



## DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

### NEWSLETTER 2018 Vol 1

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#### VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Apologies for the delay since the last newsletter; I've been waiting for things to settle down long enough to produce something that wouldn't be out of date almost immediately.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (**OCCG**) Board passed all five proposals in the Sustainability and Transformation Programme Phase 1 (STP1) in August 2017, despite significant opposition from patient groups, voluntary organisations, MPs, etc. As Chair of the South West Oxfordshire Locality Forum (**SWOLF**) of PPGs, I had raised with OCCG concerns from our PPGs. Following a judicial review application, and referral to the Secretary of State and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel, Phase 1 decisions are now on hold.

In addition, a 2017 Care Quality Commission **Local System Review** emphasised that much healthcare in Oxfordshire is excellent, but health and social care 'system leaders' need to break down organisational barriers, and work in a more integrated way to improve care for residents and patients in Oxfordshire.

OCCG has a **new Clinical Chair**, Dr Kiren Collison, and a **new Chief Executive**, Louise Patten. They have now announced a new approach to health services development, and they plan to work with

the six localities to understand needs, resources and facilities, and to work with patients, the public, clinicians, elected representatives, voluntary organisations, etc., to plan integrated health and care services for the future.

SWOLF has also been involved in developing the **South West Locality Place Based Plan for Primary Care**, working with local clinicians and managers. OCCG is preparing a public version, and I have submitted ideas and feedback from PPGs, as we want the plans to be clearer on what the benefits will be for patients. [www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/locality-plans.htm](http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/locality-plans.htm)

The challenges for the NHS and social care in Oxfordshire haven't gone away, and it's still vital that PPG Committee members can present patients' views accurately to healthcare leaders. If joining the PPG Committee isn't for you, you can still opt to join the Active Members group, and receive updates on Health and Social Care matters.



*Shelagh Garvey, Chair of PPG Committee*

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**DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE PPG AGM**  
**27<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 7.30 PM, IN DIDCOT HEALTH CENTRE.**

**COME AND HEAR DR DAVID STAINTHORP SPEAK ON FUTURE CHANGES AT THE HEALTH CENTRE, AND HEAR WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HEALTHCARE IN OUR AREA**

## ARE YOU A 'HEALTHCARE GOOGLER'?

The Care Quality Commission warns that over 40% of online healthcare services in England, such as those offering online GP consultations and prescriptions, via websites and apps, are not providing safe care.

Since November 2016, CQC have inspected every company providing these services, and have highlighted six common themes where poor performance risks poor quality care:

- ❖ safeguarding in the context of an online environment;

- ❖ verifying patient identity, to provide safe care and treatment;
- ❖ safe prescribing;
- ❖ assessing mental capacity;
- ❖ obtaining consent;
- ❖ communicating with patients' GPs (NHS or independent sector).

Online services are improving, but CQC will continue to hold providers to account until they became as safe as general practice in physical premises.

[www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care-independent-online-primary-health-services](http://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care-independent-online-primary-health-services)

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## ARE YOU LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE?

If someone, including a spouse/partner, depends on you for regular help, you are a carer. **Carers Oxfordshire** offers free advice, information and support to unpaid carers.

[www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.carersoxfordshire.org.uk) 0345 0507666



Sadly, **Be Free Young Carers**, which has supported young carers in Oxfordshire for 22 years, is closing on 15 June 2018, due to lack of funding.

**STOP PRESS: DONATIONS AND FUNDING NOW SECURED TO PREVENT CLOSURE IN SHORT TERM**

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## CAREBOTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Most robots have mundane uses, and they aren't the super-intelligent machines of the sci-fi movies - even the most powerful computer can't match the human brain. However, they are routinely used in surgery, and studies also suggest that artificial intelligence (AI) is better than humans at spotting certain conditions, e.g. skin cancer.

Robots have potential for community-based care - taking on some of the more mundane work of elderly and/or disabled people, and those with conditions such as dementia. This would leave human carers free for the more personal parts of the job, with robots doing tasks that humans increasingly don't have time to do, such as constant checks on

safety and wellbeing, while not invading their privacy.

Possible uses include:

- ❖ checking for cognitive decline, e.g. response times to questions, ability to perform simple tasks, etc.;
- ❖ reminders to drink, take medications, attend appointments, etc.;
- ❖ remote person/caregiver interaction, cutting down on personal visits required;
- ❖ monitoring and data collection, e.g. spotting raised blood sugar levels, cardiac irregularities, etc.;
- ❖ assisting people with domestic tasks to enable independent living.

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**COMING SOON – PATIENT SURVEY!** The PPG Committee have developed a new Patient Survey, to find out what patients want to know about sources of help available. Many thanks to the sub group, led by Stewart, for developing this questionnaire – more details to come.