

Future of Wantage Community Hospital

The motion presented was agreed unanimously by the council at its extraordinary meeting on Friday 12 January 2024 after being proposed by Cllr Andrew Crawford and seconded by the Mayor of Wantage, Cllr, Dr, Angela Dunford.

The Council notes that the co-production exercise has determined that:-

1. On average 1361 OX12 residents per year currently access the Minor Injuries Units elsewhere in the County – predominantly in Abingdon. It's estimated that this will grow to 1745 visits per year with the forecast population growth.
2. Approximately 60 OX12 residents through the year are placed in In-patient Community Hospital beds elsewhere in the County (5 per month with a 34 day average stay). This number is not expected to grow due to the changes in alternative health and care pathways.
3. Currently, 1445 OX12 residents per year have used the ophthalmology outpatient appointments pilot at Wantage Community Hospital. The ICB have indicated that approximately 21,168 OX12 residents per year would benefit from expanded outpatient services if additional clinic space was made available (30,240 visits in total).
4. Within the hospital building there is insufficient space to provide more than one of the options of inpatient beds or expanded outpatient clinic offering.
5. The capital cost of providing a MIU in Wantage would be in excess of £3 million given the need for it to include comprehensive X Ray facilities to be fully viable.

Given the above the Council is minded to support the recommendations of the co-produced report. Namely the permanent retention of existing outpatient pilot clinics and additional outpatient services which would be facilitated by accessing approximately £600,000 of CIL funding to carry out necessary refurbishments and other capital expenditure.

In agreeing to the above the Council also:

1. Welcomes the commitment by the ICB to bring forward plans to source palliative care beds in the local community but also will continue, through discussions with Health partners including OCC Social Services, to seek ways by which early discharge and inpatient rehabilitation can be provided locally – for example within local nursing home settings.
2. Appreciates the engagement with health partners so far and wishes to continue this to identify means by which services provided by a Minor Injuries Unit or First Aid Unit could be sourced locally. For example, we note that GP led Urgent Treatment Centres are provided in some communities and would, inter alia, wish to explore if this is a facility that could be provided at Mably Way.

Change history

Line 11, Bullet 3, changed 'people' to 'visits' for clarity, 15 Jan 2024, A Dunford

Line 23, Bullet 1 added 'to' before seek, 15 Jan 2024, A Dunford