## Contents

1  Executive Summary ................................................................. 3
2  Main Report .................................................................................. 4
   2.1  Wantage overview ................................................................. 4
   2.2  Methodology ............................................................................ 4
   2.3  What we heard ........................................................................ 4
3  GPs ............................................................................................ 8
   3.1  Newbury Street GP Practice .................................................... 8
   3.2  Church Street General Practice ............................................... 10
4  Health Visitors ............................................................................. 12
5  Pharmacies ................................................................................... 12
6  Opticians ...................................................................................... 13
7  Mental Health ............................................................................... 14
8  Dental Care .................................................................................. 14
9  Other services .............................................................................. 16
   9.1  Home care ............................................................................. 16
   9.2  Day Centres ........................................................................... 16
10 Voluntary Sector Forum .............................................................. 17

Resources ...................................................................................... 18
Appendix ......................................................................................... 19
1 Executive Summary

We were told by many people that Wantage is a popular and picturesque market town which is expanding.

What we heard - five themes

1. There is concern about insufficient provision at the Wantage Health Centre on Mably Way;
2. There is concern about the new houses being built without the additional resources;
3. Public transport has been reduced and no longer meets some residents’ needs;
4. Residents would like to see the Community Hospital be reopened;
5. GP’s don’t always refer to CAMHS quickly enough and the waiting lists are long when they do.

Recommendations

1. Improved communication between Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the people of Wantage about the expansion of the Health Centre - what is the reality of the situation?
   a. Healthwatch has asked Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group for the latest on the proposed developments and the response given on 3rd September 2018 was:

   ‘We are working with the practices to find an affordable solution for the expansion of Wantage Health Centre. A draft business case is currently with the District Valuer for assessing the affordability and value for money for the public purse.’ Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group 3rd September 2018.

2. Open dialogue between Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and the community about the closure of the Community Hospital.

3. Increased mental health awareness training for GPs.

4. When planning local health, social care services, and additional housing, authorities should consider the travel and transport needs of the local community including access to public transport and supporting local community transport schemes.
2 Main Report

2.1 Wantage overview

The population of Wantage and Grove ward increased from 18,000 in mid-2006 to 19,100 in mid-2016. This growth - over a 10 year period - was an increase of 1,000 people or +6% and was below the increase in Vale of White Horse (+9%) and Oxfordshire (+8%).

Wantage and Grove in 2016 had a slightly lower proportion than average in the younger age group (0-15) and a higher proportion of over 65s. At the time of the Census 2011 survey, Wantage and Grove had a relatively low proportion of ethnic minority residents (6% compared with 10% in Vale of White Horse, 16% in Oxfordshire and 20% in England).

As of 1st August 2018, there were four care homes with 189 care home beds in Wantage.

88% of commuters from Wantage and Grove travelled to work within Oxfordshire. The local authority areas outside Oxfordshire with the highest number of out-commuters from Wantage and Grove was West Berkshire (276, 4%). London accounted for 140 commutes (1.9%)

2.2 Methodology

From 4th May to 31st May we immersed ourselves in Wantage to find out issues were on the minds of local people in relation to using health and social care and NHS services. We focused on voluntary groups, ran a voluntary sector forum and spent time getting to know the people of Wantage and Grove by spending time in the library, supermarkets, market and market square and the leisure centre. We made contact with 512 people and received a total of 382 comments.

2.3 What we heard

About living in Wantage

We really enjoyed our time in Wantage and were struck by the strong sense of community. Overall, people living here but have seen it change a great deal over the years. There was concern about the increase in housing and subsequent

1 https://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/wantage-and-grove-jsna-profile
pressure on services, yet there was no sign of investment in infrastructure. We heard that Wantage was an expanding town and therefore needed the same services as towns like Abingdon who have a Minor Injuries Unit.

“They are not investing in the infrastructure” (resident)

We heard that people were not aware of what services were available locally. There was a request to see an information campaign to educate people in this area.

**Travel in and around Wantage and Grove**

For people who drive, the state of the roads with potholes and narrow roads was of concern. The fact that you must drive to Abingdon and Didcot for services that should be available locally was a source of great frustration with parking in Abingdon being problematic.

For those reliant upon buses, we heard they were having a very difficult time with the bus services being reduced. The number 38 bus which serviced the health centre was a popular bus, but with this no longer running people are struggling to make doctor’s appointments with the walk being too far and often uphill. Those with disabilities were finding it particularly hard as not everyone is able to walk these distances. We heard that getting to local villages such as Challow is no longer possible. This is having an impact on people’s independence and sense of loneliness and isolation.

We heard that whilst there were buses to Abingdon and Oxford, these journeys weren’t always quick and easy. It requires two buses to get to a hospital appointment in Oxford taking two hours each way. We were also told that the return journey from Abingdon could be unpleasant on a rainy day as the return bus stop was not under any shelter.

We heard how expensive it was to take taxis with an average charge of £60 to go from Wantage to the John Radcliffe in Oxford. Even when people could afford a taxi (which many couldn’t), it was a struggle to get one with there being no local taxis in Grove and four out of the eight in Wantage only taking pre-bookings.

**Housing**

With 1,500 new houses planned for Crab Hill, 2,500 for Grove Airfield and 750 at Monks Farm there was a lot of concern. We heard that people were worried about the capacity of the Health Centre with the extra patients and no expansion saying they are already at bursting point. We were told how hard it can be to get a Doctor’s appointment, and there are concerns that this will become ever harder once the new houses are built.

People asked why the builders aren’t contributing, they keep building houses without providing extra facilities.
Community Hospital

There was very strong feeling in Wantage and Grove about the Community Hospital.

Wantage Cottage Hospital opened on 1st February 1886 in Belmont. Among several bequests contained in the will of Mr. Percy Smith of Letcombe Bassett, who died in 1883, was a sum of £5000 “to be applied by them (the Trustees) in the establishment and maintenance of a Cottage Hospital for the poor and sick inhabitants of Wantage and its neighbourhood”. The hospital’s income was derived from several sources. Patients were expected to contribute a minimum payment of 3s-6d per week and every year the parish church held special services and collections on behalf of the hospital. Two wards, and an out-patient’s surgery were opened in July 1906 and a new hospital in Charlton Park was opened in June 1927. It became part of the NHS in 1948 and was administered by the Oxford and District Hospital Management Committee 1948-1956 and by the Nuffield Hospital Management Committee 1956-1974. Responsibility passed to Oxfordshire Area Health Authority (Teaching) in 1974, Oxfordshire Health Authority in 1982, Oxfordshire Community Health NHS Trust in April 1994 and South West Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust in 2001, and then to Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust. It is now run by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust as Wantage Community Hospital.

In May 2016, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust announced that Legionella, the virus which causes Legionnaire’s Disease, had been found in the water system at Wantage Community Hospital, and that the hospital would close for estates work to be carried out to rectify the problem. People aged over 45 (as well men, smokers, alcoholics, diabetics and those with cancer or chronic respiratory or kidney disease) are more at risk of contracting the disease.²

There was great concern about losing services in the local community saying the hospital should reopen to provide a Minor Injuries Unit, physio and respite. Older people were being sent all over Oxfordshire for these services which resulted in fewer visitors as it was harder for friends and family to get to them. We heard a Minor Injuries Unit at Wantage would take the pressure off the major hospitals, especially as it was so inconvenient to get to Abingdon. Some residents felt the hospital was being closed by stealth and the given reason of Legionnaires was not the truth. There were frustrations over the fact that the hospital was bought by the people of Wantage and therefore should remain open. The local population is increasing, but there is no investment in infrastructure - need more facilities not fewer.

“It would make sense to up-date this facility and provide A & E, x-ray and bed services, formerly enjoyed by this community. With the huge housing

² Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group letter to Healthwatch Oxfordshire 28 September 2018.
developments taking place in Oxfordshire generally and Wantage in particular it is important that local cottage hospitals are kept open to serve the communities without dependence on services that require car journeys on already inadequate and busy roads. This would ease the problem with bed blocking and overloaded A & E at the major hospitals” (Resident)

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service

NEPTS is run by South Central Ambulance service to transport people who are unable to use public or other transport due to their medical condition, and include those who are:

- attending hospital outpatient clinics
- being admitted to or discharged from hospital wards
- needing life-saving treatments such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy or renal dialysis or DVT treatment

There are a set of criteria which are set to establish eligibility for NEPTS which relates to illness, disability or treatment. Those using hospital transport felt frustrated that they could only be collected at set times.

There appeared to be a blurring of understanding between the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service and the Healthcare Travel costs scheme with people telling us they needed to receive pension credit guarantee in order to qualify for patient transport. In fact, being in receipt of certain benefits may make someone eligible to reclaim travel costs to and from hospital but is not the criteria by which people’s eligibility is judged.

Wantage Independent Advice Centre

Wantage Independent Advice Centre provides a range of services to residents living in the Vale of White Horse district such as Good Neighbour scheme, advice services and the very valuable volunteer led community transport programme

‘We operate a volunteer transport scheme from Monday to Friday, covering Wantage, Grove and outlying villages. We drive clients to Day Centres, surgeries, hospitals, shops, to visit friends and many more locations! There is a charge for using the transport scheme and you must call to book in advance. Typical charges
at current prices\textsuperscript{3} include - Wantage to Wantage Health Centre surgery £5.00, Wantage to JR hospital £224\textsuperscript{4}.

This is a pre-book service, so it is hard to people when they are offered last minute appointments with people having to turn down appointments as they were not able to get there. We also heard that it was tricky to get in for appointments that were before 10am and it would be great if hospitals could offer you appointments after 10am. In general, people would like hospital staff to have more awareness of the issues that can be raised when using a volunteer driver scheme such as the driver is not able to wait for more than three hours.

We heard that the scheme needed more volunteers, especially at weekends and more parking permits for the hospitals. We were also told that people would like to see more collaboration between agencies such as GP’s, A&E. Wantage Independent Advice Centre and families.

3 GPs

GPs are General Practice Doctors. A general practitioner manages types of illnesses which may require urgent intervention. Their duties are not confined to specific organs of the body, and they have particular skills in treating people with multiple health issues. They are trained to treat patients of any age and sex to levels of complexity.

3.1 Newbury Street GP Practice

Based at Wantage Health Centre with 15,462 registered patients

Table 1 How the practice was rated

<table>
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<th>Number of respondents</th>
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\textsuperscript{3} Current prices: as at April 2017

\textsuperscript{4} A small proportion of the charge is used to cover the administration costs of the transport scheme.
74 people spoke to us about Newbury Street General Practice; 14 people did not score Newbury Street. Nearly half (48%) of those we spoke to were happy or very happy with the surgery.

**Routine Appointments**

We heard from 30 people that it was difficult to get an appointment with the average wait being four weeks. For some the wait was six-to-eight weeks for a doctor. We heard concern that a routine problem can become an acute one during this period of waiting. We were told that a phone appointment was an option, but that this could take four days. However, four people did say they were happy with no problem getting an appointment.

**Emergency Appointments**

We heard about the triage system at Newbury Street, that it was great for emergencies. The doctor would call the patient back the same day and make an assessment of need and carry out a telephone consultation where appropriate. We were told that once people got though on the phone, the service was excellent.

**Receptionists**

We heard that a couple of people didn’t feel comfortable telling the receptionists what the reason for calling was and would prefer to be triaged online.

“Not overly friendly and not great admin”.

**General Comments**

Overall people were happy with the service you received once they saw a doctor.

(The following quotes are taken from individual feedback)

“Excellent” “lovely once you get to see them” “Fantastic once you get to see a Doctor”.

“Much improved”. “Lack of funds doing a fantastic job under a lot of stress”.

“Faultless service”.

“Triage system works well, getting prescriptions and test results online works well”.

“Four days for test results”.

“There are too many people, can’t cope with the numbers”.

“Better with kids”.
Concerns

We heard from four patients who told us about specific experiences of care. We have reported this back to the surgery. These included:

- A long wait for an appointment after being called into the surgery for an annual test;
- Two accounts of what the patients described as ‘mis-diagnosis’;
- Not being given a paper copy of the complaints procedure;
- Feeling that the GP did not treat all health issues presented at the appointment.

Closure of Grove Practice - we heard concerns about the closure of the Grove General Practice and the subsequent merger with Newbury Street saying there were now too many patients at the practice and Newbury Street had not been the same since. Patients didn’t feel it was a true merger.

Suggestions for improvement

We heard suggestions about the following:

The practice needs to expand and have more doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, particularly since the merger with Grove.

One patient said they would like to be triaged online and another said they would prefer face-to-face appointments over telephone consultations.

We also heard that patients would like to see more evening and weekend appointments.

3.2 Church Street General Practice

Based at the Wantage Health Centre with 14374 registered patients, with the highest percentage being aged 50-59 at 14.89%

Church Street has eight Doctors, nine clinical nursing staff and one Emergency Care Practitioner who is a registered paramedic.

59 people to us about their experience using Church Street General Practice. More than 80% were happy or very happy with the practice. Five people did not give a star rating

Table 2 How the practice was rated

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</table>
Routine appointments

12 people told us it was either hard to get an appointment or the wait was too long, saying the wait was between two to four weeks.

(The following quotes are taken from individual feedback)

“Harder to get an appointment -always let the kids in”.

“Waiting times longer”.

Others said there was no problem getting an appointment with the wait being only three to four days.

“Never had a problem getting an appointment”.

“Easy to be seen”.

Emergency Appointments

(The following quotes are taken from individual feedback)

“They are working to their limits but will see you if its urgent”

“can get seen the same day”

One patient told us the Emergency Care Practitioner was a life saver as they had used this service on several occasions for an elderly relative.

Receptionists

Some patients told us they had concerns about confidentiality regarding the receptionists (or advisors) and were reluctant to tell them the reason for their call as they either knew them or felt that the conversation could be overheard by other people, which would be a breach of confidentiality.

Others felt the receptionists were helpful and lovely.

General

In general, we heard people were very happy with the care they received from Church Street with people saying the GP is “brilliant” “kind and efficient” “really helpful and they listen to you” “absolutely perfect”.

“They are wonderful”. “The health centre is excellent”.

Not everyone we spoke to was happy.

(The following quotes are taken from individual feedback)

“GPs don’t have time to talk”. “GP okay with kids, otherwise feel like I’m treated like an idiot”.


“They are not investing in the infrastructure”.

“Prescriptions often go walkabout”.

There were concerns about people moving from Newbury Street to Church Street, and this was before all the new houses have been built.

**Your Suggestions**

We heard that people would be happy to see a nurse instead of a doctor.

We also heard people would like to see a bigger GP surgery in Wantage especially due to the growth in housing.

There was a suggestion that a drop-in service for children as something that would be helpful.

### 4 Health Visitors

Health visitors are qualified nurses or midwives with specialist public health training. They are available to support you once your baby is born and until your child becomes five years of age. Health visiting teams advise on and support the health and wellbeing of babies, children and their families.

Health Visitors serving the area are based at Wantage Health Centre and run drop in sessions (Wednesdays 10-11) and visit new parents at their own homes. They also run post-natal classes.

We heard that experience using health visitors varied widely. Healthwatch Oxfordshire has reported back to the health visiting service specific comments made by patients. Two themes emerged:

- Contacting health visitors was sometimes difficult
- People felt that they were not seen often enough

Others found the service to be ‘very prompt’ ‘excellent’ ‘very supportive’ ‘very good for the first baby’ ‘amazing felt well looked after’.

### 5 Pharmacies

Pharmacies are places where medicines are dispensed, and advice is given on general health issues such as minor ailments, appropriate medications, smoking
cessation, cholesterol management. We heard about three of the four pharmacies in Wantage and Grove with experiences being mixed.

Bretts Pharmacy in Grove, five people scored it 5 out of 5.

(The following quotes are taken from individual feedback)

“Very good”. “Local”. “Give good advice”. “Pharmacist really helpful”. “Quick, do a good job”.

We heard that Lloyds in Wantage was:

“Professional”. “Quick”. “Has long queues”. “Horrendous”. “Very busy”.

Boots Wantage was scored 5 stars by two people who said it was:

“Absolutely brilliant”, “very good with people with learning disability”,

“Go here for advice first”.

6 Opticians

Opticians are practitioners who design, fit and dispense corrective lenses for the correction of people’s vision.

We heard about the six opticians in Wantage and Grove with varying experiences. They were rated in the following order

Specsavers 5 stars

One person came especially from Highworth as the care was so good.

Another said they were “very helpful, you can pop in at any time”.

Millbrook 5 stars

“Excellent, been going for years”.

Scrivens 5 stars

“Very good service”. “Can choose hearing test here or Didcot”.

Boots 3 stars

“Average - the got the price of my glasses wrong”.

Robert Stanley

1 star
“Problems with prescription twice - I won’t be going back to them”.

Campbells
0 stars
“Under pressure to have private eye procedure”.

7 Mental Health

When it came to using mental health services, we heard about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). One person scored CAMHS 4 stars and two scored them no stars. The concerns with CAMHS was centred around the very long waiting times with one person going private as the wait was too long for their needs. We also heard about the waiting time between treatment and support being as long as 18 months. Also, there being a need to call the service within 10 days once referred or risk losing your place. Some people told us that the approach taken by CAMHS was too casual and it didn’t provide enough information for your needs. We heard concern about the cliff edge young people can fall off once they turn 18 and how hard it was for parents to not be involved in their child’s care anymore, even if they felt this would be highly beneficial.

We heard that parents would like training on how to support young people with mental health problems. We heard from some that there was a lack of knowledge of mental health issues by GP’s and in some cases, they didn’t refer to CAMHS quickly enough. People told us they wanted to see better communication between the GP, CAMHS and other agencies such as counsellors.

There were positive experiences of CAMHS as well, saying they were very good and they identify specific areas to work on.

“Once referred, they were good” (patient).

“Son is much better now, happier at school” (parent).

There was concern the funding to Complex Needs had been cut so severely as it such a valuable group.

8 Dental Care

There are 3 three dental practices in Wantage which see NHS patients. These are Wantage House, Cherry Tree Dental Practice, and Oasis Dental Care Southern.
We heard it was hard to find an NHS dentist in Wantage and people would like to see an NHS dentist in Grove. Nearly half of people spoken to went private for their dental care.

**Wantage House**

A dental surgery is based at Wantage House offering NHS and private dental care. 26 people rated it

There was a mixed experience at Wantage House. We heard from some patients who told us about specific experiences of care. We have reported this back to the surgery. The general themes were:

Some people were happy and felt they were fine. With comments ranging from ‘good’ to ‘happy with them’ to ‘very happy with them’ ‘last visit was great’.

Several people felt there was a high staff turnover at Wantage as the dentists kept changing and there was a lack of consistency of care, as patients would see a different dentist each time with frequent late cancellations.

Accessibility was of concern with the building not being wheelchair or buggy friendly.

**Cherry Tree Dental Practice**

Eight people told us about Cherry Tree and were really happy with the care they received there with 50% scoring excellent and 50% scoring it as good.

People were very positive about Cherry Tree, telling us it was ‘marvellous’ ‘really good’ and ‘good experience’.
Oasis Dental Care Southern

Five people told us about Oasis, with experiences being mixed. 60% rated the centre as average and 40% as poor.

“Dental care of a good standard”. (patient).

“If could have found another NHS dentist, would have moved”. (patient).

9 Other services

9.1 Home care

There were some experiences of home care that people wished to share with us. We heard that people paid for carers to come in to either support themselves or a loved one. We heard that people needed more help than they were getting, but either it wasn’t available, or they were too independent to ask for it.

9.2 Day Centres

We heard how much people missed the Wantage Day Centre, and how lovely it was to go there for a hot meal and some company. Now some go to Grove Day Centre which is only open two days a week and attend Charlton. Some people don’t go to any day centres anymore, and the ones who do are desperate for more days.

“We are a rural community with new houses about to expand, we have absolutely no facilities”. (local resident)

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5 Wantage Health and Wellbeing Centre closed and is now Wantage Community Support Services which is only accessible by assessment.
10 Voluntary Sector Forum

Healthwatch Oxfordshire held a voluntary sector forum in Wantage on 17th May 2018. The aim of the meeting was to enable local voluntary and community groups in Wantage to come together and share their feedback on local health and social care services. The event was part of our focus on Wantage in May 2018.

The meeting was attended by 24 people. Ten different community groups and voluntary sector organisations were represented, as well as town, district and county councillors and health providers and commissioners. Some people attended who did not represent any group but were keen to give us their views on pressing health and social care issues in Wantage.

From what attendees told us people feel concerned about the loss of local services including bus services and the community hospital. They also feel concerned about access to current services such as GPs, NHS dentists and social care services. They are worried about increasing loneliness and isolation and for the wellbeing of the young people who live locally.

Attendees made suggestions on what could improve things including:

1. Take an integrated view of health and social care services and transport services in their plans.
2. Raise the profile of voluntary transport schemes.
3. Offer support to people to understand what services, including open access services, are available locally.
4. Offer support to family carers.
5. Communicate with local people in the Wantage area about plans for the health centre.
6. Communicate with people about the plans for the Wantage community hospital.
7. Ensure that young people, and young carers, have adequate support in place including a smoother transition to adult services and more pastoral care on offer.

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6 Video report of the Forum meeting is available here [https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/supporting-the-voluntary-sector/](https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/supporting-the-voluntary-sector/)

7 You can view a full list of attending organisations in Appendix 1 of the report ‘Voluntary Sector Forum May 2018 - Focus on Wantage’ available on our website [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk).
Resources

https://www.citypopulation.de/php/uk-england-southeastengland.php?cityid=E34003553

https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjQxMTI5NTEtYzlKkNI00MzjLWE0OGItNGVjMzQwNjAzZGQ0IiwidCI6IjUwZjYwNzFmLWJiZmUtNDAxYS04ODAzLTY3Mzc0OGU2MjIlMlMiMiMiMiOiJ9


http://wantageadvise.org.uk/our-services/transport/


Appendix

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis Wantage & Grove 2018

Data has been updated in this version Data has been reviewed and is unchanged
Final version April 2018

Population

This section describes the changing size and profile of Oxfordshire’s population.

Population - key findings

This section highlights the key messages from the review of data on population (data sources and research references are provided with the detailed data in the remainder of this chapter).

As of mid-2016, the estimated total population of Oxfordshire was 683,200.

Over the ten-year period, 2006 and 2016, there was an overall growth in the population of Oxfordshire of 52,100 people (+8.3%), similar to the increase across England (+8.4%).

The five-year age band with the greatest increase over this period was the newly retired age group 65 to 69 (+41%). There was a decline in the population aged 35 to 44.

District Councils' plans for new housing in existing (adopted) and draft local plans set out an ambition for new housing in Oxfordshire of 34,300 by the end of March 2022 and a further 47,200 homes by end March 2031, a total of 81,500 new homes in the next 15 years.

Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts, based on these plans for housing growth, predict an increase in the number of Oxfordshire residents of +187,500 people (+27%) between 2016 and 2031, taking the total population of the county from 687,900 to 874,400.

By 2031, the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to have increased by 55% in Oxfordshire overall, with the highest growth predicted in South Oxfordshire (+64%) and Vale of White Horse (+66%).

Life expectancy is increasing. Between 2001-03 and 2014-16, the gap between male and female Life Expectancy in Oxfordshire decreased from 4.1 years to 3.2 years.

Life expectancy by ward data for Oxford City shows the gap in male life expectancy between the more affluent North ward and the relatively deprived ward of Northfield Brook has increased from 4 years in 2003-07 to 15 years in 2011-15. Female life expectancy in these wards has remained at similar levels with a gap of just over 10 years.

Data for the combined years 2009 to 2013 shows that for males there was a 10-year gap in Disability Free Life Expectancy between the most and least deprived areas of Oxfordshire. For females, the gap was just under 10 years.

JSNA 2018

Data has been updated in this version Data has been reviewed and is unchanged

Final version April 2018 page 16 = +

Population

Mid-2016 population estimate

As of mid-2016, the ONS estimated total population of Oxfordshire was 683,200 residents1 (including students and armed forces). This was an increase of 5,400 (+0.8%) compared with the previous year (mid-2015).

![Population of Oxfordshire and districts, mid-2016 and change 2015 to 2016 mid-2015 to mid-2016 change in population](image)

Figure 1 Population of Oxfordshire and districts, mid-2016 and change 2015 to 2016 mid-2015 to mid-2016 change in population

Mid-2016 population3 (ONS)

Oxfordshire

683,2003 Oxfordshire +5,400
NOTE the Office for National Statistics revised the local authority 2016 mid-year population estimates on 23 March 2018. These have not yet been included in this JSNA publication as Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council (as well as other Local Authorities outside Oxfordshire) have significant concerns about the revisions, which are being discussed with ONS. The revised estimates give Oxfordshire’s population as 678,500, a reduction of 4,700.

Historical change in population by age

Over the ten-year period, 2006 and 2016, there was an overall growth in the population of Oxfordshire of 52,100 people (+8.3%), similar to the increase across England (+8.4%).

The five-year age band with the greatest increase over this period was the newly retired age group 65 to 69 (+41%). There was a decline in the population aged 35 to 44.

Forecast growth in population

District Councils’ local plans setting out planned housing development are at various stages of development.
• Cherwell has an existing (adopted) plan for Bicester, Banbury and Upper Heyford. An additional plan for Woodstock, A44 corridor, south and south east Kidlington and north Oxford sites will be examined in 2018.

• Oxford has development in progress in Barton and Northern Gateway and a new local plan is in early stages of development.

• South Oxfordshire has an existing plan covering housing in Didcot and Wallingford and a plan for new housing in Culham, Berinsfield, Chalgrove and Wheatley will be examined in 2018.

• Vale of White Horse has an existing plan for housing outside Didcot, in Wantage-Grove and north Abingdon. A plan with development at Harwell, Dalton Barracks and other sites will be examined in 2018.

• West Oxfordshire’s local plan is in the later stages of the public examination and covers housing growth at Witney, Carterton, Eynsham and other sites.

The adopted and draft plans together set out housing growth in Oxfordshire of 34,300 by the end of March 2022 and a further 47,200 homes by end March 2031, a total of 81,500 new homes in the next 15 years.

Table 1 Total homes planned (adopted and draft local plans) for Oxfordshire to March 2031

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<th>Apr22 to Mar31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherwell</td>
<td>10,082</td>
<td>13,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford City</td>
<td>3,156</td>
<td>3,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Oxfordshire</td>
<td>7,021</td>
<td>10,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vale of White Horse</td>
<td>9,357</td>
<td>10,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Oxfordshire</td>
<td>4,687</td>
<td>9,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oxfordshire total</strong></td>
<td><strong>34,302</strong></td>
<td><strong>47,183</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oxfordshire County Council’s updated local population forecasts include the expected housing growth in adopted and draft district local plans.
The new forecasts are also based on an improved set of assumptions from ONS, especially in the upper age bands where deaths data is now available by single year of age.

The following charts show the differences by age group between the new County Council forecasts (Apr18), the old County Council forecasts (Nov 2016, as reported in the 2017 JSNA) and the trend-based Office for National Statistics 2014-based sub national population projections.

The comparisons show a similar trend in the total population and younger age groups and a lower predicted growth in the number of older people than the previous set of forecasts.

Figure 7 Comparison of Oxfordshire County Council population forecasts based on housing growth (Nov16 and Apr18) and ONS projections based on past trends
Children aged 0-9

Children and Young People aged 0-17
People aged 85 and over

- OLD OCC
- ONS
- NEW OCC