

## **Notes of the Cogges Surgery Reference group meeting, held on 7 August 2018**

### **Attendees:**

- Cllr Jeanette Baker
- Eight patients from Cogges Surgery
- 2 Patients from the Cogges Patient participation group (PPG)
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- Representative from Windrush PPG and Governor at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Chris Wilkinson, Practice Manager at Cogges Surgery
- Representative from Nuffield PPG and Chair of West Oxfordshire Locality Forum (PPPWO)
- Representative from Eynsham PPG, member of PPPWO, Member of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Patient at Cogges and representative from West Oxfordshire District Council
- Representative from the Deer Park campaign group and patient of Cogges
- CEO of Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- Julie Dandridge (Head of Primary Care, OCCG)
- Diane Hedges (Director of Localities, OCCG)
- Julia Stackhouse (Communications and engagement, OCCG)

### **Introduction**

Diane Hedges welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to come.

Julie Dandridge provided a brief update on the current situation. The key points highlighted were:

- Cogges partners have handed back their contract to provide GP services.
- Services continue to be provided at Cogges as business as usual until the end of January.
- The GPs and Staff at Cogges are very keen to ensure continuity of service for patients during this time and encouraging patients to remain with the practice while an alternative solution is explored.
- The CCG has a responsibility to ensure that the patients of Cogges have access to primary care services after January 2019.

- The CCG is keen to explore a local solution with the other practices in Witney and/or the surrounding area.

Chris Wilkinson provided a further update on the reasons why the Partners had handed in their contract and highlighted the following reasons:

- Impact on the existing partners around their public liability of running the business
- Inability to recruit new partners to the business
- Change to national funding and the impact on small GP businesses
- GP partnerships are no longer an attractive option for new GPs, many prefer to salaried or locums
- The current Cogges Building is owned and mortgaged by the 2 remaining partners and 2 GPs that have already left the partnership. The future intent for the building is currently unknown.

There was a lengthy discussion amongst the members of the group. The key points were raised as important areas for consideration by OCCG in finding a solution:

- The need to consider transport and accessibility
- Importance to try and retain the staff currently working at Cogges Surgery
- Importance of continuity of care
- The need to communicate with the patients of Cogges, the options available to them and impact
- People want to see a familiar doctor
- Need to think about the current staff – concern what the current GP Partners will do next
- How will people get their prescriptions – its useful to be next to a pharmacy
- Concern that the other practices can't cope with the additional patients from Cogges, in addition to those already transferred from Deer Park
- Impact on waiting times at Windrush and Nuffield

Julie Dandridge provided some examples of potential solutions:

- Merger with another surgery in Witney – keeping the Cogges Building (if the current owners agree)
- Merger with another surgery in Witney – without the use of the Cogges Building
- Interim arrangement with a provider – whilst procuring a new longer term provider
- Merger with another practice within Oxfordshire
- Procurement process to find a new provider

It was also suggested whether the CCG would consider a single handed practice model, but given the challenges that had faced Cogges, this would not be a model the CCG would support. Another suggestion was to have a community practice, again this could be

considered if there were any GPs wishing to pursue this model – but to date nobody has come forward. There are national rules on who can hold a contract.

There was a further discussion about these options which highlighted that there are some things that are not within the gift of the CCG to control or influence. These are:

- The current Cogges Building. It is owned by the 2 existing partners of Cogges and 2 retired Partners. They may decide to sell the building.
- GPs and Staff at Cogges, may decide that they want to find alternative employment
- The business models of the other practices in Witney, could impact on whether the Cogges site would be retained

There were other concerns raised relating to the increased housing coming to the area and the long term vision for primary care. Whilst this remains a long term priority for the CCG, working closely with West Oxfordshire District Council, the CCG is keen to focus on finding a solution for patients of Cogges Surgery in the first instance.

**Diane summarised the points raised and agreed the following actions from the meeting:**

- 1. A letter to all patients registered with Cogges Surgery, to:**
  - i. Give reassurance**
  - ii. Explain their options**
  - iii. To provide people with opportunity to say what is important to them**
- 2. Letter with be sense checked for plain English with Healthwatch and 1 or 2 other volunteers from this group**
- 3. Commitment that the letter will be sent to all patients by 17 August**
- 4. Provide the key milestones/steps that the CCG needs to undertake over the next 6 months – this will be shared with this reference group**
- 5. Cllr Jeanette Baker would share the workshop findings from the Cogges and Newlands Community Association meeting with the CCG.**

**AOB**

- Had there been a drop in patients at Cogges since the ‘car park’ meeting – CW advised only 9 patients had left and that they were encouraging patients to stay with the practice.

- Concern that Windrush had closed its patient list to patients of Cogges. MR advised that they had tried to do this, but the CCG had not allowed it, as it would breach patient choice. Windrush had tried to do this to discourage Cogges patients from leaving their own surgery
- Would the CCG complete a risk assessment for the options – Yes, this would be part of any process.
- Could the CCG outline its contingency plans – Diane agreed that these would be developed and that the CCG had learnt a lot from the Deer Park experience.