



## **NEWS RELEASE**

7 April 2011

### **Success for the Better Healthcare Programme**

NHS Oxfordshire is pleased to announce the successful completion of The Better Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas (BHP).

On 29 March, nearly three years after it was established, the BHP Board agreed that the remit of the programme, to develop proposals for sustainable paediatric and maternity services at the Horton General Hospital, had been fulfilled.

In March 2008, the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) rejected proposals set out by the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH) to change paediatric and maternity services at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury. The BHP was setup by NHS Oxfordshire (PCT) to find a solution that would maintain and develop paediatric and maternity services at the Horton.

From the beginning, the BHP set out to work in an open, transparent and collaborative way. Working in partnership with the local community, local authorities, the ORH, clinicians, local GPs and MPs to develop proposals, which has built trust and confidence.

Proposals for the paediatric and anaesthetic services at the Horton have now been fully implemented and the ORH is now focusing on implementing proposals for the Obstetric service. The BHP Board agreed that they were happy with the progress of implementation to date and were satisfied that plans for Obstetrics were robust. As such, the Programme will now close down. NHS Oxfordshire will continue to receive updates from the ORH on the rest of the implementation process.

Ally Green, Programme Director, said; "We have all learnt a great deal over the course of the last three years. The task of finding an alternative solution

to the problems faced by the ORH was an extremely complex one, with no obvious solutions. However, it was achieved by bringing the ORH, PCT, wider community and clinicians together and working in partnership. One of the keys to success was the open and transparent model in which the Programme operated.”

Andrew Stevens, Director of Planning and Information at Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals said; ‘The Better Healthcare Programme has been invaluable to all of us who have been involved in it. It is great that we have achieved the stability in services at the Horton General Hospital that we all wanted. In addition, as a Trust, we have learned a lot about working with communities to help them understand the complexities of running our hospitals, and listening to local communities’ needs so that we can strive to meet them.”

Ally Green said; “At the start of this programme, it was not clear what the end point would be. The services provided at the Horton General Hospital are valued by all in the community and it was important that despite the complexities of the problems, we needed to find a way to ensure these services would be sustainable for the future. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved for their contributions and for sticking with us despite the uncertainty about where we would end up. I would particularly like to thank all those on the Community Partnership Forum, in particular Julia Cartwright who chaired the forum and the ORH clinicians for all their efforts in making the Programme succeed.”

“Finally, thanks must also go to the clinical and other staff at the Horton who have worked so hard - and continue to do so - providing care to local children and new mothers who value their local services so much”.

- Ends -

**For more information contact NHS Oxfordshire’s media office on tel: 01865 334640 or email: [media.office@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk](mailto:media.office@oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk)**

### **Notes for editors**

1. NHS Oxfordshire is the Primary Care Trust (PCT) that plans and provides local healthcare services in the community and funds your hospital treatment. The PCT works with GP practices, dentists, pharmacists and opticians in Oxfordshire as well as providing services such as district nursing, health visiting, school nursing and a range of specialist and therapy services.  
[www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk)

