



**Oxfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

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Dear Councillor Baker

Deer Park Surgery, Witney

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 2016.

I can confirm that Catherine Mountford will be attending, if needed, the meeting of the Council's Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 October to discuss the issues with Deer Park Surgery.

The Deer Park Surgery is run by Virgin Care Services Limited and was commissioned by Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust in November 2010. The 5-year contract was extended for one further year and was due to expire on 3 November 2016. In line with procurement rules the CCG, supported by NHS England, was required to re-tender the contract. Only one bid was received and following an evaluation process which involved a patient representative from Healthwatch, it was concluded that this bid did not meet commissioner requirements and no contract was awarded.

Given the lack of response to this procurement, the CCG considered that a further process was not likely to produce a different result. No local practices had bid for the contract and there was no option for a merger with another practice. In the absence of any other alternative, and having confirmed that other practices in Witney would be able to take the patients, the Oxfordshire Primary Care Commissioning Committee (OPCCC) took the decision to close the practice.

Since the decision not to award the contract was made, commissioners have been negotiating with Virgin Care, the current contract holder and have just agreed an extension of their contract to 31 March 2017, which will give patients plenty of time to choose and register with another practice. In the meantime, Deer Park services will continue as normal until closure. Alongside these discussions, the CCG has also been meeting with the other three practices in Witney to begin planning for them taking on the Deer Park patients in the New Year. The practices have confirmed that

they are keen to take on the new patients and the CCG will work with them to ensure that sufficient support is in place to manage the transition smoothly.

I hope that this addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely



David Smith
Chief Executive