an emerging framework for all localities in Oxfordshire, to determine the health and care needs of the population and how they can be met. This approach is termed the 'Local Health Needs Assessment Framework'.
- 6.11 At the November 2018 HOSC it was agreed that a Task and Finish Group would be established to act as a 'critical friend' and provide more detailed scrutiny throughout the rollout of the framework in the Wantage, Grove and surrounding (OX12) locality. The membership of the group consisted of four HOSC members and the local county councillor for Grove and Wantage. The aim of the Task and Finish Group was to provide:

*Scrutiny throughout the process of implementing the Local Health Needs Assessment Framework and its timely roll-out, to take account of the needs of residents in Wantage and the local area.*

- 6.12 The work of the Task and Finish Group began in March 2019 was due to complete within three months, at the end of June 2019. However, as work began it was quickly agreed that more time was needed to complete the review. The timeline for the project was extended to November 2019. Final reporting of the project was delayed until early 2020 due to the General Election and pre-election period restrictions.
- 6.13 The Task and Finish Group presented its findings to HOSC on 6 February 2020. The report included a set of recommendations to health partners, on suggested improvements to the process of using the framework in the future. At this meeting, OCCG presented the project report for the OX12 work, which highlighted the local profile and possible solutions for meeting health and care needs. Work remained to test the financial and clinical viability of solutions.

- 6.14 HOSC members were concerned that no firm conclusions had been made on the status of the temporary closure of the beds within Wantage Community Hospital or the status of the hospital itself. It was agreed at the February 2020 HOSC meeting that the Task and Finish Group would continue as the project had yet to be fully implemented.

#### **Other items considered by HOSC**

- 6.15 **Integrated Care System.** HOSC members have received regular updates throughout the year on progress of the development of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS). The BOB ICS partnership consists of 6 NHS Trusts and Local Authorities and an Academic Health and Science Network. The shared vision of the partnership is to create a joined-up health and care system. On 13 September 2019 HOSC members undertook training on scrutinising Integrated Care Systems and on Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Oxfordshire.
- 6.16 **Dental Services and Dental Health (September 2019).** The committee received an update on Dental Services and Dental Health in Oxfordshire. The update contained information on: provision and capacity of NHS dentists in Oxfordshire, programmes of work to promote dental health; dental health of adults, older adults and children; and dental needs and health in nursing and residential homes.
- 6.17 **Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) (November 2019)** HOSC members received an update on the progress of implementing Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in Oxfordshire schools, including an explanation of how those MHSTs fit within the overall CAMHS provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. The update also highlighted progress with addressing waiting times through a local pilot. Committee members heard concerns around long waiting times for a number of families. Health officers outlined how the MHSTs and funding received for a four week wait pilot would aid families and reduce the waiting time for urgent services. Committee members asked for an update on progress at a future meeting which was reported to HOSC through the Chairman's report in February 2020.
- 6.18 **Mental Health (February 2020).** This item was developed in tandem with the Performance Scrutiny Committee to provide scrutiny of Council-specific issues and system-wide issues by the respective committees. A joint paper from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT) and the Council was presented to HOSC. HOSC members asked questions about the Mental Health Outcomes Based Contract between OHFT and Oxfordshire CCG (OCC contributes funding to this contract).

#### **Other items for 2019/20:**

- 6.19 The following items have also been considered at HOSC throughout 2019/20:
- Follow up of Muscular-Skeletal services Task and Finish Group recommendations
  - GP Appointments and GP Federations
  - Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report
  - Transition of Learning Disability Services

- Annual report from the Director of Public Health
- Health Inequalities Commission Implementation Group update report
- Managing the impact of winter on Oxfordshire's health system

## Forward Plan

6.20 During 2020-21, amongst other issues, the committee intends to scrutinise the following:

- Proposals for changes to health scrutiny arrangements
- COVID-19 update: including the impact on health services and health partners response to the outbreak.
- Winter Planning: Understanding learning from the 2019/20 Winter Plan and how that will inform preparations for winter 2020.
- PET-CT Scanning: an update on PET-CT (cancer) scanning services in the wider Thames Valley area.

## 7. HORTON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7.1 Following a referral to the Secretary of State over closure of obstetrics at the Horton General Hospital, it was determined in March 2018 that further action was required locally before a final decision could be made about the future of maternity services in Oxfordshire.

7.2 The Horton HOSC, formed in September 2018, holds all health scrutiny powers, specifically on the issue of consultant-led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital. It does not scrutinise any other health or wellbeing issues. This is a joint committee of nine non-executive voting members and one co-opted non-voting member. Having due regard to the patient flow for the Horton Hospital, the committee has eight members from Oxfordshire, one from Northamptonshire and one from Warwickshire.

7.3 Members are appointed to the committee from the respective local authorities and are reflective of the political balance accordingly. The Horton HOSC met three times in 2019/20 where it considered information on:

- Patient and public engagement
- Transport and travel
- Models of care in obstetric units with small birth numbers
- Financial analysis
- Option development (including scoring criteria and weighting of criteria)

7.4 On 19 September 2019 the committee was presented with a decision paper due for decision by the OCCG Board. The OCCG Board's recommendation was to maintain the closure of the Obstetric-Led Unit at the Horton, in favour of providing a Maternity-Led Unit at the Horton. The committee expressed

disappointment at the proposed decision and raised concerns about the detail of information available throughout the process.

- 7.5 As a result, the committee agreed to make a re-referral to the Secretary of State if the Board decided to proceed with the decision; the CCG Board did so on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.
- 7.6 The committee also agreed to continue to meet, and extend its terms of reference, to work with health partners and be able to hold them to account in the development and implementation of the positive vision for the future of the Horton General Hospital.

## **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 This report has outlined a comprehensive and robust programme of scrutiny which has been conducted through the Oxfordshire County Council scrutiny committees in 2019-20.



## Annex 1 – Scrutiny Committees

**This report covers the time period from April 2019 – March 2020 and the membership listed below corresponds to that time period**

### *Performance Scrutiny Committee:*

Cllr Liz Brighthouse OBE (Chairman)  
Cllr Jenny Hannaby (Deputy Chairman)  
Cllr Nick Carter  
Cllr Mike Fox-Davies  
Cllr Tony Illot  
Cllr Liz Leffman  
Cllr Charles Mathew  
Cllr Glynis Phillips  
Cllr Judy Roberts  
Cllr Michael Waine  
Cllr Liam Walker (until February 2020)  
Cllr Jeannette Matelot (from February 2020)

### *Joint Transformation Sub-Committee:*

Cllr Liz Brighthouse (Co-Chairman)  
Cllr Nick Carter (Co-Chairman)  
Cllr Paul Buckley  
Cllr Mike Fox-Davies  
Cllr Tony Illot  
Cllr Liz Leffman  
Cllr Charles Mathew  
Cllr Glynis Phillips

### *HOSC:*

Cllr Arash Fatemian (Chairman)  
Cllr Sean Gaul – Cherwell District Council (Deputy Chairman)  
Cllr Mark Cherry  
Cllr Mike Fox-Davies  
Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles  
Cllr Jeanette Matelot  
Cllr Laura Price  
Cllr Alison Rooke  
Cllr Paul Barrow – Vale of White Horse  
Cllr Nadine Bely-Summers – Oxford City Council  
Cllr David Bretherton – South Oxfordshire District Council  
Cllr Neil Owen – West Oxfordshire District Council  
Dr Alan Cohen (non-voting co-optee)  
Barbara Shaw (non-voting co-optee)  
Dr Keith Ruddle (non-voting co-optee) – until June 2019  
Anita Higham (non-voting co-optee) – September 2019 meeting only

### *Horton HOSC:*

Cllr Arash Fatemian (Chairman)  
Cllr Hannah Banfield  
Cllr Sean Gaul (District Councillor)  
Cllr Keiron Mallon  
Cllr Neil Owen (District Councillor)  
Cllr Wallace Redford (Warwickshire County Councillor)  
Cllr Alison Rooke  
Cllr Adil Sadygov (Northamptonshire County Councillor)  
Cllr Sean Woodcock (District Councillor)  
Dr Keith Ruddle – co-opted member

*Education Scrutiny Committee:*

Cllr Michael Waine (Chairman)  
Cllr John Howson (Deputy Chairman)  
Cllr Ted Fenton  
Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor  
Cllr Jeannette Matelot  
Cllr Gill Sanders  
Cllr Emma Turnbull  
Carole Thomson – Oxfordshire Governors Association (non-voting co-optee)  
Donald McEwan - Council of Oxfordshire Teachers' Organisation (non-voting co-optee) – from March 2019 onwards