

Trust Board

TB2008.51

From: Mr Andrew Stevens, Director of Planning & Information
Date: July 2008
Subject: **Horton Hospital - interim plans for children's and maternity services**
For: **Decision**

Synopsis

Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) has established "the Better Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas" to take forward the recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, which were endorsed by the Secretary of State, in relation to proposed service changes at the Horton Hospital. As part of Phase I of this work, the Trust has been tasked with the development of interim plans for sustaining those services at the Horton Hospital that were the subject of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's report.

In line with the project plan set by the PCT, interim plans were submitted to the PCT by the end of June 2008. These plans have been drawn up following workshops and discussions with key staff at the Horton and at the John Radcliffe. They have also been shared with the PCT and local GPs. The main elements of the plans are summarised below:

Children's services

- Maintain current staffing arrangements, supplemented by additional staff grade doctors and consultants. Move to a hybrid rota of staff grades, consultants and locum consultants if middle grade doctors with sufficient experience cannot be found to staff the out of hours rota.

Maternity services

- Seek to retain training recognition for middle grade doctors, increase supervision and promote integration by appointing an additional consultant.
- Provide additional anaesthetic support by creating a formal second on call rota.
- Move to a hybrid rota of staff grades, clinical fellows, consultants and locum consultants if training recognition is lost and middle grade doctors with sufficient experience cannot be found to staff the service.

The full year cost of these proposals is £1.3m. It is proposed that the additional costs represented by these proposals are shared on an equal basis between the PCT and the Trust.

The purpose of these proposals is to stabilise the relevant services while the subsequent phases of “the Better Healthcare Programme” planning work are carried out. Implementation of the proposals will be closely monitored and the plans will be revised to reflect any change in circumstances.

The Trust Board is asked to approve the interim plans.

Financial, legal and risk impact

The interim plans do represent an additional cost pressure to the Trust. These additional pressures will need to be managed as part of the Trust’s overall financial management. The interim plans are designed to address the clinical governance concerns which gave rise to the Trust’s original proposals. The relevant risks and the effectiveness with which the interim plans address these will be closely monitored through the Trust’s clinical governance and risk management processes. Appropriate engagement of external stakeholders will be secured through the engagement plan, which forms part of “the Better Healthcare Programme”, and through the Trust’s established communication and engagement mechanisms.