Briefing on Oxford University Hospitals

14 November 2013 – Issue 22

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 Public Health Strategy Consultation
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is developing a Public Health Strategy with Oxfordshire County Council to improve the health of patients, visitors, and staff, and to help address the wider public health needs of Oxfordshire.

Through its 11,000 members of staff, and one million annual patient contacts, the Trust is ideally placed to contribute to improving the county's health, reinforcing its role as a valued member of the wider community where so many of its staff members live.

Primary care already deliver a wide raft of health promotion messages and disease prevention interventions, we would therefore value your views on the OUHT strategy and how we can best complement the work you are already doing. You can do this by answering four short questions; to access our survey, please visit: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSQCHSS

The survey closes at the end of this month, so please give us your views now.

2 Independent Review of Cardiac Theatres and the Cardiac Surgical Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital
The Trust Board received an Independent Review into its Cardiac Theatres and the Cardiac Surgical Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital at its meeting on Wednesday 13 November. The Board also accepted an action plan written to address points raised in the review.

The Review was commissioned following concerns raised internally and externally about staffing in the unit and whistle-blowing. The independent review panel examined these concerns and was clear that there were no problems with staffing and it had no concerns regarding the Trust’s whistle-blowing procedures.

The Review commended the clinical care provided within the unit and had no concerns for patient safety. However, the Review did raise some issues on management structure, the culture of the working environment and training compliance. Paul Brennan, the Director of Clinical Services, has worked with staff in the Unit to look at each recommendation and develop an action plan which is now being implemented following the Board meeting. For further information please see our website.

3 Hospital Heroes
Patients from Oxfordshire, and across the UK, have been nominating staff at our hospitals who have made a huge difference to their lives for a new award.

The Oxford Mail and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust have teamed up to identify 'Hospital Heroes', and since the launch in July there have been dozens of entries. The two Hospital Heroes awards (one for a team and the other for an individual) are new awards nominated by the public that go alongside our Staff Recognition Awards where staff nominate their colleagues for outstanding service.
The new awards were launched to coincide with the 65th anniversary of the creation of the NHS. For more than six decades, dedicated teams at Oxfordshire hospitals have played an important and unforgettable part in the lives of families across the county.

Nominations have now closed and the winners will be announced at the Trust’s Staff Recognition Awards on 28 November 2013 and then published in the Oxford Mail on Saturday 30 November.

4 Our performance
Infection control
The Trust is expected to see no avoidable cases of MRSA this year and no more than 70 cases of C Difficile. So far this year the Trust has had three non-avoidable cases of MRSA and 31 cases of C Difficile. So far, the Trust is succeeding in reducing the number of cases in line with these targets.

Delayed Transfers of Care
Delayed transfers of care remain a major cause of concern for the Trust and accounted for 11.2% of occupied beds in our hospitals in the second quarter of the year, giving a year to date figure of 10.8%. This is against a national threshold of 3.5%. This is a rise from the 2012/13 outturn of 9.6% and is also above the 8.6% that we are aiming for this year.

The Trust has had escalation beds open all year and has now permanently opened an additional 65 beds to meet the high levels of emergency activity and the delays in transferring patients to the most appropriate location for their on-going care needs. The Trust’s Supported Discharge Team providing care for patients at home for the first two weeks after their discharge and is now fully operational managing a caseload of up to 60 patients with plans to grow this to 80 before the winter.

Good progress has been made in implementing the system wide discharge pathway and the teams across OUH, OH and OCC are working in partnership to improve the flow of patients across the various services provided by the partner organisations. However there are clearly some challenges, especially around assessment, that the teams are seeking to resolve.

Finance
The Trust’s financial position for the first six months of this financial year was on plan. Commissioning income is £13.4 million above plan, but this is because activity is much higher than planned for. The Trust spent £14.8 million on bank and agency staff in the first six months of the financial year.

The health economy faces some tough challenges financially this year as the number of patients seen in our hospitals continues to rise. The Trust is working hard to manage internal costs, to deliver our Cost Improvement Programme (CIP) and to manage activity in line with our plans and our contracts with our commissioners. One CIP initiative that the Trust has introduced is to drive down the cost of using agency staff by launching the OUH Staff Bank.
Operational performance

Access targets
The Trust continues to meet its 18 weeks referral to treatment standard. 90% of patients are expected to be treated within this time frame and the Trust’s year to date figure is 91.9% after six months, with a figure of 90.9% at the end of the second quarter.

The Trust met its four hour waiting standard for patients to be treated or referred in the Emergency Departments in the second quarter of the year with a figure of 95.6% against a standard of 95%.

Areas of exception
The Trust met all its cancer wait standards for Quarter 2 except for the 62 day standard where performance was below the 85% expected standard at 80.6%.

The Trust has substantially improved its performance in diagnostic waits and has reduced the numbers waiting more than 6 weeks to 2.4% of patients. However, there is still more to do to get to the threshold of 1%. The Trust continues to work hard to improve services in this area to ensure that patients will not be waiting so long in future.

5 Changes to the Trust’s Clinical Divisional Structure
The clinical divisional structure has been reviewed by Divisional Directors and Senior Managers and a number of changes have been implemented from 1 November 2013, three years after the introduction of the new clinical divisional structure.

The changes are designed to further integrate the management of services internally and improve clinical alignment.

The key changes are that the number of clinical divisions reduces from seven to five and some services are therefore realigned within these five new divisions. The new structure can be found on the Trust website here.

6 New names at the OUH
Paul Jones has been appointed as Interim Director of Workforce and started at the beginning of November and Pauline Brown has joined the Trust as Interim Deputy Chief Nurse supporting Liz Wright as Acting Chief Nurse. The Trust is delighted to welcome both of them and the wealth of experience they bring to their new roles.

7 Extension to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit now complete
The second phase of the extension to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital is now complete and the full extension is now being used to care for the sickest babies from across the Thames Valley. This second phase has seen the opening up the second nursery, the new front entrance and family room.
The first phase opened in July. The £5.5m extension has doubled the number of intensive care cots available (from 10 to 20), 16 of which are housed in the new unit, as well as increasing the number of high dependency cots.

8 Foundation Trust Progress Report
Oxford University Hospitals has made good progress towards being able to operate as a Foundation Trust, with all milestones having been met so far. The Trust is working well with the new NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA) who will be assessing the application.

In July the Care Quality Commission announced it was changing the way it inspects acute hospitals. This caused a national delay for all trusts who are applying to become Foundation Trusts, as there is a requirement to have a full CQC inspection before approval can be granted. The Trust asked for its inspection to happen as early as possible in 2014. The CQC have now confirmed that the Trust will have its inspection starting on 24 February 2014.

The Trust is updating its business and financial plans for consideration by its Board in March 2014. This should allow the Trust to submit an updated FT application in April and for it to be formally considered by the TDA’s Board in May.

If all these milestones are met and the TDA’s Board approves the application to go forward, OUH will be able to establish its Council of Governors to operate in shadow form by the autumn. The earliest we would expect elections to take place is June or July.

We will continue to keep members informed as soon as we know more and we will write to all members when we have an election date.

This timetable could change if the Chief Inspector of Hospitals’ report is not received by early April. It is also reliant on the Trust achieving an overall rating of Level 3 (‘Good’) or Level 4 (‘Excellent’) following the inspection.

Another possible risk to this timetable is the Trust agreeing a contract with its commissioners on plans for 2014/15 and beyond which are consistent with recent years’ trends. During 2013, the numbers of people treated for planned care, emergency and outpatient care at Oxford University Hospitals have all continued to grow at levels consistent with previous years’ growth. The NHS Trust Development Authority continues to support the approach taken by the Trust during 2013 to provide care which meets NHS standards of quality, timeliness and cost.

To find out more about the Trust’s application to become a Foundation Trust and what it means to be a member visit the website at www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft

9 A chance to bring a patient voice to research strategy
Do you know someone who would be interested in giving a patient’s perspective on research? Oxford Biomedical Research Centre’s Patient and Public Involvement programme is currently looking for patients to join the Patients Active In Research Group (PAIR).
The main aim of PAIR is to bring the patient voice to the strategy of the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre. PAIR comprises researchers, medical staff and patients, and its role includes advising on priorities for new research, helping plan and run research so that patients want to take part and helping explain research (for example in information leaflets) in ways that patients can easily understand.

For more information visit http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/public/get-involved/

10 Staff flu vaccination programme
The staff flu vaccination programme began on 30 September and over 50% of our staff have now been vaccinated. We continue to offer vaccinations to all staff and encourage them to protect themselves, their patients and their families.

11 Money awarded to Oxfordshire for winter pressures
£10.2 million has been awarded by NHS England to ease pressure on Oxfordshire’s emergency departments this winter. Oxfordshire healthcare providers including the OUH, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, South Central Ambulance Service and Oxfordshire County Council are all working together on a package of acute and community based schemes to deliver joined up care across GPs, social care and the county’s acute and community hospitals.

12 Funding to improve dementia care
The Department of Health has awarded £1.53 million to a joint bid from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust’s share of the total is £300,000. This money will be spent on making improvements to Ward 7C to make it as dementia-friendly as possible, including better signage, dementia-friendly colour systems and pictorial signs.

13 Dates for your diary
Oxford Biomedical Research Centre - Bringing research to life through public talks
All talks are at the Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and start at 6.30pm. Light refreshments are served from 6.00pm. Please let us know if you are planning to attend, as places are limited. Please register with Caroline Rouse by contacting her on ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk or on 01865 743491.

Involving Patients in Medical Research by Dr Sophie Petit-Zeman
Thursday 21 November 2013
Involving patients, carers and members of the public in medical research not just as participants in clinical trials or other studies but in deciding what research is done, and how is a growing trend. This talk, by the Oxford BRC’s first Director of Patient Involvement in Research, Dr Sophie Petit-Zeman, looks at how we are turning national priorities into local action. All welcome, no need to register.

Foundation Trust events
Thursday 14 November 8.30am - 1.30pm
Diabetes Research in Oxford and the Thames Valley: information stand
Templars Square Shopping Centre, Cowley, Oxford

To mark World Diabetes Day, the Thames Valley Diabetes Research Network (TV DLRN) will have a diabetes information stand. Diabetes Research Nurse Claire Umney, Communications and Public Involvement Officer Alison Monk and Bernard Gudgin, member of the TV DLRN Patient Reference Panel will be providing information on diabetes. They will also be speaking about research studies running locally, focused on preventing diabetes and improving diabetes care and services. If you are in the area, please come and visit the stand. For more information about the Diabetes Research network please contact: Alison Monk: 01865 857149 Email: alison.monk@ouh.nhs.uk www.ukdrn.org

Charitable Funds Events
Saturday 16 November - The IMPS Ball
Hawkwell House, Iffley.
A table of ten costs £500, to include a drink, three course meal and dancing to Boogie Me.
Email: imps@ouh.nhs.uk

Saturday 7 December - Carols and Canapés at Ditchley Park
In support of the Cancer Care Fund and Urology at the Churchill Hospital

Sunday 30 March 2014 - OX5 RUN
This year the annual Oxford Mail OX5RUN at Blenheim raised £98,000 for the Children’s Hospital and children’s services across the Trust. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

You can help make the 2014 event just as successful by signing up for the 5 mile run. It costs just £10 to enter, you have to be aged 16 or over and can run alone or as a team. Read more at www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run and sign up here

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