

# JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 July 2022

## CHAIR'S UPDATE

### REPORT BY CLLR JANE HANNA, COMMITTEE CHAIR

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to**
  1. Note the report;
  2. Agree its response to Wantage Town Council

#### UPDATES

##### Annual Report

I was pleased that as a new approach the draft report was circulated to all members and to system partners for comment before being finalised. Thanks to all members of the committee who considered and fed back on the report which is attached.

##### First Thirty Days Recommendation

I presented the Committee Recommendation agreed at our June Committee (see [agreed letter](#) to Cllr Bearder from June) to the Cabinet and it was received positively. A written response is expected and the opportunity to speak to Cllr Bearder for feedback on this will be at our September meeting.

##### Visit to Wantage Hospital

The site visit planned to Wantage Hospital took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> June organised by Oxfordshire Health. In attendance were Committee members Cllr Jane Hanna, Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods, Councillor Paul Barrow and Jean Bradlow; Cllr Tim Bearder, cabinet member for Adult Social Care and officers Tom Hudson and Eddie Scott. Three members of the Wantage Health Committee attended: Cllr Jenny Hannaby (Chair); Julie Mabberley and Maggie Swain.

Dr Nick Broughton, CEO of Oxfordshire gave a welcome and presentations were given by Helen Shute and Dr Ben Riley and a site visit was conducted to showcase local pilots introduced.

The origin of the Wantage Hospital pilots is as part of the OX12 Project established in 2018 to develop a population-based approach to meeting the needs of the local area following the temporary closure of beds in July 2016. Members can find the report of the JHOSC OX12 Taskforce with recommendations [here](#).

In April 2021 the JHOSC agreed that the OX12 Project would be scrutinised as part of the new Oxfordshire Community Strategy which had previously been promised in 2016 and earlier, subject to agreed fail-safes.

The HOSC scrutinised this item in November 2021, March 2022 and has been promised a substantial strategy for 14<sup>th</sup> July.

HOSC members welcomed the opportunity to visit the hospital and hear the presentations from Oxfordshire Health and understand better the new pilots ahead of the JHOSC meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

During the visit amongst the information that the members gathered we learnt that a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed by OUH Foundation Trust and Oxfordshire Health with view to a single management structure; that the Community Strategy is to have a new name and structure.

HOSC members also learnt that the physiotherapy service at the Hospital had been stopped by the new provider who has been commissioned to take over the MSK Contract. The future of maternity was part of the presentation and during the site visit Oxfordshire Health welcomed the return of the maternity beds to the Hospital and indicated they would liaise with Oxfordshire University Hospital Trust about the temporary closure of these beds since last August.

The return of physiotherapy and maternity beds were both services that were reopened in 2021 as indicators of commitment to developing services at the hospital and members of the Wantage Health Committee and JHOSC were able to see the newly refurbished maternity bed units funded by the Hospital League of Friends during the site visit. At the time of the visit there were a large number of midwives operating a maternity administrative hub across the South of Oxfordshire; doing community visits but the bed units remained temporarily closed.

### **Correspondence with Ed Hammond, Deputy CEO of the Centre for Scrutiny and Governance and Letter to MPs**

Liaised with Ed Hammond who helped advise on my letter on behalf of the committee to MPs attached.

### **Virtual meeting with Jane MacBean, Chair of Buckinghamshire JHOSC.**

This was an informal meeting between Chairs to share information about the experience of engagement from the BOB. The discussion included the importance of using a hybrid system of meetings to mitigate the geographical and resource challenge for both councillors and officers and the importance of new processes interfacing closely with and supporting local JHOSC committees. Buckinghamshire County Council has also drawn all its members from its JHOSC committee.

### **Meetings with Public Health**

Jean Bradlow and myself met with Mark Lygo, Cabinet member for Health Equalities, and the Director of Public Health to discuss Covid recovery plans. It was agreed that the group would convene again in September with view to informing detailed work programme agenda items for Public Health.

Since that meeting the country is experiencing a new COVID wave. I have emailed the Director of Public Health in light of the new wave about vaccine planning, especially access to a fourth vaccination for formerly clinically shielded and other vulnerable groups (who are not included in the extreme immune suppressed vaccinations). I have requested information on local public health communications plans since the spring regarding the impact of rising infections on health and workforce and advice to the public.

### **Letter Sent Regarding Progress Update on Didcot Health Centre**

Letter attached.

### **Letter Received from Wantage Town Council**

I received the attached letter from Wantage Town Council on 05 July 2022. To date, no action has been taken as I wish the Committee to express its wishes on how to respond.