



**Oxfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

All Oxfordshire GP Practices

By email

Jubilee House
5510 John Smith Drive
Oxford Business Park South
Cowley
Oxford
OX4 2LH

Telephone: 01865 336795
Email: kiren.collison@nhs.net

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Dear all

As we enter into the festive period, at the start of what is likely to be a long and difficult winter for the NHS, I am writing to you to express my gratitude for all your hard work this year.

I have now been in post at the CCG for exactly a year. In just one year, I have seen demand continue to soar, workforce being stretched further and resources struggle to keep up. In this time, I have also seen just how adaptive and innovative everyone has been to cope with these pressures. Whilst there are some policies that we do not have control over, there have been many examples of things that have been in our grasp.

For example, more practices are now diversifying their workforce, are starting to work across practices and are developing their 'neighbourhood' in order to manage some of the pressure. We are also seeing more joined up care in these neighbourhoods through integrated teams around frailty, cardiology, diabetes and respiratory.

Initiatives to support primary care are continuing, such the visiting service, urgent hubs and training of practice staff to update skills or to signpost. We will also soon see the spread of social prescribing across most of the county as well as the introduction of a new perinatal mental health service, following the CCG winning a bid for funding.

Importantly, primary care has developed a stronger voice this year. The new Oxfordshire GP Forum (with CCG, LMC and Federation members), a greater say at 'top table' discussions and the developing approach to capture data on practice demand should allow primary care to stand shoulder to shoulder with other providers.

Whilst primary care is the cornerstone of the NHS, it is increasingly clear that if one cog succeeds (or fails), it will affect the functioning of the whole system. This is why this year has seen greater emphasis on 'whole system working'. To this end, the

“Health and Wellbeing Board” (which has health and council members) has set a new direction for the county. The emphasis includes: improving the patient journey between organisations, prevention, reducing health inequalities and tackling the workforce challenge. Having health incorporated into discussions around new housing developments has now also become a local standard.

Finally, on behalf of the whole CCG, thank you again for all your hard work and for continuing to put the patients at the heart of all you do. The *NHS Long Term Plan* is awaited and when it is published, we look forward to working with you on it over the course of next year.

If you have any questions or issues to raise, please feel free to contact me on k.collison@nhs.net.

Seasons greetings and happy New Year.

Best wishes



Dr Kiren Collison
Clinical Chair