Briefing on Oxford University Hospitals

13 November 2012 – Issue 19

This briefing is a regular update for our partner organisations and key stakeholders within the wider community that we serve. It contains the latest news from the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH).

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1 Feedback on the Trust’s consultation on becoming a Foundation Trust

Between June and October we held a public consultation on our proposals to become a Foundation Trust. We wanted to explain our plans for the future and how we will operate as a Foundation Trust - specifically our governance arrangements and proposals for a Council of Governors.

We held 16 public consultation events across Oxfordshire and one in Brackley in Northamptonshire, as well as 15 staff consultation events including at least two in each of our four hospitals.

Nearly 700 people came along to give us their views. We also consulted with other health and social care organisations, Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford and patient groups as well as local MPs and local authorities.

The response received by the Trust was overwhelmingly positive, with nearly all respondents being supportive of our bid. In response to the feedback we have made some changes:

- In the staff constituency, we have increased the representation of non-clinical staff on the Council of Governors from one to two elected members.
- In the public constituency, we have split the counties surrounding Oxfordshire into two distinct areas. Each area to have two elected governors.
  - Northamptonshire and Warwickshire
  - Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire

This reflects the fact that Northamptonshire and Warwickshire use the Horton General Hospital for local services as well as using the Trust’s specialist services.

- In the stakeholder constituency, we have agreed that the Local Medical Committee that represents GPs, should nominate a GP to the Council of Governors.

Next steps for the Trust

As we prepare to operate as a Foundation Trust (FT), we have been looking carefully at the way we govern ourselves and manage our resources, so that we can improve our services and performance and be financially secure in the future.

The application process involves a number of assessments to ensure we are ready to operate as an FT. We aim to be recognised as one of the UK’s highest quality healthcare providers. In order to deliver this and to support the FT process, we have created a five year integrated business plan.

Key elements of the plan include:
- Delivering Compassionate Excellence through our values, engagement and involvement (staff and patients), Listening into Action
- Clinical Services Strategy which includes: transforming local acute services to provide more integrated models of care, with a shift of care from the acute hospital to the community, consolidating and expanding specialist services through the strengthening and expansion of clinical networks.
Timetable for FT process:

- January 2013: Department of Health reviews application
- Spring 2013: elections of Governors
- Summer 2013: tested by Monitor, FT regulator. Council of Governors formed and ready to operate
- Autumn 2013: authorisation by Monitor to operate as an FT

For more information www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft  Email: ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk  Telephone: 01865 743491

2 Oxford Academic Health Science Network

Oxford University Hospitals has been working with partners in the NHS, the universities and industry, to become the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN). The vision is to deliver evidence-based best care for our patients and local populations, and through innovation create opportunities to improve and invest in healthcare.

The Network has identified four Programmes – Best Care, Continuous Learning, Research and Development and Wealth Creation and Healthcare Innovation - which are supported by six cross-cutting Themes, which emphasise its over-arching strengths and its objectives to transform healthcare for the benefit of our patients and population.

- Population Healthcare
- Patient and Public Engagement, Involvement and Experience
- Integration and Sustainability
- Informatics and Technologies
- Genomic Medicine
- Knowledge Management

Partners involved in the Oxford AHSN include all NHS bodies, including Clinical Commissioning Groups, universities, third sector and voluntary bodies, local authorities, business networks and the life science industry. The AHSN covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, and Oxfordshire (the Thames Valley) and part of Bedfordshire. Other areas such as Warwickshire, Swindon, Northamptonshire and Gloucestershire are also involved through their links to NHS bodies affiliated to the Oxford AHSN. It is hoped that the Network will be designated in the early part of 2013/2014. The full prospectus and more details can be found at www.oxfordahsn.org

3 Our performance

Infection control

In March, the Department of Health issued updated guidelines on the maximum number of cases of C Difficile and MRSA that it expected the Trust to see in this financial year. The Trust is expected to see no more than 88 cases of C Difficile and no more than seven cases of MRSA. So far this year the Trust has had one case of MRSA and 45 cases of C Difficile which means that the Trust should succeed in reducing the number of cases in line with these targets.
Finance
The Trust’s financial position at the end of month 6 (September) was £39,000 better than plan. The Trust has delivered £18.7m in savings year to date (90.4% of the year to date plan). Some planned savings continue to be considered high risk as they are dependent on reducing the levels of bed occupancy. This has not proved possible because of the level of patient demand. Our income from commissioning was £7.6m better than plan, but this was offset by an increase in the pay expenditure (£4.2m above plan) on the staff required to deliver additional activity, other cost pressures and, in part, delays in delivery of cost improvement schemes.

Operational performance
The Trust achieved its Trust wide national standard of at least 95% of outpatients and 90% of inpatients waiting no more than 18 weeks for treatment. However, at an individual specialty level for ‘admitted’ patients, neurosurgery, ENT and general surgery performed below 90% in September. Improvement plans were put in place and the services are on track to achieve the required 90% for October 2012.

The Trust is now achieving 95% of patients being seen within the four hour emergency department waiting time standard. The Trust has worked hard to improve the waiting times for all patients within the Emergency Departments and at 14 October 2012 the Trust had reached 98.3% of patients seen within the target time.

The last validated figures for cancer patients show that in August 2012, all cancer standards were achieved with the exception of the cancer 62 day waits. All cancer figures are validated externally and so take longer to produce.

Delayed Transfers of Care
Delayed transfers of care remain a major cause of concern for the Trust with the in-month level in October at 7.8% of beds against a target of 3.5%. This equates to a system-wide average number of delays equating to 140, with OUH delays averaging 76.

The Trust has had escalation beds open all year and the average number of escalation beds open in September was 66. The Trust’s Supported Discharge Team providing care for patients at home for the first two weeks after their discharge will be fully operational by the end of November and will be able to manage a caseload of 80 patients with 40 new patients being managed by the service each week, provided the 14 day discharge agreement is adhered to.

4 Acute Vascular Imaging Centre (AVIC) official opening

On 15 October the Trust and the University of Oxford celebrated the official opening of AVIC, the £13m research centre which aims to improve the early treatment of heart attack and strokes by understanding more about what is happening in the patient’s heart or brain tissue at the time of the attack. AVIC has both a state-of-the-art catheter laboratory and an MRI scanner. The catheter laboratory offers X-ray imaging of the blood vessels causing the heart condition or stroke while treatment is targeted to the narrowed or blocked artery.

The 3 Tesla MRI scanner offers newer imaging techniques that can show the blood flow in different blood vessels for better diagnosis and characterisation of the problem. Professor Robin Choudhury is the Clinical
Director for the Centre, which is based on level 2 of the John Radcliffe Hospital, within the Heart Centre and next to the Emergency Department.

**5 Midwifery-led Maternity Units**

On 18 October the Trust took the decision to suspend, with immediate effect, births at the Cotswold Maternity Unit based in Chipping Norton. An internal review is underway following concerns around working practices raised by staff and women using the unit. A number of actions have already been taken and the suspension of births will enable a full review of the unit to be completed. Jane Hervé, Head of Midwifery at the Trust, has been asked to lead the review into all aspects of the unit’s working practices.

The unit will remain staffed and open during the day to provide women and their families with antenatal support, breast feeding advice and support, babies’ hearing tests and postnatal care. Women from Chipping Norton and the surrounding areas will continue to have a choice of where to give birth and these include:

- Horton General Hospital, Banbury
- Consultant-led unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
- Spires Midwifery-led unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
- Home birth
- South Warwickshire Hospital

Following completion of building works and recruitment to vacant posts, the midwifery-led unit at Wantage Community Hospital will reopen shortly. The unit, which has been closed for births since February of this year, will be reopened from 26 November 2012.

**6 Oxehealth launched**

A new Oxford spin-out company, *Oxehealth*, launched by Oxford University's Institute of Biomedical Engineering, will allow a patient's health to be monitored remotely using a webcam and a software application.

The software, validated in a clinical study in the Oxford Kidney Unit at the Churchill Hospital, will detect the patient's heart rate, respiratory rate and oxygen saturation, even in artificial light, without the need for any physical wired connection or additional hardware.

Professor Lionel Tarassenko, Director of the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, and a member of the Biomedical Research Centre’s Bio-informatics theme, describes the development as transforming the ubiquitous webcam, into a non-contact sensor for monitoring the most important vital signs.

This development has been made possible through a close collaboration with biomedical scientists in the University and clinicians in Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. This is the first spin-out company directly linked with the Trust and another example of the many innovative opportunities which the partnership between the Trust and the University is making possible.
7 Safe and sustainable review into children’s heart surgery

On 22 October the Secretary of State for Health asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to undertake a full review of the Safe and Sustainable recommendations for the provision of services for paediatric cardiac surgery.

The reviews will not have any impact on services for child heart patients in Oxfordshire who continue to have their care provided jointly by the OUH as part of its network arrangements with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust to provide a joint service for children with congenital heart disease. The John Radcliffe Hospital will continue to provide cardiology care for children.

8 Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards

The Trust has been shortlisted in three categories for the annual HSJ awards. The Home for lunch service improvement project has been shortlisted in the Quality and Productivity category and Secondary Care Service redesign category. The EPR project – Positive Patient Identification (PPID) has also been shortlisted in the Improving Care with Technology category.

9 Forthcoming events at the OUH

Oxford Biomedical Research Centre - Bringing research to life through public talks

Friday 16 November from 4.00pm - 5.30pm (light refreshments served from 3.30pm)
Speakers: Dr Jill Urban; Professor Sally Roberts; Mr Chris Heywood and Professor Jeremy Fairbank.

Genodisc Day
Do you suffer from chronic back pain? Is it caused by degenerate discs? Everyone's discs degenerate and although around 60 percent of adults are likely to have a significant episode of back pain at some time in their lives many people have degenerate discs and no pain. Here we will review the latest research in this area, in particular that arising from Genodisc, an EU-funded international project which studies the causes of low back pain.
The talk will be held at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Lecture theatre level 1 (via main entrance).

Tuesday 4 December 2012 6.30pm - 7.30pm (light refreshments will be served from 6.00pm)
Heidi Johansen-Berg, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow.

Remodelling the Brain
Our brains adapt whenever we learn a new skill, such as juggling. Our brains also adapt after damage such as stroke. Brain imaging allows us to watch this brain remodelling, reorganisation and rewiring. New developments in brain stimulation raise exciting opportunities for accelerating learning and enhancing recovery.

Charitable Funds Events
Children’s Hospital Christmas Concert at Dorchester Abbey Thursday 6 December 2012
Tickets are available for the Children’s Hospital Christmas Concert at Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 6th December, 7.30pm. With readings from Michael Palin, Wendy Craig, Hannah Gordon and Sir Tim Rice and the delightful voices of Winchester Cathedral Choir, the event promises to start the Christmas season in style.
Over the years these fabulous concerts have raised over £150,000 for the Children’s Hospital and children’s causes across the Trust.

Tickets are available at £25, £50 and £75. Call 01865 743444 or email charity@ouh.nhs.uk to book your place before they sell out.

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