



With input from wider partners and stakeholders

PRESS RELEASE

Wantage Community Hospital to get some £1 million investment

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Working together, Wantage Town Council, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and the local NHS, Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council have agreed an investment programme that will see nearly £1.0 million pounds being used to refurbish Wantage Community Hospital's ground floor so that it can accommodate more clinic-based services across physical healthcare and mental health to be provided locally.

The majority of the funding, which comes from the District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund, followed extensive liaison over the last nine months. This saw the initial estimate of £600,000 increased to nearer to £900,000 to reflect the needs identified by the local community to move care closer to home and co-locate more mental health and physical healthcare services at the hospital.

Outpatient services at the hospital, that have been piloted over the last two years, can continue, and the local NHS remain committed to identifying and expanding service provision from the refurbished space. Additional services will be able to commence their clinics once building works are completed later in 2025.

The project will also benefit from a significant legacy left to the Oxford Health Charity specifically for investment in Wantage Community Hospital. This will be used to enhance patient, carer and family access and experience to the newly refurbished spaces.

Dan Leveson, Director for Places and Communities at the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West ICB, said: "The partnership work undertaken over the last couple of years between the NHS, local government, the community and its leaders is a great example of how the needs of local people can be understood when it comes

to more routine care being provided closer to where they live. The changes happening at Wantage will also help meet national ambitions around people getting treated more quickly.”

Councillor Jane Hanna, who is a county councillor for Wantage and Grove and chairs Oxfordshire County Council’s Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said: “I am delighted at the progress that has been made to date and the funding that has been allocated for investment in our local community hospital. A public meeting is scheduled for late February, which is when more detail will be provided on the design and anticipated timelines for work to start on refurbishing the hospital’s ground floor, along with the likely services that will be coming to use the space.”

Her words were echoed by Councillor Jenny Hannaby, who is also a county councillor for Wantage and Grove and a member of the council’s Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of the Town Council’s Health Committee, who said: “As chair of the Town Council’s Health Committee, we have been working very closely with our NHS partners to secure a great future for Wantage community hospital. Everyone has come a long way in agreeing that future, which we will see coming into fruition from later this year once all the building works have finished.”

Dr Ben Riley, Oxford Health’s Chief Operating Officer for Community Health Services, Dentistry and Primary Care, said: “This investment for Wantage Community Hospital will help us to make real our vision for more local healthcare provision in the community. I am very grateful to everyone who has been involved in making this project possible. Working in partnership with our health and care partners and the local community to make the case for the funding has been hugely important, as it has directly shaped the building designs and the discussions about the services that will come to the refurbished hospital in the future.”

A public meeting is to be held on 27th February at the Silver Band Hall.

The midwife-led maternity service on the hospital’s first floor will continue to be provided as it is currently.

Notes to editors

For more information about the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it works, please refer to the [guidance on the Government’s Communities and Local Government website](#).

Cllrs Jenny Hannaby and Cllr Jane Hanna are available for interviews, please contact: clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk – 01234 763 459

Oxford Health NHS Trust Communications Team 01865 902068/902225.
Communications.team@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk