

The Better Healthcare Programme

for Banbury and surrounding areas



Newsletter

Issue 17

October 2009

Welcome to the October newsletter. This is an update on the future plans for the Horton General Hospital; we hope you find it informative and interesting. Through this newsletter we hope to keep all stakeholders[†] updated on progress on a regular basis. On the PCT website you will find more information including Programme Board papers, copies of the reports published by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the PCT and previous issues of this newsletter.

Innovation into Reality

On October 13 2009 the Better Healthcare Programme Board met in public to consider proposals on the emerging models for Horton General Hospital services. At the meeting there was an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about these proposals.

The meeting heard that the PCT was committed to the Horton General Hospital retaining its role as the focal point for local health services and that the hospital will continue to deliver key acute services: paediatrics, maternity, emergency department, general surgery & trauma. The PCT also outlined how the Horton General Hospital could develop to act as a base for delivering some community services, i.e. paediatric nursing and as a resource for NHS research.

Emerging Models

The Better Healthcare Programme was charged with finding alternatives to the original Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals proposal for service changes. These alternatives were presented on the 13 October 2009 and are detailed below:

Paediatric and Maternity Services

Proposal: consultant delivered services for both paediatrics and maternity with doctors working across the John Radcliffe and Horton sites.

The longer term will see more children being cared for in their homes as the evidence shows that children recover quicker at home and the possible development of a larger maternity unit.

The Emergency Department,

Proposal: improved integration between the Emergency Department, GP out-of-hours service and GP-led health centre to ensure patients see the best person to help them.

General Surgery and Trauma Services

The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust is undertaking a review of General Surgery and Trauma services. The findings from this review will feed into the Better Healthcare Programme and inform decisions on how best to support the sustainability of these services at the Horton. Initial proposals include:

- Increasing the amount of general surgery carried out at the Horton.
- Increasing capacity for trauma services at the Horton.
- Making posts at the Horton more attractive
- Clarifying the rules for the transfer of patients
- Defining the support required from the John Radcliffe, particularly at night.

Assessing if the models meet the IRP recommendations

The Better Healthcare Programme Board will meet again on 17 November 2009 to assess the models using the following criteria: quality, accessibility and affordability.

The Programme Board will then make its recommendations to the PCT Board which meets on 26 November 2009.

Next Steps

On 5 November 2009, in Banbury, the Better Healthcare Programme will bring together a wide group of people and organisations to help with planning for implementation of these proposals.

Those attending the event will include members of the public, local GPs, Horton staff and staff from the John Radcliffe.

The aim will be to build on the emerging models for the short, medium and long-term, looking at how each service will operate and how patients will use these services.

There will also be a focus on how people should be involved and engaged as the programme moves towards implementation.

IRP Visit

The Independent Reconfiguration Panel will be visiting Oxford on the 4 November 2009 to be updated on the key achievements and challenges of the work of the programme.

The meeting will be chaired by the Strategic Health Authority and will include presentations from the Community Partnership Forum, the PCT, and the ORH.

Important Dates for the Diary

Independent Reconfiguration Panel Visit

4 November 2009 at Oxfordshire PCT. This meeting will not be held in public

Community Partnership Forum

The next meeting is on 10 November 2009, 1000 -1200, River Cherwell Room, Bodicote House and will be held in public.

The meeting will discuss the October Better Healthcare Programme Board and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel visit. There will be discussion around how the Community Partnership Forum can support the work to engage with the public on the proposals for the Horton General's future.

Better Healthcare Programme Board

The next meeting is 17 November 2009, 1000-1200, The Council Chambers, Bodicote House and will be held in public

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 November 2009, Oxfordshire County Council.

PCT Board

Next meeting is on 26 November 2009, the Council Chambers, Bodicote House. The meeting will be held in public and the Better Healthcare Programme will present their final report on the services to be commissioned at the Horton.

Contact us: If you would like further information or have any questions about the information in this newsletter please contact, Rachel Jeacock.

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† This newsletter is distributed to the following stakeholders: Local NHS staff, local GPs, Pharmacies, Dentists, Opticians, local Schools, Parish Councillors, local MPs, local NHS trusts (including the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust), neighbouring PCTs, Banbury Town Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire local authorities, the Local Practice Based Commissioning Consortia, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, South Central Strategic Health Authority, Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, patients and public in the Banbury locality – including the interim LINKs organisation (Local Involvement Networks), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.

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