Recommendations

1. The IRP considers that the Horton Hospital has an important role for the future in providing local hospital-based care to people in the north of Oxfordshire and surrounding areas. However, it will need to change to ensure its services remain appropriate, safe and sustainable.

2. The IRP does not support the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals (ORH) NHS Trust’s proposals to reconfigure services in paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology and the special care baby unit (SCBU) at Horton Hospital. The IRP does not consider that they will provide an accessible or improved service to the people of north Oxfordshire and surrounding areas.

3. The Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) should carry out further work with the ORH NHS Trust to set out the arrangements and investment necessary to retain and develop services at the Horton Hospital. Patients, the public and other stakeholders should be fully involved in this work. South Central SHA should ensure that a rigorous and timely process is followed.

4. The PCT must develop a clear vision for children’s and maternity services within an explicit strategy for services for north Oxfordshire as a whole.

5. The ORH must do more to develop clinically integrated practice across the Horton, John Radcliffe and Churchill sites as well as developing wider clinical networks with other hospitals, primary care and the independent sector.

6. Within one month of the publication of this report, the PCT should publish a plan including a timeline for taking forward the work proposed in these recommendations.