

## Letter to Professor Field, Chair of the Future Forum

GPs from across South Central who are taking a lead in developing GP commissioning consortia have written to Professor Field, the former leader of the Royal College of GPs and the Chair of the Future Forum, expressing their support for the development of GP commissioning. The Future Forum is leading the government's listening exercise on health reforms.

The following extract is from the letter, which was signed by 20 GPs.

"We are committed to and enthusiastic about the

opportunities that the Health and Social Care Bill proposes for GP Commissioning to provide improved quality of care to our populations.

"We firmly believe that as GPs we are well placed to represent the best interests of the populations we serve and that we have an excellent overview of the use of cash limited NHS resource. GPs are the generalists within the NHS who value the specialisms of our colleagues in the acute sector. It is our opinion that by collaborating with clinicians from both primary and secondary care we can improve

both the quality and value for money of patient care. Our indicator of success will be to create a sustainable NHS - free at the point of contact.

"We welcome the direction outlined in the Health and Social Care Bill to work in partnership with our Local Authorities, Public Health and the public. We support the statement "No decision about me, without me".

For a full version of the letter please visit the OGPC website on:

[www.oxfordshiregpconsortium.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordshiregpconsortium.nhs.uk)

## Public Events in Oxfordshire Localities

To support the development of GP commissioning in Oxfordshire, the Oxfordshire GP Consortium (OGPC) are holding public events in each of the six localities in the county. The events are a good opportunity for public to find out more about the development of GP commissioning in Oxfordshire and what this means for them.

Events have already taken place in the South West, South East, North East and West localities. They have been a well attended, discussions have been very constructive and we have received positive feedback.

There has been good attendance from members of the public, voluntary organisations, GPs and practice staff with over 80 people attending the event in the South

East, 40 to the North East, 87 in the South West and 60 in the West.

Discussions have focussed on exploring the intricacies of each locality, explaining what GP commissioning means at the local level and looking at how GPs are already involved in commissioning and service design.

The development of GP commissioning will mean closer collaboration with the public and the population of Oxfordshire will have an important role to play in the development of the OGPC.

The meetings are a good opportunity to hear from the public and to seek feedback on how people would like to be involved in the GP commissioning.

The next event will be held by the North locality on Saturday 18 June, 11am Banbury Town Hall.

For more information on future events please visit the OGPC website on:

[www.oxfordshiregpconsortium.nhs.uk/public-involvement](http://www.oxfordshiregpconsortium.nhs.uk/public-involvement)

Notes from the question and answer sessions of all the events will also be uploaded on to the website in the near future.

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## From the localities

### West Oxfordshire - Weight loss management programme with New Bucks University

The West locality, in partnership with New Bucks University, has established a weight loss management programme which explores ways of combating obesity and promoting sustainable weight-loss for people who are morbidly obese.

The initiative focuses on behavioural change and focuses on long-term weight-loss. It combines IT and psychological support, alongside changes to diet, exercise practices and motivational techniques to support sustainable and long-term weight reduction.

The initiative centres on a bespoke website which includes a food, weight and exercise diary. The software also offers support and motivational tools, to encourage participants towards their goals.

Data is recorded and monitored by a central team. There is an online instant messaging function which can be used for broadcasting information about exercise classes or personal weight loss support.

The scheme also offers a “buddying” experience, which puts participants together to increase motivation and so they can share their experience and support each. Group exercise activities are arranged as part of the programme and participants also receive regular newsletters with hints and tips on weight loss.

A pilot, which went live on April 1 2011, is underway within the West locality, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the programme. Eight out of the nine GP practices in the locality are currently signed up to take part.

Around four thousand people were invited to join the scheme, with 15% agreeing to participate. The progress of the initial wave of participants will be tracked for the next six months and a report on the success of the programme will be published in November 2011. If successful this programme could be rolled out to other areas of Oxfordshire.

### Oxford City - Talk from Sir Muir Gray

On 5 May Sir Muir Gray, the NHS Chief Knowledge Officer, and joint lead of the “Right Care” workstream, which is part of the Quality Innovation Productivity and Prevention programme (QIPP), visited the City locality. During the visit, Sir Muir gave a talk on the challenges facing the NHS and explained the work of the “Right Care” workstream.

The NHS needs to achieve up to £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2015. The QIPP programme sets out the Government's vision of how this challenge can be achieved. QIPP is about embedding quality at the heart of the NHS and working in different ways to ensure that each pound spent is used to bring maximum benefit and quality of care to patients. The “Right Care” workstream is looking at changing the way care is commissioned in order to ensure patient centred, efficient, high quality and integrated care.

Sir Muir spoke about the need to increase productivity, ensure evidence based care and also address the appropriateness of clinical services, in order to continue to provide the best healthcare and outcomes for patients.

Sir Muir also spent time analysing and discussing the picture of health in Oxfordshire and looking at areas in which the county has higher variations in activity and expenditure compared to the national average including, hip replacements, the use of certain antibiotics, and suicide rate.

The City locality are keen to get involved in this work and have offered to assist with looking at care for the elderly. More information about Sir Muir and the Right Care workstream, including the atlas of variation can be accessed here. <http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/>

## PCT Cluster Executive Team now in place

PCT Clusters have been established to ensure that business continuity of commissioning healthcare locally is maintained and to facilitate the change to the new structure of the NHS, including the move to GP commissioning.

NHS Clusters will have three principal functions:

- Delivery of the PCTs Operational Plans, driving clinical service change for 2011 to 2013 and ensuring financial stability for the handover to GP commissioners in 2013.
- Ensuring and supporting development of GP commissioning (GPCC) organisations and transferring of other current cluster functions to the new organisations yet to be established i.e. the National Commissioning Board, Public Health England, Health Education England, Health and Wellbeing Boards, public health to Local Authorities.
- Creating the relevant commissioning support organisation for GPCC support post-PCT abolition.

NHS Buckinghamshire and NHS Oxfordshire have clustered and subsequently, following a staff consultation, a new structure of senior management has been developed to make sure the right leadership is in place and that it can deliver the functions mentioned above across both counties. Following an interview process the new executive team structure for the Cluster has been appointed as below:

- Finance Director: Matthew Tait
- Medical Director: Dr Geoff Payne
- QIPP & Performance Director & Quality Assurance: Colin Thompson
- Communications & Patient Information Director: Ronan O'Connor
- Reform/Governance & People Management Director: Jane Dudley

Moving forward the Cluster has put in place accountability agreements with the SHA and agreed the PCT Cluster Board governance arrangements – accountability transferred to the new team on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

Sonia Mills, Chief Executive NHS Buckinghamshire & NHS Oxfordshire Cluster said: “A strong director team is crucial during this time of transition. All of the directors appointed have proven track records and bring vast experience to the Cluster. This puts us in a good position to support the transition to GP commissioning whilst delivering the essential work of both PCTs.”

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Should you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact a member of the group