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Wantage Town Council

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5 July 2022

Councillor J Hanna
Chair of Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
County Hall,
New Road,
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Dear Cllr Hanna,

I have been asked to write to you by Councillor Hannaby, Chairman of the Town Council Health Sub-committee. Thank you for arranging the visit to Wantage Community Hospital on 23 June 2022 where she and other representatives of the Town Council's Health Sub-committee were able to meet with HOSC members and receive presentations from Senior Executives at OHT.

It would be appreciated if you could obtain more information about the pilots being performed in the Hospital including:

1. What pilots are planned and/or taking place?
2. What the objectives of each pilot are?
3. The timescales for each pilot
4. The metrics for each pilot, and
5. The expected outcomes of each pilot.

1. What pilots are planned and/or taking place?

In a presentation given to Wantage Town Council Health Subcommittee Members by Oxford Health NHS FT Execs on 15 December 2020, the potential pilots included:

- Frailty unit / Day Hospital / Rapid Access Care Unit E.g. similar to service at Thame CH
- First Aid Unit / Minor Injuries service (latter dependent on co-location with x-ray service)
- Specialist units – renal dialysis / chemotherapy suite
- Specialist nursing – infusions / IV meds / Blood gas analysis
- Diagnostics / x-ray services

None of these seem to be included in the list of pilots currently taking place, why is this?

How are the residents of OX12 (and the surrounding area) being given any voice in the pilot selection or range of services offered in Wantage Community Hospital?

2. What the objectives of each pilot are?

It is not clear what the objectives of each pilot are and how the achievement of the objectives will be measured?

3. The timescales for each pilot

No details have been provided about the planned length of each pilot, their start and completion dates or when any report on each pilot will be published.

4. The metrics for each pilot

No details have been provided about how each pilot will be measured (number of patients seen, number of appointments per patient, patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, consultant satisfaction, consultant feedback, ease of gaining appointments, ease of access to the hospital, etc.) or how the pilots will be compared.

5. The expected outcomes of each pilot

It is not clear what the expected outcomes of each pilot are and how they can be deemed to have been successful, or what they are being compared to?

The HOSC OX12 Task & Finish (T&F) Group presented a list of learning points to the Committee in 2021 and one of the points made was that 'Solutions were to be developed and tested for clinical soundness, deliverability, affordability and benefits to the community, using data from the three evidence-based arms. It was entirely opaque as to who would make these judgements, and on which criteria they would be based.' May I ask that the residents of OX12 and (in particular) Wantage Town Council Health Sub-committee be included in discussions about the benefits to the community of the pilots in Wantage Community Hospital.

In the survey conducted as part of the OX12 project, the main services that people wanted to see in the local area, or in Wantage Hospital, were:

- Physiotherapy
- A Minor Injury Unit
- X-Ray
- Respite/Rehabilitation
- Maternity
- End of Life Care

The reasons given for wanting these particular services were travel and transport, use of Wantage Hospital, demand on GP services, housing and population growth. The other key area raised related to NHS Dentistry services returning to the hospital.

There was disappointment to hear, during the visit, that the Maternity Unit will not be re-opening for births in the foreseeable future. There was also disappointment to find out that (after fighting to get MSK physiotherapy services back into the Hospital in 2019) the new provider will not be offering physiotherapy services in Wantage.

Once again the services in Wantage Community Hospital seem to be decreasing and it seems to be being used as an administration hub. This is not what our community wants or expect and they would like to be consulted when any services are reduced.

Yours sincerely



Bill Falkenau
Clerk to Wantage Town Council