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## Summary

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Chief Executive's Report

This report summarises matters of current interest.

1. Reappointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman

I am delighted to announce the reappointment of Dame Fiona Caldicott as Chairman, and of Mr Geoff Salt as Vice-Chairman.

As a foundation trust, it is for the Council of Governors to appoint the Chairman and other Non-Executive Directors. At the meeting of Council held on 20 October 2016, Governors approved the reappointment of Dame Fiona Caldicott as Chairman of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust for a further term of two years.

Dame Fiona’s new term will run up to 7 March 2019.

The Governors also approved the reappointment of Mr Geoffrey Salt, Vice-Chairman and Non-Executive Director of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust for a further term of two years.

Mr Salt’s new term will run up to 29 April 2019.

2. Joint seminar held between the Council of Governors and the Trust Board

A Joint Seminar was held between the Council of Governors and members of the Trust Board on Wednesday 26 October, at OUH @ Cowley.

The session provided an opportunity for Governors to receive updates on the OUH Strategic Review, in the context of updates on the proposals for transformational change in health and social care across Oxfordshire.

Governors were invited to identify the main issues that they wish to address over the coming year, and to consider how the Board and Council can work together most effectively.

The session also provided an opportunity for Governors and Board members to consider whether the responsibilities of Lead Governor should be expanded in any way beyond that of providing a quick and clear conduit for communication between Governors and the regulator, when necessary.

It was agreed that there should be no expansion to the role of Lead Governor at this time, as overall it was felt to be of greater importance to concentrate first on developing the effectiveness of the Council as a whole in its role. Election to the role of Lead Governor will be held in November.

3. HART initiative launched to address patient delays

Following the Trust being commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, to deliver high quality care to Oxfordshire patients in their own homes the new Home Assessment Reablement Team (HART) was launched in October to enable patients to leave hospital once medical needs are stable, or remain at home after a minor accident or illness, rather than being admitted to hospital.

The service incorporates and replaces OUH’s Supported Hospital Discharge Service (SHDS) and the Oxfordshire Reablement Service, which was run by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.
OUH HART staff will work with patients, their families and informal carers to provide support, without charge, for a short period of no longer than six weeks helping our patients regain their independence and confidence in the skills they need to live at home safely.

New patients can be referred to the service by GPs, district nurses, community hospitals and social care providers, as well as OUH departments.

4. Update on obstetric service suspension at Horton General Hospital

In October, the recruitment situation regarding middle grade obstetric doctors was reviewed to see if there would be sufficient numbers to allow the obstetric-led unit to re-open in January 2017. The unit requires nine middle grade doctors in post to run safely.

Following this review, it was clear that it would not possible to reopen the obstetric-led unit in January 2017 and therefore the midwifery-led unit contingency plan will continue at the Horton until March 2017. In the meantime we are making every effort to recruit the doctors required.

Across the NHS, hospital trusts are affected by a shortage of obstetric doctors and unfortunately this has also hit recruitment for our Trust. It is disappointing that we cannot return obstetric-led maternity services to the Horton in January as hoped. Patient safety must come first and of course we cannot offer the obstetric-led service without the staff for it to operate safely. We are continuing to advertise widely and offer an enhanced package to attract the candidates we need.

5. Welcome to new Chief Financial Officer – Jason Dorsett

I would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Trust Board to our new Chief Financial Officer, Jason Dorsett who joined the Trust in October.

Previously, Jason was Director of Finance, Reporting and Risk at the foundation trust regulator, Monitor. He brings extensive senior experience in finance previously at University College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and within HM Treasury as well as major audit and professional services companies.

His significant expertise and understanding of the regulatory framework will be a great asset to us in the current challenging operational and funding environment. He will greatly contribute towards our development of high quality services that are financially sustainable.

6. Hospital Energy Project Energy Link work to commence

Oxford City Council has granted planning permission and Oxfordshire County Council completed road traffic order processes allowing work on the Energy Link carrying hot water, electricity and data between the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals, to begin on 28 November 2016.

Over the summer, the lighting upgrade at the JR was completed. Old generators, boilers at the JR and Churchill and a substantial quantity of asbestos at the Churchill were removed, meaning much of the major on-site infrastructure work is complete.

Considerable planning by our OUH Estates Team and Vital Energi has been done to ensure that the Energy Link work is well co-ordinated with the work being undertaken by the County Council's
Access to Headington transport programme and with developers of student accommodation on London Road.

The Trust and Vital Energi has planned a comprehensive communications programme to inform local residents, patients, staff and stakeholders and to ensure any disruption caused by the installation of the Energy Link is kept to as minimum a level as possible.

7. Staff move to OUH@Cowley underway

As part of the OUH Masterplan estates strategy to offer “Best Space for Patients”, Phase One of moving groups of OUH staff from our Human Resources and Finance departments to the new OUH@Cowley offices, successfully took place in October.

Phase Two will soon see the move of teams from our Patient Contact Centre, Complaints and Charitable Funds to OUH@Cowley with Phase Three moves planned in December.

By the end of this year, approximately 300 staff who do not have a requirement to interact with patients as part of their roles, will have been re-located to offices at Cowley, freeing space at the JR, NOC and Churchill hospital sites.

8. NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre awarded funding

In September, the National Institute for Health Research announced that NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) would receive a further five years of funding of £113.7m from 2017 to 2022. The Oxford BRC was one of 20 successful BRCs throughout England to receive funding for 2017 to 2022 following a competitive bidding process.

This represents a significant increase of almost £10m, and will support Research Themes including cancer, diabetes, genetics, neurology, infection, musculoskeletal, stroke and surgery. The success of the Oxford BRC, which was established in 2007, reflects the scale, success and excellence of the OUH-University of Oxford partnership in medical research.

The OUH NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre will work closely with a newly awarded BRC in mental health at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, bringing the total NIHR funding to the Oxford BRCs to £125m over the next five years. The BRCs will work with the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre to develop innovations in areas such as working with ‘big data’, personalised medicine and tackling the problems of multiple long-term conditions and dementia.

8. Oxford Academic Health Science Network

- The latest Clinical Network – Respiratory – was launched in October. It has published a report into regional variation in asthma and COPD care. It can be read here:
Around 50 NHS innovators – many from the OUH - are now participating in the Oxford AHSN ‘Practical innovating in healthcare settings’ programme which started earlier this year. More here: http://www.oxfordahsn.org/our-work/continuous-learning/practical-innovating-in-healthcare-settings/

Along with the OUH, the Oxford AHSN is a key partner of The Hill, Oxford’s new digital health hub. More than 400 people attended a series of launch events at the JR between June and September. Read more here: http://www.oxfordahsn.org/news-and-events/news/best-ideas-from-healthcare-innovators-win-support-from-expert-panel/


Forthcoming Oxford AHSN events include:

Dr Bruno Holthof  
Chief Executive  
November, 2016