

Report on HOSC for O&S March 3rd 2025

The last HOSC meeting at GCC was on 28th January. The first presentation was a review of the South West Ambulance Service Charity.

The ambulance service is reviewed by the HOSC on a regular basis as response times remain below national targets. The problem is greatest in rural areas of the county. There is a big seasonal variation in demand

Only 36% of ambulance callouts result in patients being taken to hospital. The ambulance is part of a Care Co ordination Hub whose aim is to direct people to the service which will be most helpful, e.g. telephone advice, primary care, paramedic review.

Handover times at hospital A&E departments remains a huge problem. Across the region, 2,655 resource hours were lost in December to handover delays. A timely handover initiative has been introduced.

Community first responder provide a significant support to the ambulance service, which is also involved in educating the public about CPR & the use of defibrillators.

There are are a number of teams, such as the integrated care board who work with professionals engaged in different aspects of healthcare provision. We had a report from the Heath & Wellbeing Board. They list their priorities as:

Best start in life

Adverse childhood events

Physical activity

Healthy lifestyles including weight management

Mental health & wellbeing

Loneliness & social isolation.

There was a report on initiatives & achievements in each of these areas.

The integrated care service provides an update to each HOSC.

This time, they were looking at different initiatives across the county.

For Cotswold District, they reported on the community wellbeing & fun days.

Areas of health inequalities identified were in the Beeches, Watermoor & Chesterton in Cirencester & Stow.

World Jungle & others deliver projects for families & children in the school holidays, & the last three projects were attended by 1,800 people. Hot food is served, & advice given to participants includes smoking cessation, diet, exercise, mental health & stress, & blood pressure monitoring.

In February, there was a presentation on the future of the NHS - the next 10 years. Unfortunately I couldn't attend, but I have reviewed the slides. Over the next months, there will be engagement with staff & citizens to explore their views on the future of the NHS. Three streams have been identified:

- Prevention
- Moving care from hospitals to the community
- Better use of technology.

These objectives align with the forward plan for Gloucestershire.

Prevention: focus on smoking, obesity & mental health.

initiatives - screening & support

outcome - reduced cost to NHS, less working days lost.

Community based care:

focus - Currently most NHS funding is spent in hospitals

- aim to deliver more care in the community

Initiative - better use of local provision, primary care, pharmacy

- virtual wards, community diagnostics centres,
ambulance triage

Outcome - better outcomes for patients, less pressure on
hospitals

Technology: focus - remove "postcode lottery" support staff

Initiatives - digital technology including imaging / scanners

electronic records, virtual appointments, use of AI

Outcomes.- Earlier diagnosis, better communication, reduced
administration burden

Feedback will inform future planning

Link: <https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/>