

DRAFT
Horton Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25 February 2019

Title of Paper: Update on Workstream 1: Engagement

Purpose: To provide an update on the Engagement Workstream, particularly focussed on:

- Survey for women who have used maternity services since the temporary closure of obstetrics at the Horton General Hospital.
- Stakeholder events planned for February and June

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Introduction

The purpose of the Engagement Workstream is

- To ensure that the programme of work to address the requirements as set out by the Secretary of State is undertaken with stakeholders in an open and transparent way
- To seek feedback from mothers and families in Oxfordshire and the bordering areas in the north of the county who have given birth since the temporary closure of the Horton obstetric unit on 1 October 2016.

Information being used in the programme is being shared on the OCCG website. A new section was set up at the start of the programme and is accessible with one click from the OCCG home page. A link is provided to an archive page with material, documents and reports used previously to ensure all stakeholders and members of the public can access information they need easily.

The two main areas of work currently being addressed within this workstream are the survey and focus groups and the stakeholder events.

Survey and focus groups

A survey is planned to help us understand the experience of women who have used maternity services since the temporary closure of the obstetric service at the Horton General Hospital. The survey will gather information from women in the following groups:

- Women in Oxfordshire who give birth in Oxfordshire
- Women who live in Oxfordshire who give birth outside Oxfordshire
- Women who live outside Oxfordshire who give birth in Oxfordshire
- Women who live outside Oxfordshire, in the catchment area of the Horton, and give birth at an obstetric unit outside Oxfordshire

It is estimated that approximately 16,000 women will be invited to participate in the survey.

A working group was established to oversee this work with representation from the Horton HOSC, the Keep the Horton General campaign group, Oxford University Hospitals and OCCG. A procurement process was followed to appoint a company with sufficient experience and expertise to design and conduct the survey and focus groups. Two organisations were shortlisted and Pragma was selected.

The survey questions have been developed using feedback from the group. Drafts of the survey have been shared with the group and the comments, suggested changes and general feedback has been used in refining the final version of the survey.

The survey questions are designed to encourage women and their partners to share their experience about using services, what worked well, what could be improved and how they may have been impacted by changes. The key issues of travel, transport and distance all feature highly in the survey as well as feedback on choices.

The survey is being tested before launching which is planned for 25 February 2019.

The survey will be hosted by Pragma and all responses will be anonymous.

To ensure confidentiality, the invitation letter will be sent to women from NHS organisations rather than Pragma

In addition to letters being sent directly to women, publicity through the local media and social media is planned.

It is important to gather experience from as many women as possible. It is also important that the sample of women who complete the survey are representative of the population in terms of where they live, their age, ethnicity and other demographic factors. We will monitor the responses as they arrive to ensure we address any further publicity correctly to encourage those under-represented to participate.

Within the survey, women will be asked if they would be prepared to share their experience in more detail by attending a focus group or participating in a one-to-one interview. This will help to explore some issues in more depth.

The results of the survey will be analysed and a report produced that will be published.

Engagement Events

Two events are being organised to engage wider stakeholders in the work of the programme. These events will be facilitated by independent external professionals who will also write up reports on each.

The first event will take place on 22 February 2019. This event will consider information including evidence and data relevant to the criteria. All information will be published in advance of the event and most it is being presented to the Joint HOSC on 28 February 2019. Participants will then focus on considering the criteria to be used for assessing options and deciding on a weighting to apply.

The process for weighting the criteria will involve each participant scoring each criterion depending on how important they believe it to be. The scores will be collected and will be used to finalise the scores for each option.

The second stakeholder event will take place in June to consider the outcome of the option appraisal.

At the second workshop the scores will be shared and participants will have an opportunity to reflect on the results. More details for the content of this workshop will be made available nearer the time.

Stakeholders

The stakeholders for this work are identified in the Engagement Plan previously discussed and agreed with HOSC. Invitations to the stakeholder events were drawn up from the full list illustrated in the table below.

Members of the new Joint OSC
Members of the local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherwell District Council • Stratford on Avon District Council • South Northamptonshire District Council • West Oxfordshire District Council • Warwickshire County Council • Northamptonshire County Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Banbury Town Council
Local MPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Prentis MP for Banbury • Andrea Leadsom MP for south Northamptonshire • Nadhim Zahawi MP for Stratford-on-Avon • Robert Courts MP for Witney • Chris Heaton Harris MP for Daventry
Members of the Community Partnership Network
Keep the Horton General campaign group (KTHG)
Healthwatch Oxfordshire Healthwatch Northamptonshire Healthwatch Warwickshire
Groups that support women and families during pregnancy and childbirth including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCT • La Leche League • Maternity Voices • Banbury Sunshine Centre
GPs in north Oxfordshire, south Northamptonshire and south Warwickshire
NHS organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nene CCG (Northamptonshire) • South Warwickshire CCG • Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) • South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust • Northampton General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust • South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust • East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Professional bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Medical Committees • Royal College of Obstetricians • Thames Valley Clinical Network
Staff working in maternity services in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire