

## Cover Sheet

Public Trust Board Meeting: Wednesday 09 November 2022

TB2022.091

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**Title:** Chief Executive Officer's Report

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**Status:** For Information

**History:** Regular report to Trust Board

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**Board Lead:** Chief Executive Officer

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**Confidential:** No

**Key Purpose:** Performance

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## Executive Summary

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4.	<b>Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre officially opened at the NOC</b>
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10.	<b>Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) and Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news</b>

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

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### 1. Flu vaccination campaign launched to keep our people safe

- 1.1. We launched our annual staff flu vaccination programme on Monday 3 October, to support our people to protect themselves, their families and our patients this winter.
- 1.2. We are encouraging all our #OneTeamOneOUH staff to have not only their flu vaccination but also their COVID-19 booster vaccination, if they are eligible,
- 1.3. I would like to thank all staff who are involved in delivering our annual staff flu vaccination programme, including our army of vaccinators who have received training to provide vaccinations in their areas of the Trust and our central team who are running drop-in clinics on all our four main hospital sites.
- 1.4. We are also working closely with colleagues across the Oxfordshire health and care system – and the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS) – to promote the benefits of flu and COVID-19 booster vaccinations for our patients and populations.

### 2. 'Team Oxfordshire' approach to care for our patients this winter

- 2.1. Staff from OUH are working together with their colleagues from GP practices, social care, community and mental health services, ambulance services, and the voluntary sector in preparation for the busy winter months.
- 2.2. We are building on our experience of collaborative working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and previous winters, to ensure that collectively we will be able to provide safe, effective and sustainable care for the people and populations across Oxfordshire who rely on us.
- 2.3. This ['Team Oxfordshire' approach](#) is key to ensuring that people who require medical treatment this winter are able to access services to get the care they need.
- 2.4. Colder temperatures and harsher weather conditions lead to increased demands on the health and care system during the winter months, especially as we anticipate the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and seasonal flu and other respiratory conditions which can lead to people needing hospital care.
- 2.5. Thank you in advance to our staff, and their colleagues across health and care in Oxfordshire, for everything they will do this winter to keep our patients safe.
- 2.6. Board members may have read media reports about a new protocol drawn up by NHS England (NHSE) requiring CEOs and Chairs of trusts in NHSE's

bottom two “tiers” for elective and cancer performance to complete a new “Board self certification” by 11 November. It requires them to sign that they have carried out a list of 12 separate actions to try to improve.

- 2.7. I would like to reassure Board members that we are not in the bottom two “tiers” for elective and cancer performance and the Trust is already carrying out the actions outlined in the NHSE protocol.

### **3. £86 million boost for healthcare research over the next five years**

- 3.1. The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), which is a partnership between OUH and the University of Oxford, has been awarded £86.6 million in Government funding over the next five years to improve diagnosis, treatment and care for NHS patients.
- 3.2. [The announcement of the funding, which will support 15 research themes from 1 December, was made on 14 October.](#)
- 3.3. The Oxford BRC, which brings together academics and clinicians to translate scientific breakthroughs into potential new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies, was one of the five original BRCs created in 2007.
- 3.4. I am delighted that the Oxford BRC, and our partners in the Oxford Health BRC, have both received substantial funding for the next five years.
- 3.5. This will ensure that our patients will continue to have access to the latest cutting-edge treatments and medical techniques which are developed by BRC-supported scientists.

### **4. Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre officially opened at the NOC**

- 4.1. It was a real pleasure to join patients and staff on 5 October for the [official opening of the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre](#) on our Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) hospital site.
- 4.2. The centre, which has been moved from the nearby Churchill Hospital to a new, purpose-built home at the NOC, brings together a research areas, laboratories, treatment rooms and a patient gym under one roof.
- 4.3. It opened to patients earlier this year and the official opening event was an opportunity to reflect on the improvements in both patient and staff experience which have been seen since the move to the NOC.
- 4.4. It was fitting that long-term patients Martin Beard and Sandy Jeffery cut the ribbon to officially open the centre.
- 4.5. We are also grateful to our friends from Oxford Hospitals Charity whose additional funding enabled us to purchase new rehabilitation gym equipment

for patients and to make the outdoor space welcoming and attractive for both patients and staff.

## **5. First cancer patients treated at OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon**

- 5.1.** Tuesday 11 October was a red letter day as [our new OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon – on the Great Western Hospital site – welcomed its first patients.](#)
- 5.2.** The centre is an expansion of our radiotherapy service, until now provided solely from the Churchill Hospital in Oxford.
- 5.3.** We have invested £18.4 million in this project and local people donated £2.9 million towards the specialist equipment needed to provide radiotherapy in Swindon, through the charity [Brighter Futures'](#) Radiotherapy Appeal.
- 5.4.** The new centre will enable our staff to provide high quality care closer to home for cancer patients living in Swindon and the surrounding areas.
- 5.5.** It will save around 13,000 journeys to Oxford every year and reduce the additional stress and anxiety caused by needing to travel long distances for treatment.

## **6. National recognition for Horton General Hip Fracture Team**

- 6.1.** Congratulations to [our Hip Fracture Team based at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury who have been named as one of the best in the country](#) – for the 10<sup>th</sup> successive year.
- 6.2.** They met best practice criteria in their treatment of nearly 92% of patients – well above the national average of just under 54%.
- 6.3.** These figures were published in the annual National Hip Fracture Audit 2021, which compares the performance of 164 trauma units in England and Wales.
- 6.4.** We are very proud of our Trauma team at the Horton and we are delighted that patients attending the hospital for hip fracture treatment can be assured that they are in safe hands.

## **7. Mental Health Awareness Month supports our people's wellbeing**

- 7.1.** Throughout October our Here for Health, Occupational Health and Wellbeing teams have joined forces for what we designated as Staff Mental Health Awareness Month at OUH.
- 7.2.** They delivered a wide range of face-to-face and virtual mental health and wellbeing events, sessions and workshops for our people between World

Mental Health Day on 10 October and Stress Awareness Day on 2 November.

**7.3.** October's events form part of our award-winning *Growing Stronger Together – Rest, Reflect, Recover* programme which supports the physical and mental wellbeing of our people both as individuals and in their teams.

**7.4.** From November onwards monthly staff wellbeing roadshows will be held on all our sites, starting on Thursday 10 November at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

## 8. Celebrating the achievements of our award-winning staff

**8.1.** OUH is shortlisted for the '[Freedom to Speak Up Award](#)' at the [Health Service Journal Awards](#) on 17 November,

**8.2.** Our **Communications & Oxford Medical Illustration (OMI) teams** are shortlisted in two categories of the [CorpComms Awards](#) on 17 November – in the 'Best Wellbeing Initiative' category for internal communications supporting the [Growing Stronger Together – Rest, Reflect, Recover](#) programme and in the 'Best Publication' category for the [Beyond Words](#) book.

**8.3.** *Growing Stronger Together – Rest, Reflect, Recover* is also shortlisted in the 'NHS Employers Award for Wellbeing' category of the [Healthcare People Management Association Excellence in People Awards](#) on 1 December.

**8.4.** **Dr Eleanor Wicks** (Consultant Cardiologist) and **Courtney Hughes** (Nursing Associate) were both finalists in the 'Keyworker Award' category of BBC Radio Oxford's Make a Difference Awards on 30 September.

**8.5.** **Jackie Love** (Head of Design) and **Caroline Green** (Clinical Photographer) were recognised at the [Institute of Medical Illustrators Awards](#) on 8 October – Jackie won a Gold Award and two special awards for the [Beyond Words](#) book while Caroline won two Bronze Awards.

**8.6.** **Jo Buxton** (a member of our Colorectal Cancer Nursing Team) was named [Stoma Care Nurse of the Year](#) on 10 October.

**8.7.** Our **Robotics in Spinal Surgery team** were shortlisted in the 'Digital Innovation in Orthopaedics' category of the [National Orthopaedics Alliance's Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards](#) on 19 October.

## 9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) news

Around 15% of people aged between 40 and 75 may have a form of [undiagnosed high blood pressure](#) that occurs only at night-time. Because they do not know about this, and are therefore not being treated for it, they are at a higher risk of

cardiovascular disease such as stroke, heart failure and even death, according to new Oxford BRC-funded research.

University of Oxford researchers and their partners have reported new findings from their Phase 2b trial which tested the effectiveness of a booster dose of their candidate malaria vaccine, which had previously demonstrated high-level efficacy 12 months after being administered in West African children in 2021. In their latest findings, they found that a vaccine booster dose one year after the primary three-dose regime [continued to meet the WHO's goal](#) of at least 75% efficacy.

Oxford researchers have found that prior COVID-19 infection is associated with more uneven inflation of the lungs during normal breathing. There was also an association between hospitalisation with COVID-19 and smaller lung volumes, and admission to the intensive care unit was associated with an enlarged respiratory 'dead space'. The [BRC-supported study](#), based on 178 participants, including OUH patients, used a novel computational approach to assess how COVID-19 may affect long-term lung function.

Oxford University researchers have found a new way of directly quantifying vascular inflammation in COVID-19 patients, in a study that could pave the way to more efficient trials of new treatments and identify patients who might be at risk of long-term complications. The study, supported by the Oxford BRC, developed a [novel image analysis platform](#), which uses artificial intelligence to quantify cytokine-driven vascular inflammation from routine CT angiograms to derive 'virtual biopsies'.

A University of Oxford team has been awarded a grant from the national charity Asthma + Lung UK to study why [women are more likely to have asthma](#) and why they are twice as likely to die from it. The team, which is supported by the Oxford BRC, will analyse data from 12 previous studies to look at how inflammation of the airways might relate to hormone levels; which genes cause female forms of asthma; and how inflammation in women with asthma responds to steroid treatment. It is hoped that a better understanding of these factors might lead to new treatments and a more personalised approach.

Oxford BRC-supported researchers have launched the first UK study in the general population to test for [early markers of type 1 diabetes](#) before children develop symptoms or need insulin. This feasibility study will initially involve 60 children being screened in two GP practices in the Thames Valley when they attend their pre-school booster vaccination.

The BRC hosted a [public talk](#) on whether stents or surgery delivered the best outcome for patients with carotid artery disease at risk of stroke. Richard Bulbulia outlined the findings of the Asymptomatic Carotid Surgery Trial 2 (ACST-2), the largest trial to date comparing the outcomes of the two procedures.

Aspiring healthcare research leaders have successfully completed the latest Oxford BRC [Next Generation Leaders Programme](#), with course participants presenting the quality improvement projects they had been working on, on topics including health economics; equality, diversity and inclusion; research protocol writing; and patient and public involvement and engagement. This is the third edition of the six-month

programme, commissioned and designed by the Oxford BRC to enable early- to mid-career researchers and health professionals to develop key skills in leadership and management capability.

OUH Clinical Academic Nurse Researcher Jody Ede has been given an [award by the British Federation of Women Graduates](#) to continue her SUFFICE study, exploring how to improve the escalation of care for patients whose condition deteriorates in the hospital setting. Jody had received early-career support from the BRC.

## **10. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) and Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news**

### **10.1. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) news**

The relicensing process for England's 15 AHSNs from April 2023 is progressing. OUH will continue to host the Oxford AHSN.

New publications from the Oxford AHSN include the [Q1 2022/23](#) quarterly report.

The next meeting of the Oxford AHSN Board is on 29 November.

Staff from OUH and the Oxford AHSN welcomed visitors from the NHS England Transformation Directorate to the JR and NOC at the end of September. They found out about progress in harnessing digital innovations to improve patient access, experience and outcomes. There was a particular focus on new care pathways through digital consent in ophthalmology and automated pre-op assessments prior to hip and knee surgery. It's part of a region-wide initiative which secured financial [support through the former NHSX Adoption Fund last year](#). The OUH work is scheduled to be featured in an NHS England Transformation Directorate case study.

### **10.2. Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news**

The Board of the OAHP did not meet in September or October – key activities during this period are set out below:

- A Retreat is planned for the end of November which will provide an opportunity for OAHP to consider its position mid-designation and in particular focus on broader issues including longer term objectives, new opportunities to develop and support workforce, and contributions to the Life Sciences vision and missions.
- All Partners are preparing briefings to describe priorities which might benefit from collaboration across OAHP – we anticipate being able to update the OUH Board (and other partners) before the end of the calendar year.
- There was an informal meeting of the eight AHSCs in England (including OAHP) to compare respective approaches to facilitating the use of data in their regions – the group agreed to continue meeting on a quarterly basis, to explore common experiences in managing data.