

Speaking to OCC on 21/03/17 re OCC Response to phase 1 consultation

Sustainability and Transformation Plan Footprints are designed to DEFUND the NHS by a further £30 Billion (20% of revenue) and add destaffing and a total lack of workforce planning.

The BOB STP has the task of removing £600 million. The Oxfordshire Transformation Programme (OTP) is the first part of this process and the Phase 1 consultation demonstrates the priority attached to protecting the interests of the largest and most powerful NHS trust - OUHT - with a masterplan that would effectively make it into some kind of super-trust, while marginalising the rest of the NHS in Oxfordshire.

Trusts concentrate their assets for their financial safety, not for the safety of the people of Oxfordshire, as they claim. To provide the services to be switched from hospitals, Transformation plans will place an additional 30% reliance on GPs, Community services and Social care, all of which are in crisis. Unpaid care by family and friends now involve 1 in 8 of the population and in Oxfordshire there were 800 vacancies for paid carers, even before the market failures of so many care agencies whose carers have been sacked. Social Care has never been of more critical importance.

The Transformation Programme will introduce Skill Mix; there will be 'generic support workers', reduction in nursing grades, the use of healthcare assistants and Physician Associates to save £34.2 million. (Reading Council published the appendices of the OTP this month) and the BMA published research at the same time highlighting an increased risk of death among the frail and vulnerable by a third, with such a dilution of nursing and other skills.

Cynically, and no doubt fearing chaos, on March 3rd, Simon Stevens instructed that there should be no bed closures until alternatives are put in place. Those alternatives do not exist in Oxfordshire, are not being consulted on until phase 2 starts in June or later and will not exist, for a prolonged period, without major funding, planned recruitment and training.

The attempt to halt phase 1 of the consultation and take phases 1 and 2 together as they are inter-dependant has not succeeded up to now but is still objectively necessary. OCC should adopt the Leadership Team report and reject these damaging OTP plans, demanding that the Government of the fifth richest nation on earth restore funding to Local Authorities and the NHS in order to fully integrate Health and Social Care. Without that there will be tragedies and rising death rates for the people of Oxfordshire.

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Chair Oxfordshire Keep Our NHS Public

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