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25th October 2016

Dear Ms Hide-Wright

Could you please bring this to the attention of Avon Dassett Parish Council?

As you will be aware, the Consultant led Maternity service at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury has been suspended and will not now reopen until March at the earliest.

Although the Trust has undertaken to reopen it as soon as sufficient doctors are in place the matter may no longer be in their hands. It appears that although for some time now the Trust has been discussing options for future services to go to consultation at the beginning of next year, including permanent loss of consultant led maternity and downgrading of paediatrics, A & E and possibly other services, choosing the options on which to consult will be the prerogative of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group which will be responsible for the consultation and final decision.

How much it will be possible to influence that decision is in doubt as it will be governed by a national system called the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. In our case OCCG had to present its plans to NHS England by 21st October, without revealing any detail to the public, indicating how they will reconfigure services for the future, with the driving force being an instruction that the NHS in England must produce efficiency savings of £22 billion over the next five years.

As people of your ~~the~~ area rely on the services of the Horton we hope that the Parish Council will make their views known to the Commissioning Group before this consultation begins. (Mr David Smith, CEO, Oxfordshire CCG, Jubilee House, John Smith Drive, Oxfordshire Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2LH)

Yours sincerely

Keith Strangwood
Chairman, Keep the Horton General

Peter Fisher FRCP
former Horton consultant