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Chief Executive’s Report

This report summarises matters of current interest.

1. Successful move of two Trauma inpatient wards
On Friday 4 August 2017 all Trauma inpatients were successfully moved from the Trauma Unit building to two new wards in the main John Radcliffe Hospital building.

I would like to extend my thanks and that of the Trust Board to all the staff from the Trust and to our other local partners who helped us make the move so smoothly. I would also like to thank our patients for bearing with us while we made the move, which was undertaken in response to concerns about fire safety of the Trauma building.

The Major Trauma Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital remained open to patients throughout the process.

Our thanks go to the clinical and support staff from Trauma and General Medicine who worked exhaustively to plan the move and carry it out successfully. Estates staff, Carillion porters and cleaning staff, Trust Information Technology staff, Operational managers and Communications staff all of whom were involved in this complex logistical exercise.

I would also like to thank social service staff from Oxfordshire County Council and the team from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust as we are grateful for their support at that time.

2. Trust Annual General Meeting on 11 October
The Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting on 11 October and once again will focus on our excellent clinical work and successes, as well as offer members of the public and our staff the opportunity to meet our Board members, and hear about the Trust’s performance over the past year.

The AGM will take a slightly different format this year. It is being held in the John Radcliffe Hospital’s George Pickering Education Centre where clinicians and staff will display and present the Trust’s on-going work around our key strategic themes in the different meeting rooms in the centre from 6pm-8pm, with a shorter formal presentation being made twice during the evening at 6.15pm and again at 7.15pm. The café will be open for refreshments. This means that our visiting public, staff and partners will be able to drop by and talk to Board members throughout the evening.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend and hear about the developments at Oxford University Hospitals in the past year.

3. Hospital Energy Project nears completion
The Hospital Energy Project is close to completion and our Trust is already benefitting from cost savings, reducing maintenance costs and its carbon footprint. An official opening of the new Energy Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital will take place in early November.
The project has also been shortlisted for the prestigious Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estates Management (IHEEM) Sustainable Achievement of the Year Award. The winning project will be announced on 10 October.

4. Appointment of new Executive Director

I am delighted to announce the appointment of John Drew to a new Executive post, Director of Improvement and Culture. We will welcome John to the Trust Board in early October.

John will take responsibility for Performance Improvement, Analytics, Workforce and Organisational Development, Communications and Engagement. This role recognises the explicit link between organisational culture - including staff engagement and teamwork - and performance, in providing responsive, high quality care, and doing so as productively as possible. Strengthening this link is a key part of OUH's strategy.

John is currently a Partner in McKinsey and Company’s Healthcare practice, and as such has extensive experience of working with NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts, as well as with international healthcare organisations. John’s focus has been on operational improvement and transformational change, with a particular interest in cultural change and building capability through the development of people.

5. Band 5 Nurse Recruitment and Retention programme “Onward” starts

This month our Trust has introduced its new reward scheme “Onward” which recognises and supports the career development and progression of Band 5 nurses in our Trust.

All existing OUH Band 5 nurses and new recruits are part of this unique scheme and with our new graduates supported through a two-year foundation programme focussing on nurturing their skills and building confidence.

After two years post-graduation our Band 5, nurses who continue their employment with us in our Onward scheme will:

- Receive an increment pay rise as recognition of completing their foundation programme
- Have navy epaulettes as an addition to their uniform and job title which recognises their service, commitment and seniority in their workplace
- Gain automatic shortlisting for interview for vacant ward-based deputy sister and charge nurse post where there person specification is met
- Be provided with opportunities to access a range of specialist education and further development as an OUH nurse
  Our band 6 non specialist role nurses will gain further recognition of their experience and commitment

6. Freedom to Speak Up Guardian takes up post

Our Freedom to Speak up Lead Guardian, Ms Jane Hervé has taken up her role this month. We now await the appointment of four Local Guardians to work with Jane, as Freedom to Speak up Local Guardians (FTSU Guardians). These roles have been
introduced to encourage and facilitate a working environment at our Trust in which people feel confident in raising concerns and are properly supported in doing so.

These FTSU Guardian roles which are open to application by existing Trust staff, represent a unique opportunity for the right people to be directly involved in establishing mechanisms, in addition to our formal processes, which empower and encourage staff to speak up safely, and which further develop an open culture based on listening and learning.

7. Launch of new Thames Valley Integrated Urgent Care 111 service
I would like to make the Board aware of the improved access to urgent care services available to people living in the Thames Valley (Oxon, Bucks and Berks) from the new Thames Valley Integrated Urgent Care (IUC) 111 service.

The Thames Valley IUC 111 service launched on 5 September will help people access enhanced clinical care when calling 111, including:

- GP clinical leadership and triage within the service
- dental nurse assessment
- community psychiatric nursing and improved access to mental health crisis teams
- paediatric specialists
- prescribing pharmacist
- tailored support to care and nursing homes

This new service is provided by South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) in collaboration with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Buckinghamshire Healthcare. The contract was awarded by the ten Clinical Commissioning Groups across the Thames Valley.

In anticipation of winter pressure months ahead, it is important that our Trust supports awareness of this out-of-hours service available to the public we serve.

8. Appointment of new Head of the Division of Medical Sciences
The University of Oxford announced in August, the appointment of Professor Gavin Screaton to the position of Head of the Division of Medical Sciences. I would like the Board to join me in extending a warm welcome to Professor Screaton, who is familiar to many at Oxford having held a range of clinical academic appointments and fellowships in Oxford and at the John Radcliffe Hospital previously. He will take up his new role in Oxford on 1 October.

Professor Screaton is currently Chair of Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London where he previously served as Vice-Dean (Academic Development), and as Campus Dean for Hammersmith. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, a member of the Association of Physicians, and was made a Founder Senior Investigator in the National Institute for Health Research. He sits on the MRC Strategy Board.
I would also like to extend the best wishes of our Trust Board to Professor Chris Kennard who worked closely with our Trust, as he headed the University’s Medical Sciences Division over the past year.

9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre news

We have received an additional year's funding from the NIHR to support the NIHR Health Informatics Collaborative (NIHR HIC), which is led and coordinated by Oxford BRC. NIHR HIC brings together five of the country’s leading NHS Trusts with large NIHR BRCs to make NHS clinical data more readily available to researchers, industry and the NHS community.

Oxford BRC researchers Professors Tim Peto and Sarah Walker were among a group of infectious disease experts to publish an article in the BMJ arguing that the advice that patients should complete a course of antibiotics is not supported by evidence and should be dropped. They said that patients were being put at unnecessary risk from antibiotic resistance when treatment is given for longer than necessary, not when it is stopped early.

BashTheBug, a BRC supported project to tackle antibiotic resistance through an international citizen science community analysing hundreds of thousands of tuberculosis samples has picked up an NIHR digital health research award.

Researchers at the University of Oxford, supported by the BRC, have developed a new type of imaging test to provide an early warning of coronary artery disease, and the risk of heart attacks. The new imaging technique can be applied as a new feature in routine computed tomography angiography (CTA), and will improve the diagnosis and treatment of thousands of people living with the disease. It was also announced that a new type of MRI scan has been developed to predict the risk of stroke. The scan can accurately indicate whether plaques in the carotid arteries, which supply the brain with blood, are rich in cholesterol, and therefore more likely to cause a stroke.

At the end of August, OUH and NIHR Oxford BRC members of the Joint Research Office (JRO) relocated to the second floor of OUH Cowley. All telephone numbers and email addresses remain the same. University of Oxford staff at the JRO will remain in their offices (Block 60 at the Churchill Hospital) until further notice.

10. Oxford Academic Health Science Network relicensed

AHSNs are a key part of the NHS architecture with a long-term future, NHS England has confirmed, so all fifteen AHSNs, including our Oxford AHSN are to be relicensed for another five years from 2018. More details can be read here: www.oxfordahsn.org/news-and-events/news/future-of-academic-health-science-networks-secured-for-five-more-years/

The government has announced a major initiative to encourage the rapid uptake of health innovation with a central role for AHSNs. All 15 AHSNs will receive a of share £39m to identify and spread new innovations and better ways of working. More details here: www.oxfordahsn.org/news-and-events/news/ahsns-to-receive-39m-to-assess-benefits-of-new-technologies/


Dr Bruno Holthof
Chief Executive

September, 2017