Welcome to the third issue of the Bicester Hospital and Community Services Project Newsletter. 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 September 2008.

Current progress

Following the PCT Board’s agreement of the Outline Business Case, which was an updated version of the previous work, the project group met again in May, June and July.

The PCT has agreed that existing services will be re-provided, including any existing plans for development by the PCT or by the local North East Oxfordshire Practice Based Commissioning Consortia. Other potential, or unplanned services will not be initially included but the process will require flexibility of design, and the potential to expand or reduce elements of services in the future, alongside changing health needs.

A sub-group has been formed to look at the procurement process. This is the method the NHS uses to find a developer or provider to build the new building and provide the bedded unit. The first task is to advertise so that everyone who may be interested can apply. This requires the writing of quite a complicated document that describes all the services and what is needed for the future. When this document is ready, an advertisement goes out throughout Europe and then the PCT can start working with several interested parties, leading to the award of a contract or contracts for the new services and buildings. This may take several months and the sub-group will work closely with the applicants during this time.

We had hoped that the Community Forum would be in place by now but there have been some delays to this. However, we are now hoping to meet with interested people in early September and will be sending out details of this soon. This Forum, made up of local people, mainly those who can represent local interest groups, will work with the sub-group throughout the procurement process and will be involved in all stages, to advise the PCT as things develop.

The Community Forum meeting is being planned for Thursday 4 September, in the evening. If you would like to find out more about the forum please contact Ellie Domm, ellie.domm@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk or Tel: 01865 337083.
If you would like further information or have any questions about the information in this newsletter please contact:

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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 interim LINks organisation (Local Involvement Networks), relevant community and voluntary groups and the media.

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