

Cherwell District Council

Executive

7 April 2014

Horton General Hospital Update

Report of Director of Community and Environment

This report is public

Purpose of report

To provide the latest position to Members on service changes at the Horton General Hospital

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended

- 1.1 To note the report.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council has been informed previously of changes to services at the Horton General Hospital as a consequence of clinical, technological and financial changes. These are varied in nature and have on one occasion been implemented for a number of reasons at short notice. As a consequence, there has been some local concern expressed. This report is intended to provide the latest information from the Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT) on the most recent service changes.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 As part of the OUHT's vision for a strong future for the Horton, a number of outpatient and day surgery services are being relocated to the Horton for patients in the north of the county. The aim is to increase the number of patients who are treated locally where this is clinically appropriate and to reduce the number of patient journeys to Oxford. In order to enable this to happen, some building works will also happen.

3.2 Ultrasound Department

Work has begun on a major refurbishment of the Ultrasound Department at the Horton. The upgrade, which is costing £769,000, will take about six months to complete, and will provide:

The benefits of the scheme are:

- Dedicated waiting facilities for ultrasound outpatients and inpatients – no more waiting in hospital corridors
- Relocation of existing ultrasound rooms closer to new waiting areas
- Increased size of ultrasound rooms, enabling inpatient access (on beds) to both rooms
- Improved patient ultrasound facilities
- Improved reception area better suited to the needs of patients in wheelchairs

Although corridors will remain open, there will be some disruption while the work is completed. Radiology reception, appointments, two secretarial rooms, two radiologist offices and two ultrasound rooms will be relocated within the department for the duration of the project.

3.3 A dedicated children's outpatients at the Horton

The Trust is planning to provide a dedicated children's out-patient facility in the former general management offices. As well as being a much better provision for child patients, this will enable more clinic space to be available for both child and adult outpatients and will allow more services to be moved to the Horton. Work has now started on the new outpatients' area.

3.4 General outpatients

There are also plans to refurbish and redesign the reception area of the main Horton outpatients department. Ultimately, this and the movement of all children's outpatients' appointments will enable the provision of more adult outpatient clinics.

3.5 Paediatric ENT

Paediatric day-case ear nose and throat surgery has been re-introduced to the Horton. Sessions are now run the first, third and fifth Tuesday mornings of the month, with a Saturday pre-operative audiological assessment. This service is to cope with increased demand for ENT services in the Banbury and north Oxfordshire area. Patients will be able to ask their GP to be referred to the Horton. The Trust already provided adult outpatient and aural care services at Banbury. The new service is providing a consultant ENT surgeon, working every Tuesday at the Horton, covering clinic and theatres. The previous weekend audiology service in the Horton has been expanded to accommodate the pre-operative audiological testing.

3.6 Paediatric Rapid Access Clinic

A rapid access paediatric clinic aimed at bringing down waiting times was launched at the Horton from 13 March. GPs will be able to refer urgent cases, who they do not think should wait for a normal clinic appointment, to a new clinic to be run on Thursday afternoons. The clinic will initially be fortnightly, but from April will operate every week.

The clinic, run by an experienced paediatrician, will include urgent referrals of paediatric patients from GPs, as well as follow-up of patients who were admitted to the ward.

3.7 Improvements to the Cardiac Rehabilitation Service for patients and impact on use of the gym

The Trust has recently reviewed its Cardiac Rehabilitation Service in order to ensure that an equitable service is being offered across the Trust, and that staff and resources are utilised for the benefit of our patient programmes (Phases I-III).

The service at the Horton is being refocused to offer a 5 day week service for patients still under the care of the hospital. This will now include a Wednesday evening exercise and education class in the gym to allow patients (phase I-III) who have returned to work, following their cardiac event, the opportunity to attend the programme. This is an additional session not previously available to patients from the Banbury area. Those former patients who have progressed to phase IV will be able to progress at Spiceball Leisure Centre

3.8 Emergency Abdominal Surgical Services in Oxfordshire

On 24 February 2014, Oxfordshire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) agreed that the suspension of emergency abdominal surgical services at the Horton General Hospital and the consequent transferral of the service to the John Radcliffe Hospital could become permanent. The OUHT and the OCCG took a paper to HOSC presenting the view that this would provide a safer service for patients and explaining the work that had been done on public engagement on this issue.

This followed a temporary suspension that was announced in January 2013 after some unexpected changes in medical staffing personnel at the Horton meant there were no longer sufficient numbers of consultants available to staff a rota for emergency abdominal surgery.

The service for patients from north Oxfordshire is now provided at the John Radcliffe Hospital as it is for patients across the rest of the county.

Since the suspension of the service in January 2013, there have been regular audits and meetings with GPs and other key stakeholders. Many changes have been implemented to improve the service for Banbury residents. There is a daily (Monday to Friday) Consultant led Urgent Surgical Assessment Clinic (currently one hour a day but there are proposals to increase this to four hours a day) and an abscess pathway has been set up so that patients requiring minor incisions and drainages of abscesses can be treated in Banbury.

In order to ensure that only patients who need to be admitted are referred to Oxford, the OUH will be significantly enhancing the Consultant led assessment of surgical patients in Banbury, and this will be supported by increased access to emergency scans for these patients at the Horton General Hospital.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The above reflects the most recent information from the OUHT regarding service developments at the Horton General Hospital.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 None

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 None directly for the Council

Comments checked by:

Martin Henry, Director of Resources, 0300 0030 0102,
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Legal Implications

7.2 None directly for the Council

Comments checked by:

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Risk Implications

7.3 None directly for the Council

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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision - No

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

Most wards

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

The health and wellbeing of local people

Lead Councillors

Councillor George Reynolds, Deputy Leader

Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Banbury Brighter Futures and the Council's representative on the Community Partnership Network

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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