

Cover Sheet

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Trust Board and Council of Governors news

- 1.1. Welcome to **Yvonne Christley**, who took up her post as our new Chief Nursing Officer on 1 May after joining us from Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and to **Matt Harris** who stepped up to the role of Acting Chief Digital & Partnerships Officer on 1 May from his substantive post of Director of Digital Services.
- 1.2. [Congratulations to everyone who was elected or re-elected to the Council of Governors with effect from 1 April after the elections which closed in March.](#)

2. UK first heart procedure carried out at OUH

- 2.1. A new procedure to treat patients with severe heart valve disease has been carried out in a UK first at the Oxford Heart Centre, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital.
- 2.2. [Minimally invasive Transcatheter Tricuspid Valve Replacement \(TTVR\) operations](#) took place in December 2023 to treat two patients with severe tricuspid regurgitation, a condition with debilitating symptoms such as fluid retention and breathlessness, leading to a poor quality of life.
- 2.3. Rosalind Walsh, 79, was the first to undergo TTVR which she described as a "miracle" that gives her "hope for the future".
- 2.4. Establishing TTVR was made possible by partnership working between the multi-disciplinary team at the JR, Oxford Hospitals Charity, which funded £800,000 worth of specialist equipment, and Edwards Lifesciences, which created the equipment that helps to get the new valve into the heart.
- 2.5. NHS England supported our TTVR publicity on three of their social media accounts which have a combined following of about 1.5 million people – on [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). This followed on from national and local media coverage including an [ITV article and broadcast](#), [BBC News Online](#) and the [Oxford Mail](#).

3. Blood tests for diagnosing dementia move a step closer

- 3.1. [Around 5,000 people are to take part in a clinical trial to identify quick and accurate blood tests to diagnose Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.](#)
- 3.2. Currently a third of patients with dementia never get a formal diagnosis. It is hoped that, as a result of the trial, more people will be able to access care, support and new drug treatments at an earlier stage.

- 3.3. Dementias Platform UK (DPUK) researchers at the University of Oxford have been awarded funding to conduct the trial from the Alzheimer's Society, Alzheimer's Research UK and the National Institute for Health and Care Research.
- 3.4. Patients attending memory assessment clinics at the John Radcliffe Hospital are already taking part in the DPUK FAST study, looking into blood biomarkers, and these Oxford volunteers are expected to take part in this new Blood Biomarkers Challenge.

4. Third phase of palliative care project now live

- 4.1. [The third phase of a project designed to improve palliative care in Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire is now live.](#)
- 4.2. Hospice Outreach is part of a [wider project](#), launched in 2022 with the aim of supporting people at the very end of their life whose choice is to die at home rather than in hospital.
- 4.3. Rapid Intervention for Palliative and End of Life Care (RIPEL) is a unique partnership between Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), Sobell House Hospice Charity, Macmillan Cancer Support and Social Finance.
- 4.4. Hospice Outreach is a specialised pathway for patients who have been identified by existing services who would further benefit from specialist palliative care support.
- 4.5. The service operates as a virtual ward which allows patients to get the care they need at home, rather than in hospital. Specialist palliative care is then provided virtually or in person, depending on what is best for the patient.

5. Targeted Lung Health Check service launched in Banbury

- 5.1. [Lung checks are now available to people in Banbury as part of a national NHS scheme which aims to improve earlier diagnosis of lung conditions and save lives.](#)
- 5.2. The Targeted Lung Health Check Programme gives current and past smokers the chance of having lung conditions detected and treated earlier.
- 5.3. Scans are now underway at the Horton General Hospital with plans for mobile units in community settings in the future.
- 5.4. People who are current or past smokers will initially receive an invitation to take part in a lung health check questionnaire, and depending on the results will receive follow-up checks.

6. Phase 1 report of the Independent Inquiry into the issues raised by the David Fuller case published

- 6.1. [The Phase 1 report of the Independent Inquiry into the issues raised by the David Fuller case was published in November 2023.](#)
- 6.2. The Independent Inquiry was established to investigate how David Fuller was able to carry out inappropriate and unlawful actions in the mortuary of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and why they went apparently unnoticed, for so long.
- 6.3. In November 2021, NHS England requested confirmation from all NHS trusts on compliance with four aspects of Human Tissue Authority (HTA) regulations.
- 6.4. These included swipe access to the mortuary and body stores, effective CCTV coverage which is reviewed on a regular basis, risk assessment of the facilities, and consistent application of the DBS checks for all Trust and contracted staff.
- 6.5. We confirmed our compliance with each of these requirements at that time and this has been maintained.
- 6.6. The Phase 1 report of the Independent Inquiry published in November 2023 made 17 recommendations for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust which were considered by our Divisional and Directorate teams. There were with no immediate actions for OUH as regulatory requirements are being met.
- 6.7. Evidence to demonstrate this compliance is currently being collated as part of the preparation for the HTA and United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) inspections which will take place over the coming months.
- 6.8. In February 2024, the Chair of the Fuller Inquiry requested that NHS trusts complete a short questionnaire as part of Phase 2, to understand the policies and procedures in place. Our OUH return was approved by Dr Andrew Brent, the Chief Medical Officer, and submitted in March 2024.

7. Paediatric audiology services – response to CQC

- 7.1. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) wrote to all providers of children's hearing services in England in April after an expert review undertaken by NHS Lothian in Scotland found failings in the standard of paediatric audiology services.
- 7.2. These issues resulted in delayed identification and missed treatment of children with hearing loss, leading to permanent, avoidable deafness for some children.

- 7.3. The findings led to a review of the service provided by four NHS trusts in England which discovered similar failings.
- 7.4. The CQC wrote to all providers in England to ask the Trust Board to consider the safety, quality and accessibility of our children's hearing services with reference to the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) Improving Quality in Physiological Services (IQIPS) standards.
- 7.5. This is the only recognised accreditation standard for physiological science services, including audiology services, and participation in the scheme is strongly encouraged by the CQC.
- 7.6. Paediatric audiology services provided by OUH have not yet achieved the IQIPS accreditation standard and a significant service reconfiguration is required before this is feasible by combining two currently separate services.
- 7.7. In order to avoid duplication of effort and to minimise financial costs, it is recommended that the entire Audiology service (adult audiology, paediatric audiology and audiological implants) works towards and applies for IQIPS accreditation simultaneously.
- 7.8. Although some progress towards achieving accreditation standards has been made, in order to make further progress with this, financial investment for additional staffing and IT infrastructure are required.
- 7.9. A business case on the additional resources required to achieve IQIPS accreditation is currently under development.

8. OUH teams and colleagues recognised in national awards

- 8.1. Three individuals and three teams from OUH were finalists in the [Unsung Hero Awards](#) on 15 March which recognised non-clinical staff and volunteers working in the NHS. [OUH as an employer won the Special Recognition Award while the Neurosciences Admin Team won the accolade of Admin & Clerical Team of the Year.](#)
- 8.2. An initiative which is giving OUH patients more tailored support before hip and knee surgery has won a national prize. [The enhanced pre-op assessment project at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre \(NOC\) picked up the Bronze award in the Most Effective Contribution to Clinical Redesign category of the HSJ Partnership Awards on 21 March.](#) The initiative is a collaboration between OUH and PRO-MAPP and is supported by Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley.
- 8.3. **Radio Horton**, the radio station based at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury, won the Silver award in the 'Best Speech Package' category of the [National Hospital Radio Awards](#) on 13 April.

8.4. Daljit Dhariwal, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at OUH, has been [presented with the prestigious Colyer Gold Medal](#) by the Royal College of Surgeons in recognition of her “groundbreaking contribution to the profession and wider society”, specifically related to her role in [recent research](#) that highlighted widespread sexual misconduct within the UK surgical workforce.

9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) news

An Oxford research team has found that vaccination against COVID-19 consistently [reduced the risk of Long COVID symptoms](#). While vaccines have proved effective in preventing severe COVID-19, their ability to prevent long-term symptoms had until now not been fully understood. The study, which was supported by the Oxford BRC, analysed primary care electronic health records of more than 20 million vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals from the UK, Spain and Estonia.

The risk of cardiac and clot-related complications following COVID-19 is substantially reduced in people who receive the COVID-19 vaccination, according to new research supported by the Oxford BRC. Using population data from 20 million people in three countries, the research team found that vaccination was associated with [reduced risks](#) of heart failure, venous thromboembolism and arterial thrombosis for up to a year after COVID-19 infection. The same research team has also shed light on the long-term [mental health consequences](#) of COVID-19 infection and the growing evidence of the protective effect of vaccination on reducing the risk.

Oxford researchers have received funding from Diabetes UK to set up the [UK's first registry](#) for people at risk of type 1 diabetes (T1D). The aims of the registry include telling people about new treatments and opportunities to take part in research, increasing understanding of what it's like to be at high risk of T1D, providing guidance for doctors, and collecting data on how T1D develops. The registry will be held at the University of Oxford's Diabetes Trials Unit on the Churchill Hospital site.

University of Oxford researchers have for the first time established a controlled [human infection model for tuberculosis](#) (TB) that infects people via the lungs, the route that TB enters the body. The clinical trial, which used the BCG vaccine delivered via aerosol into participants' lungs, is a first step towards establishing a challenge model that can be used to test new TB vaccines. The trial was led by Professor Helen McShane, Director of the Oxford BRC.

A University of Oxford study has found that attending an NHS Health Check is associated with a [decreased risk](#) of dying and of conditions including dementia, heart attack, and kidney disease. The study, supported by the Oxford BRC, suggests that preventative programmes can help to reduce a population's overall risk of long-term disease. Using data from almost 100,000 UK Biobank participants, the researchers found that those participants who attended an NHS Health Check appointment had: a 19% lower rate of dementia diagnosis, 23% lower rate of acute kidney injury diagnosis, and an overall 23% lower risk of death from any cause.

The NIHR Oxford Clinical Research Facility (EMCRF) has [expanded its capability](#) to undertake research bronchoscopies and welcomed its first volunteers as part of the Oxford Airways Study, which is supported by the Oxford BRC, to help understand the causes of asthma. This new capability was established with a £260,000 grant from the Medical Research Council.

Oxford researchers have identified how cells work to [resolve frozen shoulder](#), a disabling condition affecting the ligaments that form the shoulder joint capsule. The findings open up potential new targets for treatment to reduce the need for surgery.

Ronjon Chakraverty, Professor of Haematology in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine and Oxford BRC Co-theme Lead for Gene and Cell Therapy, has been named an [NIHR Senior Investigator](#). The NIHR says Senior Investigators are “among the most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of people-based research within the NIHR research community”. Marian Knight, Professor of Maternal and Child Population Health in the Nuffield Department of Population Health and until recently Oxford BRC Co-theme Lead for Cardiovascular, was reappointed as a Senior Investigator.

Six OUH nurses and allied health professionals who have received doctoral funding from the Oxford BRC have [presented their PhD projects](#) to their fellow awardees and supervisors.

10. Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley & Oxford Academic Health Partners news

10.1. Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley news

The process to recruit a new Chair of Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley is now underway with interviews due to take place in May or June. The current Chair, Nigel Keen is retiring having performed the role since the organisation’s formation 10 years ago.

Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley hosted an annual regional maternity and neonatal shared learning event at Unipart in March, with significant contributions from OUH staff. It celebrated 10 years of innovation and service improvement through regional collaboration.

Health Innovation Networks and their respective regional NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (NIHR ARCs) have been working together to solve significant issues in healthcare. [The Oxford and Thames Valley partnership evaluated virtual outpatient clinics for transient ischaemic attack \(TIA\) in the South East through the NHS Insights Prioritisation Programme \(NIPP\).](#)

[On 2 July Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley is co-hosting with its partner integrated care boards 'The power of digital health partnerships' focusing on addressing key healthcare challenges and supporting economic growth.](#)

Professor Gary Ford, Chief Executive of Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley, contributed to a roundtable discussion on building a culture of health innovation and the subsequent report '[Collaborate to innovate](#)' which was published in April by the NHS Confederation and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI). He highlighted the importance of embracing the potential of technology to transform care pathways, empower patients, and maximise the impact of the NHS workforce to benefit the health of the population.

The next Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley Board meeting is on 7 June.

10.2. Oxford Academic Health Partners news

The Oxford Academic Health Partners Board met on 15 March and covered a number of important areas including Oxford Health's Warneford Park Vision and other estates developments.

The Board agreed that it was important to ensure sharing and flow of information across the partners to support the objective of coherence of strategic campus development involving the University and NHS partners.

A series of meetings are now being arranged to prepare for more detailed discussions at the next meeting involving Board members and their estates and development colleagues.

The Board welcomed the work being done across the partners to support nurses, midwives, allied health professionals (AHPs), pharmacists and healthcare scientists and the supporting research infrastructure. Board members approved a proposal for the allocation of funds to support this work over the next 12 months.

The Board noted that UCLPartners, one of the eight Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) in England, has commissioned a survey of AHSCs to be carried out by Newmarket Strategy led by Lord O'Shaughnessy. Oxford Academic Health Partners has been chosen to be interviewed and the Board looked forward to the outcome.