



PRESS RELEASE

Bad news week in Oxford

Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer of OUHFT, must be wondering what else is going to land on his desk this week.

On Monday we learnt that the Trust has overspent its budget by more than £24 million in the past year. That was described as a 'rapid deterioration'.

Then came the Care Quality Commission (CQC) report from October 2016. It concluded that significant further work is needed at the John Radcliffe A&E due to 'long patients waits, overcrowding and staffing issues'.

And on Thursday news of the previous day's OUHFT Board meeting where Members had been informed that the number of daily attendances at A&E had rocketed by almost 100 a day (since the figure calculated prior to the winter).

Accompanying the Oxford Mail story online, a reader commented 'The JR is a dreadful place to go to A&E. If you have an accident or emergency try to go to the Horton in Banbury – they are miles better at triage than the JR'.

Professor George Smith, the new chairman of Healthwatch Oxfordshire, said: 'What we are seeing in the emergency department is a system stretched to the limit'.

Keith Strangwood, Chairman of Keep the Horton General, observed 'so whilst the CQC was making its inspection, there were (on average) 700 less people attending the JR A&E every week. If there was 'overcrowding and long waits' then I wonder what on earth they would make of it now? All of this information in the same week that the Horton Critical Care Unit is to lose two of its six beds, because of lack of demand. Late Tuesday morning, the tailback to get into the JR stretched back half a mile. When will Dr Holthof and his puzzled managers wake up to the fact that the JR can't cope? People of Oxfordshire need the services of a fully functioning General Hospital in Banbury'.

ends

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