

New GP led Health Centre in Oxfordshire

To all Oxfordshire practices

LMC needs the help of all Oxfordshire practices

We believe there is very little enthusiasm for a new GP led Health Centre in Oxfordshire, but it is being pushed through by central government.

We therefore wish to demonstrate lack of local support

Could all practices ask their patients to register their view using the attached ballot paper?

These can then be sent back by the practice to the address below

The results will hopefully help our campaign to resist this government diktat and avoid wastage of valuable local NHS funding.

Perhaps the best start time for this second initiative in obtaining patient views, would be after the closing date for the 60th birthday card petition (6.6.08).

Practices can keep up the GPC posters and hand patients the Darzi Centre ballot instead of the petition.

I would like to receive all ballot papers in Marlow by 5pm on Friday 4.7.08

Your help is greatly appreciated

Paul Roblin

Chief Executive Berks, Bucks and Oxon LMC

Mere House, Mere Park, Dedmere Rd, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1PB

Ballot of Oxfordshire patient views on a new GP led (Darzi) Health Centre

Explanation of the questions in the box at the bottom of this letter

The government has ordered that every Primary Care Trust in England should set up at least one new clinic, commonly described in the press as 'polyclinics,' 'GP-led health centres,' or 'Darzi clinics.'

The government intends that the new clinics will be run by private companies in an attempt to introduce competition into general practice.

The proposed clinic for Oxfordshire is in Banbury and will offer services 7 days a week from 8am - 8pm.

The cost will be about £700,000 in the first year and £1.1million in second and subsequent years

GPs in Oxfordshire believe that the funding for the privately owned Darzi clinic could be better spent on the health needs of Oxfordshire patients. For example, the money spent on the Darzi clinic could buy more than 1000 cataract operations or 140 hip operations. Funding could also be made available for investment into the current general practices in Banbury so that they can expand their surgeries to accommodate the increasing population of the area - the cost of this would be far less than a Darzi clinic.

Please tick the statement below that you most agree with:

I think that the money should not be spent on the new clinic, and should be spent on other health needs.

I think that the money should be spent on the new clinic

The following is optional, but we feel it gives greater credibility to the ballot

Your name and postcode.....
.....

The practice where you were given this form will send your opinion back to

Oxfordshire LMC
Mere House, Mere Park, Dedmere Rd, Marlow, SL7 1PB
See www.bbolmc.co.uk