Welcome to the first issue of the Bicester Hospital and Community Services Project Newsletter, which we hope you will find informative and interesting. By means of this newsletter, we hope to keep all stakeholders* updated on progress on a regular basis—look out for the next issue in March 2008.

As you may be aware the future of community healthcare in Bicester has been under discussion for a number of years. We understand that this lengthy process has led to uncertainty within the local community concerning the type of facility which will replace the existing hospital, and the extent of services which will be provided.

The local NHS (North East Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust) did a great deal of work to develop an outline business case for redeveloping Bicester Hospital and the health services provided locally. This resulted in the development of an outline business case which was agreed by the then North Oxfordshire PCT Partnership Board. It also carried out a significant consultation with the local community.

The progress of this work was slowed by the reorganisation of local NHS bodies but the new Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust is now reviewing and refreshing the outline business case with the aim of taking it to the PCT Board in Spring 2008.

The work now taking place is building on the previous work that was done. The PCT is addressing some outstanding issues such as the number of beds required and (cont.)

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Public and staff engagement event

The PCT is holding a two day public and staff engagement event on Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 February 2008 at the Littlebury Hotel in Bicester.

Monday 11 February
1pm—6.30pm: this session will be for staff working in the Bicester area e.g. district nurses, health visitors, therapists, staff at the hospital and GP practices and staff from Community and Social Services. Any other PCT staff who are interested are also welcome to attend the session.

7.30pm—8.30pm: this session is for invited stakeholders e.g. Town Councillors, local MP, Senior Partners from the local GP practices, senior managers from other NHS organisations and the Patient and Public Involvement Forum

Tuesday 12 February
8.30am –9.30am: a briefing session for the local media.

10.30am—8pm: an open session for the public, this includes representatives from voluntary organisations.

This is your chance to find how our plans are developing and to ask questions and share your comments.
Cont.
where these may be located in relation to the primary care centre facilities, the site of the primary care centre and exploring the factors that are important to local people about these issues.

The PCT wants to update local people on the future of Bicester Hospital and open up discussion on a replacement facility. As part of this process the PCT wants to involve stakeholders in the process leading up to the development of the new primary care centre.

A project team which includes clinicians and managers from the PCT and Social and Community Services, a GP and representatives from other organisations such as Bicester Town Council and Cherwell District Council is leading this review.

Contact us...
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† This newsletter is distributed to the following stakeholders: PCT staff, local MPs, local NHS trusts, Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council, 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 Bicester locality – including the Patient and Public Involvement Forum (and the successor organisation – LINks – Local Involvement Networks), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.

Receive your newsletter by email
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