

## Public Health Overview and Scrutiny committee

### Committee update October 2007

#### 1. Primary care trust

On 20<sup>th</sup> September the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust met with members of the committee to present their future strategy 'Getting healthcare right for the future'. The key message from the PCT is to deliver appropriate services in the right setting within the financial means granted to Buckinghamshire.

The vision presented to the committee is outline in the chart below.

#### Current

- Perceived limited access to care outside of GP regular opening hours
- Limited range of services in primary care
- Lack of consistency in referral practices
- Most elective and non elective activity taking place in the acute setting
- Higher proportion of resources spent on hospital care resulting less investment in preventative services

#### Future

- Improved access to primary care services through urgent care centres
- Expanded range of services in the community including diagnostics (X ray, ultrasound, blood tests)
- Clear and consistent protocols for referral to specialists
- High quality care in the community significantly reducing need for hospital admission and improving health outcomes and improving value for money
- Shift of healthcare spend from hospitals to out of hospital care focused on prevention to improve health of population

The committee welcomed the overall strategy but were keen to see the outline strategy 'fleshed out', with more detail around each work stream with timings included. Members also asked to understand how the PCT were to communicate their plans with the public and requested that they would receive more detail on the progress of these plans at the December 7<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

A letter of response (see below) was sent to the trust following the meeting.

Dear Janet

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Public Health Overview and Scrutiny committee for coming to talk to us about the PCTs strategy 'Getting Healthcare right for the future'. The overall strategy was well received by members of the committee and it is encouraging to see the foundations of a clear route forward. The committee is of course aware that to achieve increased productivity, reduce costs and deliver appropriate services in the right setting, may not be without difficulties. Therefore the OSC is keen to remain an involved stakeholder in the development of the process.

As a next step I would like the committee to be provided with more detailed plans with timelines around each of the work streams. Additionally it would be helpful to see a communications plan and how you intend to involve key stakeholders in the development of the strategy.

As we agreed yesterday, the committee will look forward to hearing of your progress at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSC.

Kind regards



## 2. Ambulance trust

The committee has been informed of Ambulance trust plans to relocate their call centre, currently at Deanshanger near Milton Keynes to a location near Bicester.

The trusts recommendation is outlined below:

It is recommended that the Board adopts a Three Call Centre strategy comprising of a re-located Hampshire Call Centre; the continued provision of the Berkshire Call Centre at Wokingham; and **a new combined Call Centre for Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire which also provide a Headquarters facility for the corporate functions of the Trust.**

Oxford and Buckinghamshire Control Centres – the Trust has a single division covering these two counties and therefore in order to bring operational efficiency there is a need to provide a single Call Centre and Divisional Headquarters. Subject to the Boards acceptance of this approach, further work will be undertaken to explore potential property options for the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Call Centre. Suitable accommodation will be primarily sought in the Bicester area, which has good road network and provides a mid point between the two existing Control Rooms which will provide the best option for retaining existing workforce skills and experience. Additionally the premises currently occupied at Oxford are not fit for purpose and the Deanshanger Call Centre is located in Northamptonshire and outside SCAS area of operation.

OSC response:

This issue has previously been discussed both at committee and at trust liaison meetings. It is not considered that the move would have a significant impact on the public or represent a substantial variation to the delivery of services and therefore there is not a requirement for public consultation. OSC has requested that the trust keep them informed of progress.