Chief Executive’s Report

Status
For Information

History
Regular report to Board

Board Lead(s)
Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive

Key purpose
Strategy | Assurance | Policy | Performance
**Summary**

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This report summarises matters of current interest.

1. Oxfordshire joint patient transfer plan

The joint Oxfordshire patient transfer has seen hundreds of patients waiting for rehabilitation and social care packages moved from acute beds or community hospital beds to more suitable intermediate care beds in care homes across the county.

The total number of patients delayed in OUHFT beds has dropped to 78 as of 25 August this year compared with 112 on 27 August 2015.

This system-wide transfer plan enables us to release beds for a temporary period of time. Any recommendation to reduce the number of beds on a permanent basis will be discussed with the county’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee before decisions can be made.

2. Oxfordshire Sustainability and Transformation Plan

During the summer, the NHS in Oxfordshire started discussions with the public in the county and those using health services on how to deliver care and treatment in innovative ways. There is a need to use resources more efficiently and provide quality services within budgets, so the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is leading the conversations about opportunities for doing things differently.

The OCCG is being clear to the public that while the amount of money received for the NHS locally is increasing year on year, the cost of delivering services and demand on services is growing at a faster rate. If no change is made they foresee a funding gap in local NHS services of £200m by 2020/21.

As part of the Oxfordshire engagement process, the Trust has shared with many local stakeholders, a number of options that are being worked up which relate to our hospitals. Our clinicians are leading these discussions on how to design the best possible services for our patients. The options which include a number of different services will be part of a public consultation which will run later this year. No decisions have been made and none will be taken until the public consultation has run its course and final proposals put to OCCG’s Board. OCCG is statutorily responsible for running this process and taking a decision following the consultation process.

3. Horton General Hospital Maternity Unit

Following our Trust Board’s decision on 31 August to temporarily suspend obstetric services at the Horton on the basis of immediate and real safety reasons, the contingency plans agreed at the meeting will be put in place from 1 October.
The decision was based on there being insufficient numbers of middle grade obstetric doctors to safely staff the obstetric service at the Horton. I would like to reiterate our commitment to recruitment drives to appoint suitably qualified doctors in order to reinstate this obstetric service. To reassure the public of this commitment we will be adding a new page on our Trust website to cover the latest news from the Horton which will include a monthly update on the recruitment status of these vacant posts. These updates will also be available on our Horton General Hospital facebook page and twitter account @OUH_Horton

Importantly, we are encouraging each expectant mother in the Banbury area to discuss their birthing plans with their antenatal care provider as each plan relates to their own pregnancy and is unique. These experts can give them the advice and guidance on the options for birth available to them which include the Midwifery Led Unit that will operate at the Horton.

In the event that the required numbers of suitably qualified doctors have not been appointed by the end of October 2016 a further round of recruitment initiatives will be implemented and the position reviewed at the end of December 2016. If this produces a positive outcome the aim will be to reverse the temporary service changes by 1st March 2017.

4. OUH selected as Global Digital Exemplar

Oxford University Hospitals is privileged to have been selected as one of 12 NHS trusts in the country to be designated a Global Digital Exemplar by the Department of Health. The announcement was made by the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt on 7 September. The designation is recognition of the Trust as an NHS care provider which will deliver exceptional care, efficiently, through the world-class use of digital technology and information flows, both within and beyond our organisational boundary.

The Trust was identified as one of a small number of acute trusts for being most advanced in our use of information technology and selected to go from national leaders in digitisation to world leaders at an accelerated pace. Funding of up to £10m is to be made available to the Trust to harness the opportunities that digital technology offers, consistent with the ambition of the NHS to be “paper-free at the point of care”.

5. The OUH Patients’ Choice Award

The Trust is introducing a new award category, the Patients' Choice Award, as part of its annual OUH Staff Recognition Awards 2016. The award gives a chance to all our patients and their families to nominate individual members of staff or teams who have given them exceptional patient care, in any one of our hospitals.

Staff Recognition Awards are part of the Trust's commitment to recognise and celebrate stories of outstanding practice, which encourage and inspire our staff to improve services
further. Saying ‘thank you’ to our staff and showing how much they are valued is important for their wellbeing, as positive morale leads to excellent patient care.

We already have so much positive feedback from patients and I would like to encourage them and their families to nominate staff they feel deserving of recognition for this.

Nominations open from Monday, 12 September until 30 September and an independent judging panel of patients will select the overall winners. These will be announced at the Trust’s Staff Recognition Awards 2016 evening in December.

Nominations can be made online at www.ouh.nhs.uk

6. Annual General Meeting

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting at Tingewick Hall, Academic Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital on Wednesday 28 September from 5:30pm to 7:45pm.

The meeting, hosted by Chairman, Dame Fiona Caldicott, is an opportunity for our staff, the public and Trust members to find out about the Trust’s performance over the past year and its plans for the future, and give their feedback.

There will be a number of interesting displays and stands on our key strategic themes, where people can find information and put questions to a range of experts.

7. NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre update

The Trust, with the University, submitted its full application in the bid to The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for a further five years of funding through the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres Competition. The BRC team attended the competition interviews, conducted by an international panel on 18 July. It is anticipated the results of the bid competition will be announced in Autumn 2016.

In addition, the BRC team also submitted its annual report to the NIHR end of July. This team in collaboration with the current Themes and Working Groups continue to submit 3-monthly reports documenting research activity on metrics such as: number of patients recruited into clinical studies, publications produced as a result of the NIHR funding etc.

Finally, the BRC has recently submitted an additional activity and financial report to the NIHR in anticipation of an audit visit by a team from the Department of Health to Oxford, scheduled for the 4-5 October 2016.
8. Oxford Academic Health Science Network


YouGov is conducting a national survey to gauge the impact of AHSNs. The questionnaire can be completed here before 16 September: www.yougov.com/oxfordahsn


The Oxford AHSN is a key partner of The Hill, Oxford’s new digital health hub which has attracted hundreds of people to a series of launch events at the JR over the summer. The next one is on 22 September. More about these events can be found at http://thehill.co/

The shortlist has been revealed for the third annual Oxford AHSN Public-Private Collaboration award to be presented on 6 October. Details on this collaboration can be read here: http://www.oxfordahsn.org/news-and-events/news/shortlist-revealed-for-oxford-ahsn-public-private-collaboration-award/

Forthcoming Oxford AHSN events include a Sepsis and the patient pathway event on 19 September to find out more please read http://www.oxfordahsn.org/news-and-events/events/sepsis-and-the-patient-pathway-working-together/

Dr Bruno Holthof
Chief Executive
September, 2016