News for staff, patients and visitors at the Churchill, Horton General and John Radcliffe Hospitals
Delivering high quality services with less money is the big challenge ahead

There will be less money for hospital treatment, and opportunities for more care will need to be developed in the community. Here we explain our budget planning and what ‘less money’ means to the ORH and the community we serve.

The Government has made it clear that from 2011/2012 the NHS will not be receiving any significant new money for growth. This does not mean there will be less money for health in terms of the overall budget, but in real terms, taking into account our ageing population, increased demand for health services, developments in new technology and other increased costs, it will feel like there is less money to go round. And although April 2011 is a year away, the work to prepare for this is starting now.

NHS Oxfordshire, the local Primary Care Trust that spends money on behalf of Oxfordshire’s patients, is anticipating having to make savings of about £200m over the next four years. The challenge, for the whole health economy, will be to ensure the highest quality care for all patients within the finite resources available.

Healthcare partners in Oxfordshire are working together, and with county and district councils, to deliver a programme of work called Creating a Healthy Oxfordshire. The aim is to find ways of using services and facilities as effectively as possible. This means supporting patients to manage their own health; supporting carers; increasing access to GP services by opening them later and at weekends; developing services closer to people’s homes to reduce the need for people to go to hospital; stopping services that are shown to be ineffective and inefficient and shortening the time people spend in hospital so that they can get home quicker.
What does this mean for patients?
In the future there will be fewer hospital admissions and shorter lengths of stay. There will also be fewer outpatient appointments and more community-based health services. More people will be cared for in their own homes and there will be greater emphasis on prevention so that people are helped to stay healthy.

The NHS needs to make sure only those patients who need hospital treatment come to hospital. At the ORH we are already offering support to GPs and clinical colleagues in other hospitals, using email and the internet so that patients do not have to travel into Oxford or Banbury for advice and information that can easily be shared in their GP practice or their local hospital. In the future, this kind of service will be expanded where appropriate.

What else is being done?
GPs are doing more for patients in their own surgeries. Patients usually come to us by referral from their GP, or by coming to our emergency departments. GPs can help us reduce spending by ensuring that they do not refer people to hospital unless they definitely need to come here. There are many things GPs can do within their own practices, in terms of diagnostic tests, drug treatments and even minor surgical procedures, which may make it unnecessary for a patient to come to hospital. In the coming months and years, NHS Oxfordshire will be encouraging them to do even more.

More community services
Improving community services means that patients in Oxfordshire can now have physiotherapy, X-rays and minor surgery in their local GP practice or community hospital. We welcome this development and support NHS Oxfordshire in their efforts to do even more to provide services outside of our hospitals in a way that is more accessible for patients.

Working in partnership
The care of each individual patient can involve a number of different organisations, and these organisations have to work very closely and efficiently together to provide the kind of patient care we are aiming for in the future. Inefficient services cost more money to run than efficient ones, so creating a system that works first time for patients is going to be crucial to creating high quality, sustainable and cost-effective health and social care services for the future.

We already have some good examples of changes Oxfordshire has made by working in partnership to improve services.

New community hospital
In 2009 NHS Oxfordshire moved the Oxford Community Hospital to a new site within the John Radcliffe Hospital. This has enabled speedier transfer of patients from our geratology ward once they no longer need acute hospital care.

Alternatives to the emergency department
NHS Oxfordshire is helping us reduce attendances at our emergency departments by encouraging more people to use the six Minor Injuries and First Aid Units in the county and the Out-of-Hours GP services. We now have a GP based in our emergency department at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and the Out-of-Hours GP service for the north of the county is based at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury. Both these developments help patients access the most appropriate clinician for the care they need. Patients can also help by ensuring they only attend emergency departments when they genuinely need to.

Speedy discharge
Ensuring patients do not stay in hospital longer than they need to, is another key factor in reducing costs. With NHS Oxfordshire, we are working closely with our Social Care colleagues at Oxfordshire County Council to improve the processes that enable patients to get the care packages they need when they leave hospital. Delays in putting these ‘support systems’ in place lead to what has become known as ‘bed blocking’ – a situation where we have patients ready to leave hospital but unable to go home, or on to the next stage in their care, because there is a delay in the system.
What does this mean for the ORH?

In the next financial year (2010/2011) we will be asking managers and clinicians to find new savings, improve efficiencies – and most importantly find new ways of providing care that is both cost effective and high quality. We know that these ideas are out there in the NHS and the ORH, and we need to do more to share the best ideas and approaches.

At the moment we anticipate that if we do nothing, our budget will be at least £45m short by March 2011 – so we must reduce our costs by this amount. This is how we have made the calculation:

- A 3.5% reduction in the money that all trusts receive from the government for services, equating to about £23m.
- Dealing with our existing deficit from this year, and addressing a current ‘underlying’ gap between our costs and our income – adding up to around £12m.
- We expect PCT activity management requirements should result in less activity for us, and therefore income, to the tune of around £10m.

Putting this in perspective

The ORH has grown substantially in recent years. Ten years ago we were working with a budget for patient services of £300m – compared to £625m next year – and we saw half the number of emergency cases and 200,000 fewer outpatients in a year.

Demand on healthcare services has grown, and continues to grow, and there has been an unprecedented period of growth in investment in the NHS in the last decade. The ORH has taken advantage of this investment. We have some truly outstanding new facilities and we have embraced new technology and medical advances which help to make many of our services world class.

The extra investment has enabled us to bring services that were at the old Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford city centre to the new purpose-built West Wing. We have a new Children’s Hospital, a new Cancer Centre and Heart Centre, and new facilities for...
The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust is forecasting a budget deficit of at worst £3m at the end of this financial year (31 March 2010). This means that although we have not reached our projected savings target, of £44m, we have come pretty close.

Trimming our spending by such a large amount this year was an ambitious goal. The ORH is a large and complex NHS trust and, although by no means unique in terms of the NHS nationally, the challenges we face are extremely complicated.

Delivering services that are of the highest quality and safety for patients is our topmost priority. We believe we can make the changes necessary to live within our new budget constraints without compromising this commitment to patients, but to do this we need to make some difficult decisions.

This year we have struggled to consistently meet the government’s 18-week targets (which require patients to have their first hospital treatment within 18 weeks of referral by their GP) and the four-hour performance target for emergency department attendances. We are making progress in both these areas and we hope this progress will be demonstrated in our performance figures during the next year.

This was one of the reasons we called in the NHS ‘intensive support’ teams towards the end of last year. We needed help identifying the best strategies for improvement and we did not want to divert staff too far from their ongoing responsibilities to deliver high quality healthcare to patients. This national resource is available to NHS trusts and brings very specific expertise, which we have found hugely helpful.

We also enlisted support in looking more closely at our finances. Director of Intensive Support, Colin Whipp and his team, have provided the Trust with focus and energy both in revitalising its immediate cost improvement plans and beginning the process to produce sustainable plans for the future. The organisation is now well placed to take this work forwards.
New Chief Executive

Our newly appointed Chief Executive, Sir Jonathan Michael, starts at the ORH in April. Sir Jonathan has been a regular visitor to the Trust since his appointment in January and has already attended Board meetings and staff briefing sessions.

Sir Jonathan has many years experience in healthcare, holding both clinical and managerial leadership roles in the NHS. He comes to us from BT Health, where he was Managing Director for nearly three years.

Having started his career as a doctor, Sir Jonathan was Consultant Physician and Nephrologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Birmingham University. In 1985 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London).

In the 1990s, he became increasingly involved in hospital management and was Clinical Director, then Medical Director and finally Chief Executive of the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust. In 2000 he took up the post of Chief Executive of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospitals NHS Trust in London, which he led to become one of the first wave of Foundation Trusts in the NHS.

Sir Jonathan has also held a number of regional and national roles including membership of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Board, Chairmanship of the Board of NHS Innovations (London), Chairmanship of the Association of UK University Hospitals and Chairmanship of the Board of the NHS Foundation Trust Network.

In 2005 he was Knighted for services to the NHS and elected Fellow of King’s College London in recognition of his contribution to the relationship between the health service and higher education. In 2007 Sir Jonathan was appointed by the Secretary of State for Health, to chair an Independent Inquiry into the access to healthcare for children and adults with learning disabilities. The report, Healthcare For All, was published in July 2008.

Welcoming Sir Jonathan’s appointment, Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust said, “I am thrilled to welcome Sir Jonathan to our Trust. His enormous range of skills and experience will be a huge asset. We have ambitious plans for the coming years and I know we have an excellent team of people to help us achieve our goals.”

You can find out more about the Trust’s Board of Directors by looking on our website: www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk in the About us section.

New Non-executive Director appointments

The ORH has three new Non-executive Directors: Professor Sir John Bell, Anne Tutt and Peter Ward.

Non-executive Director appointments are made by the Appointments Commission's Health and Social Care Appointments Committee in accordance with the Commission for Public Appointments Code of Practice. Appointments are effective for four years.

New Non-executive Director appointments
Professor Sir John Bell
Professor Sir John Bell, FRS is Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University and is also President of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He was Founder of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in Oxford which was the first to focus on the genetics of common diseases.

Professor Bell attended the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. In 1992 he was elected to the Nuffield Professorship of Clinical Medicine in Oxford and in 2002 he became the Regius Professor of Medicine.

Professor Bell sits on a wide range of advisory panels for public and private sector bodies responsible for biomedical research. He is a Non-executive Director of Roche AG (since 2001) and a founding director of three biotechnology start up companies.

Professor Bell has been a member of Oxford Council of the University of Oxford and MRC Council; he is a Board Member of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration and UK Biobank and is Chairman of the Oxford Health Alliance, a public private partnership that sponsors Oxford 2020 Vision.

He chairs both the Partnership Board of the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, and the Management Committee of the Richard Doll Building for Trials and Epidemiology in Oxford.

He received a Knighthood for services to the NHS in 2008.

Anne Tutt
Anne Tutt is a qualified Chartered Accountant with 25 years of experience as an Executive and Non-executive Director. She currently acts as a Non-executive Director of the Adventure Capital Fund Limited, Futurebuilders England Fund Management Limited and the Identity and Passport Service, an Executive Agency of the Home Office. She is also Chair of the Identity and Passport Service’s Audit Committee and a member of the Home Office Audit Committee.

Anne Tutt has led successful finance and management teams in many different sized organisations, from small owner-managed companies to large multinational organisations in the public, private and not-for-profit sector. She lives in Hook Norton.

Peter Ward
Peter Ward is responsible for business development in the healthcare and emergency services sector for John Laing plc, who sponsor and invest in public-private partnership projects. He has managed a number of hospital developments, including the Oxford Children’s Hospital and West Wing developments in the John Radcliffe Hospital, before joining John Laing in January 2006.

Mr Ward has wide experience in successful development, construction and operation of a diverse range of infrastructure projects in the healthcare, water and transportation sectors in the UK and overseas. He is a Chartered Engineer and Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and lives in Headington, Oxford.

New Chief Executive at NHS Oxfordshire

NHS Oxfordshire, the NHS organisation responsible for commissioning health services for patients, has a new Chief Executive.

Sonia Mills, formerly Chief Executive of North Bristol NHS Trust, started her new role in Oxford this month. She had been with the Bristol trust since 2003.
Music is the best medicine

It is highly likely, if walking around the Children’s Hospital on a Friday that you will hear singing and laughter coming from the wards. This is thanks to the award winning project, Singing Medicine®, bringing their unique interactive singing programme to the sick and poorly children at the John Radcliffe.

Singing Medicine® forms part of Ex Cathedra’s flagship work for Sing Up, the Government’s national singing initiative.

The project involves students from the University of Oxford who have been specially trained by music teachers of Ex Cathedra to work with children, using the power of singing and interactive play, helping to stimulate recovery and bring relief to those youngsters that spend a considerable amount of time in a hospital bed.

Rebecca Ledgard, Ex Cathedra’s Director of Education, said “We are delighted to work with the hospital and the University of Oxford in bringing Singing Medicine® to the children’s wards. We know what this project can achieve and the feedback we have received so far from children, their families and staff has been overwhelmingly positive.”

The Singing Medicine® project started at the John Radcliffe in February and will continue until May 2010.

To find out more please visit www.excathedra.co.uk

Award winning art

The artwork within the Cancer Centre was commended nationally by the Building Better Healthcare Awards in late 2009.

The theme of the art ‘bringing the outside in’ has created a wonderful and positive environment, which has been praised by all that experience it.

Ruth Charity, Arts Co-ordinator for the Trust, said “Although we were honoured to be commended the best recognition we get is the direct feedback from patients about the effect the art has on their wellbeing, health and recovery at what is normally, a very difficult and stressful time.”
Play it again, Sam!

Those that have musical fingers will be interested to learn that a baby grand piano is now housed in the Cancer Centre main entrance on the Churchill Hospital site.

Anyone with musical talent, whether that’s a one fingered rendition of chopsticks to an original composition, is invited to come down and tinkle the ivories for the pleasure for patients, staff and visitors alike.

The Culture Club

April will see the formal launch of an arts group for staff called the ‘The Culture Club’, following a successful pilot in autumn last year.

The Culture Club will offer discounted theatre, film and music tickets and a chance to relax, socialise and learn more about the range of fantastic arts events Oxford has to offer.

The Culture Club is open to all staff working at the Trust, NOC and Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust.

Further information about The Culture Club will be issued shortly. To find out more about all arts projects across all the Trust please contact Ruth Charity, Arts Co-ordinator – ruth.charity@orh.nhs.uk 01865 222 509.

Wall of art

World-renowned artist’s work in Children’s Hospital

People of all ages will soon be able to enjoy the artwork of internationally known artist, Michael Craig-Martin, with a five-storey high installation entitled ‘KIDS’ in the Community Atrium between the Children’s Hospital and the West Wing at the John Radcliffe.

The artwork will take centre stage in the atrium and will fill a 21 metre high blank space. Work will begin this spring and is expected to be completed by early summer 2010.

Both the Atrium Café and League of Friends will remain open during this time and patients, visitors and staff are encouraged to come along and see the artwork progress over the coming months.

The project is entirely funded through charitable gifts given specifically for art and is made possible through the generosity of the artist, friends and family of Thomas Waley-Cohen, the Alan Cristea Gallery, Lascaux paint, Abbey Scaffolding, Alan Fitzpatrick, Coriander Studio Ltd, Tembmet, Carillon and the Atrium Cafe.
One of the most controversial and cutting edge areas of medical research, research into human stem cells, is being investigated in a specially designed unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Located within the Department of Neuropathology in the West Wing, the new human adult neural stem cell facility aims to investigate the presence and function of stem cells in adult human nervous tissue.

These types of cell are adult stem cells, which are different from embryonic stem cells – and they have none of the ethical and practical issues as they do not involve the use of embryos. Initially, stem cells are collected from the lining of the nose, and from brain tissue removed at surgery for brain injuries or tumours.

It is believed that many brain tumours develop because of abnormal stem cells, and this is why they often recur despite the best current treatments. Information from this research may help scientists to understand what is abnormal in brain tumour stem cells, aid in the diagnosis and better understanding of degenerative neurological diseases, and therefore provide a target for treatment.

Perhaps the greatest potential for these stem cells is as a treatment to regenerate or repair the nervous system. In the future, cells could be grown from a patient with a traumatic or degenerative neurological condition, such as Parkinson's Disease, and then transplanted back into the same patient. This technique would provide ‘tailor made’ treatments for individual patients.

The facility has been established through collaboration between Mr Nick de Pennington (Neurosurgery – ORH) and Dr Steven Chance (Clinical Neurology – University of Oxford). A grant from the Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund helped purchase essential equipment, and the current work is funded by the Oxford Stem Cell Institute, which has recently been established under the auspices of the James Martin 21st Century School.

This is a great example of collaborative working across the clinical and academic healthcare community in Oxfordshire, and one which could see huge benefits for patients in the future. Prof Tipu Aziz, Professor of Neurosurgery said, “This form of stem cell research is crucial to the future understanding and treatment of many neurological diseases.”

Working with multiple clinical departments in the West Wing to obtain and process surgical specimens immediately after they are collected, provides great benefit; it is one of only a handful of facilities worldwide to have the research facility based so close to the clinical areas.

For more information on stem cell research at the University of Oxford, please visit www.stemcells.ox.ac.uk
Foundation Trust members enjoy talks

Since the beginning of 2010 Foundation Trust members have enjoyed two fascinating talks from leading clinicians here at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals.

Two of the talks were arranged by the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (OxBRC) as part of their ongoing public talks series. These talks are designed to showcase patient-centred research being carried out in the Trust in partnership with the University of Oxford.

In January, Professor Andrew Pollard, Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at the Children’s Hospital, spoke about Developments In Vaccines. As Professor Pollard said, “Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available to us. Vaccines protect our children from the threat of serious disease every day.”

Professor Pollard discussed with the audience some of the innovative research that is being done in Oxford to develop new vaccines and the role that the Oxford Vaccine Group played in researching the Swine Flu vaccine.

In February, we were delighted to welcome Dr Eleri Adams, Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital who gave a talk called the Changing Face of Newborn Care. Dr Adams spoke about the work of the unit in Oxford which is a regional centre for intensive and high dependency care for premature and sick newborns.

Dr Adams shared some of the amazing developments over the last few decades. One new approach is to cool babies who may have suffered brain injury at birth. This helps prevent further brain injury and can allow babies to make a full recovery whereas in the past they may not have done. This pioneering treatment was developed following research that was done in her unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital. She concluded by talking about the plans for the unit as it expands to deal with the increasing number of babies that come through the doors.

In March members are looking forward to the talk by Dr Fergus Gleeson, Consultant Radiologist on Advances in Imaging.

ED Consultant appointed Ambulance Medical Director

John Black, Emergency Department Consultant at the ORH has been appointed Medical Director of South Central Ambulance Service. John is also a Medical Incident Commander for London Ambulance Service and attended the July 2005 bombing at Russell Square, is a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps and has served in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been Divisional Medical Director (OxBucks) for SCAS since 2007.

He is an Emergency Medicine Consultant advisor to the Department of Health’s Emergency Preparedness Division, tutors in Anatomy at Oxford University, and was appointed an Honorary Physician to the Queen (Civilian) in 2009. John will continue to work shifts at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals emergency departments.

If you are a member of staff at the ORH then you are a Foundation Trust member.

There are also about 5,000 members of the public who have joined the Foundation Trust.

All of these talks are open to all Foundation Trust members.

To find out more about joining the Foundation Trust or to get updates on talks in May, June and July, check the Foundation Trust events page on the ORH website or see the Trust calendar on Now@ORH

For more information on future public talks arranged with the OxBRC, visit www.oxfordbrc.org
The NHS Constitution was one of the recommendations in Lord Darzi’s report *High Quality Care for All* published on the 60th anniversary of the NHS.

The NHS Constitution became law in January 2010. It gives patients the legal rights to:

• access NHS services
• drugs and treatments approved by NICE (the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)
• choice about where they receive their care
• be treated with dignity and respect.

This Constitution establishes the principles and values of the NHS in England. It sets out rights to which patients, public and staff are entitled, and pledges which the NHS is committed to achieve, together with responsibilities which the public, patients and staff owe to one another to ensure that the NHS operates fairly and effectively. All NHS bodies, and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services, are required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions.

The Constitution will be renewed every 10 years, with the involvement of the public, patients and staff and any government which seeks to alter the principles or values of the NHS, or the rights, pledges, duties and responsibilities set out in this Constitution, will have to engage in a full and transparent debate with the public, patients and staff.

To find out more about the NHS Constitution visit the Department of Health website; www.dh.gov.uk

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**Principles that guide the NHS**

Seven key principles guide the NHS in all it does. They are underpinned by core NHS values which have been derived from extensive discussions with staff, patients and the public.

• The NHS provides a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief. It has a duty to each and every individual that it serves and must respect their human rights. At the same time, it has a wider social duty to promote equality through the services it provides and to pay particular attention to groups or sections of society where improvements in health and life expectancy are not keeping pace with the rest of the population.

• Access to NHS services is based on clinical need, not an individual’s ability to pay. NHS services are free of charge, except in limited circumstances sanctioned by Parliament.

• The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism – in the provision of high-quality care that is safe, effective and focused on patient experience; in the planning and delivery of the clinical and other services it provides; in the people it employs and the education, training and development they receive; in the leadership and management of its organisations; and through its commitment to innovation and to the promotion and conduct of research to improve the current and future health and care of the population.

• NHS services must reflect the needs and preferences of patients, their families and their carers. Patients, with their families and carers, where appropriate, will be involved in and consulted on all decisions about their care and treatment.

• The NHS works across organisational boundaries and in partnership with other organisations in the interest of patients, local communities and the wider population. The NHS is an integrated system of organisations and services bound together by the principles and values now reflected in the Constitution. The NHS is committed to working jointly with local authorities and a wide range of other private, public and third sector organisations at national and local level to provide and deliver improvements in health and well-being.

• The NHS is committed to providing best value for taxpayers’ money and the most effective, fair and sustainable use of finite resources. Public funds for healthcare will be devoted solely to the benefit of the people that the NHS serves.

• The NHS is accountable to the public, communities and patients that it serves. The NHS is a national service funded through national taxation, and it is the Government which sets the framework for the NHS and which is accountable to Parliament for its operation. However, most decisions in the NHS, especially those about the treatment of individuals and the detailed organisation of services, are rightly taken by the local NHS and by patients with their clinicians. The system of responsibility and accountability for taking decisions in the NHS should be transparent and clear to the public, patients and staff. The Government will ensure that there is always a clear and up-to-date statement of NHS accountability for this purpose.
The Better Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas has been trying to find solutions to running safe and sustainable services in paediatrics (child medicine), obstetrics and gynaecology (women’s services) and general surgery and anaesthetics at the Horton General Hospital. The biggest area of difficulty has been in paediatrics, where concerns have been raised about the safety of the service because of the difficulty in recruiting and retaining paediatricians.

The service has traditionally relied on middle grade doctors to keep doctors available for 24-hours a day. However, there has never been any training recognition for posts at the Horton General Hospital (because of the low numbers of patients), and this has meant that these posts have become increasingly unattractive and difficult to fill. In addition, the Royal Colleges have made some changes in their guidance as to how medical services should be provided which requires doctors to be in the hospital (resident) when they are on call.

The Better Healthcare Programme was set up following the rejection of the Trust’s service reconfiguration proposals by the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in May 2008. The Trust has been committed to keeping all services at the Horton General Hospital as they are for a period of two years while working with the Oxfordshire PCT, through the Better Healthcare Programme, to develop long term solutions for the services in Banbury.

The catchment area for the hospital stretches over the county border into Northamptonshire and Warwickshire and a challenge for the programme has been effectively engaging those communities, local authorities and Primary Care Trusts.

The Better Healthcare Programme is now nearing the end of its work. It has spent the last 18 months working with stakeholders. A Community Partnership Forum, involving clinicians and members of the local community, has been exploring options and working together to develop ideas. A Programme Board monitors progress and has made recommendations.

Considerable efforts have been made to seek alternative options, including running an Invitation to Innovate which invited ideas from local and national organisations, members of the public and NHS staff. This resulted in a number of useful ideas that may help enable a new model to be implemented but did not result in a magic solution.

The Better Healthcare Programme has decided its preferred option is to commission consultant-delivered obstetric and inpatient paediatric services at the Horton General Hospital. These would be supported by a resident on-call anaesthetic service. This would reduce the reliance on middle grade doctors that have been difficult to recruit and retain.

The Programme Board is now looking at the clinical and financial sustainability of the model both in the light of the emerging national policy for children’s services and the funding outlook for the NHS. A challenge panel has been set up with representatives from the Royal Colleges, local clinicians and Oxfordshire County Council’s Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Challenge Panel will meet at the beginning of March to look at the details of the rotas and the plans that the ORH has put forward to make the new model work. They will examine the plans to see if they meet the needs of the service in terms of quality and sustainability and to see whether they stack up.

The Challenge Panel will report their findings to the Programme Board who will make recommendations to the NHS Oxfordshire Board in May. The proposals will then be considered by the ORH Board of Directors.

For more information about the work of the Better Healthcare Programme see www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk/bhp
Top politicians see us in action

Two leading politicians have visited the ORH so far this year to chat with staff and discuss issues being tackled by the Trust.

Andy Burnham MP visits the Horton General Hospital

Mike Fleming, Director of the Horton General Hospital, was delighted to greet the Secretary of State for Health, Andy Burnham MP, when he visited the Horton General Hospital on 20 January.

He visited the Children’s Ward where he met staff and patients, and then joined members of the Community Partnership Forum, including Tony Baldry MP and local councillor George Parish, to discuss the Better Healthcare Programme for Banbury and surrounding areas.

Mr Burnham explained the reason for his visit, “It was important for me to come and hear first hand from staff and the local community. I spoke to local people who said how important the Horton General was to them and I heard from staff about some of the difficulties they face.

“The future has to be getting the balance of services right. A lot of hard work has already been done to try and find a way forward and I thank all of those who have been so committed to serving the people of Banbury and the surrounding areas. I hope we can conclude discussions soon so that the hospital can move forward with confidence.”

Mike Fleming said, “It was a great pleasure to show our Secretary of State for Health around the Horton General, it gave him a great opportunity to see for himself the dedication and commitment shown by the staff to deliver on our commitment to provide high quality healthcare services for local people. It also gave our staff the opportunity to tell him first hand of their contribution to the ongoing Programme.”
The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is a group of agencies working together to find out how and where people are being injured and take action to help stop it happening.

"It was great for the Home Secretary to come and see the work we are doing. Nightsafe is really successful for Oxford and hopefully other cities around the country can benefit too."

ORH Chairman Dame Fiona Caldicott and Interim Chief Executive Paul Farenden welcomed the Home Secretary Alan Johnson MP and Oxford East MP Andrew Smith to the John Radcliffe Emergency Department on 17 February.

The Home Secretary met with Rob Way, Emergency Department Nurse Consultant, and Cassi Perry, Community Safety Practitioner, about our innovative working in alcohol harm reduction.

Mr Johnson also met with representatives from Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police and NHS Oxfordshire, who form the city’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Mr Johnson said, “The work taking place in Oxford is a very good example of how working together can help to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as well as improving health outcomes. By better understanding where, how and why anti-social behaviour takes place it can be tackled much more effectively.”

Rob Way explained why the data was important, “As patterns emerge from the information collected by our staff, the ambulance service and the police, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Nightsafe work together to find out how and where people are being injured and take action to help stop it happening.

"It was great for the Home Secretary to come and see the work we are doing. Nightsafe is really successful for Oxford and hopefully other cities around the country can benefit too."

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is a group of agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder in the Oxford city centre.

Nightsafe is a section of that partnership set up specifically to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in Oxford city centre and East Oxford.

Nightsafe includes the ORH, Oxford City Council, Thames Valley Police, taxi firms, bus companies and local pub and club owners who all help to make Oxford a safer and more enjoyable place to go out. Since Nightsafe was set up in 2004 there has been a 22% drop in assaults in the Nightsafe area.
Innovation in Action

The Clinical Immunology Department have completed a pilot of a computerised barcode based tracking and tracing system for immunoglobulins. Immunoglobulins are a costly drug used in Clinical Immunology and some other departments within the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The system involves issuing the immunoglobulins with a barcode which is unique to each bottle enabling the system to ‘track and trace’ each individual bottle from storage location to storage location, through dispensing and administration to the patient in the Immunology Day Clinic.

Each patient receiving treatment wears a wristband, again with an individual barcode to identify them. The ‘track & trace’ system has been programmed with the correct immunoglobulin for each patient, so this acts as a safety check to ensure that each patient receives the correct brand of immunoglobulin.

Reports can be generated showing the administration of the immunoglobulins either by brand or by patient, as well as stock levels, use-by dates and many other features. It is anticipated that the usage information will be able to be uploaded automatically to the National Immunoglobulin Database, a job that is done manually at the moment. The system is similar to the Safe Tx blood transfusion system already used very successfully within the hospital.

The Trust has applied to the South Central Innovation Fund for the next step of the project, using the system for other departments who use immunoglobulins within the ORH. It is hoped in time that this system can be incorporated to include our patients who self-treat at home.

First to trial Fairtrade scrubs

The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals (ORH) is the first NHS Trust to trial hospital scrubs made from Fairtrade cotton.

Alan Johnson praised the work of the BMA (British Medical Association) Medical Fair and Ethical Trade Group last year when the Department of Health launched the Government Global Health Strategy, pledging to ‘work with the industry and other countries to support fair and ethical trade’.

The Medical Fair and Ethical Trade Group promotes the development of ethically-made supplies to the NHS. However, until recently there have been few ‘ethical’ products available, even if NHS trusts were willing to make this a factor in procurement.

Nurses uniforms, including hospital scrubs, are now available and the ORH is the first NHS Trust in the country to try them out.

One of our doctors, Mahmood Bhutta, a Research Fellow at the University of Oxford and Specialist Registrar ENT, is a founding member of the Medical Fair and Ethical Trade Group. He told ORH News, “Over the last few years there has been evidence accumulating of unethical manufacturing processes for some products in healthcare, including for nurses uniforms. The development of fair trade products for use in the NHS is great news as it allows medical professionals to display moral leadership, and to be certain that we are not harming global health through our procurement in the NHS.”

Mike Potter, ORH Head of Procurement said, “We are pleased to be the first NHS trust to trial these Fairtrade cotton scrubs. We know there are many NHS Trusts who feel as we do that the principle of fair trade supply is a worthy one. Nationally, the NHS supports the principle of using fair trade supply chains and if Fairtrade scrubs meet our quality needs, can be supplied without additional cost, and if staff like them, we will be pleased to source some of our products from the ethical supply chain.”
Oxford Ataxia Centre launch

Patients with neurological disorders affecting speech, balance and coordination will get greater access to specialist services and research.

The new Oxford Ataxia Centre, launched at the John Radcliffe Hospital in December 2009, is one of only three specialist centres in the UK. It has been granted formal accreditation by Ataxia UK, the national charity for people affected by ataxia.

Dr Andrea Nemeth, Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Clinical Genetics said, “This new centre is a fantastic development for Oxford. Bringing together treatment and research under one roof helps provide better care for current patients and a greater understanding to help patients in the future.”

For further information about the Ataxia Centre, please contact Dr Andrea Nemeth, on 01865 226020, or by post: Department of Clinical Genetics, Churchill Hospital.

What is Ataxia?
Ataxias are neurological disorders affecting speech, balance and coordination. Many ataxias are inherited genetically and are progressive. Ataxia may also be a symptom of other conditions such as multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy.

How can Ataxia be treated?
Unfortunately there is no cure for ataxia. However, there are a range of treatments to help ease the symptoms, including medications, speech therapy and physiotherapy.

The Oxford Ataxia Centre is looking for patients from across the UK to take part in a new study into Cerebellar Ataxia.

For more information on this study, please email angie.weir@orh.nhs.uk

Snowy weather

Although January’s snowy weather seems a long time ago now, we thought you would like to see the snow photographs taken by Steven Parsons. We have placed them on the Trust website for you to download if you would like a photographic souvenir; type Steven Parsons into the search box on www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk
Local people and ORH staff have been putting their hearts into fundraising across the region for the Oxford Heart Centre.

The Put Your Heart Into It appeal was launched at the beginning of February with a sponsored exercise bike ride in the main reception of the John Radcliffe Hospital, where staff across the Trust took 15 minute slots throughout the day to raise funds… and their heart rates.

Cardiac Matrons, Ruth Titchener and Teresa Wilson, pictured with Director of Nursing and Clinical Leadership, Elaine Strachan-Hall, wore special heart themed uniforms (thanks to the talents of Shirley in the linen room). Other peddle pushers came from Oxford Medical Illustration, Finance, Clinical Engineering, Human Resources and Private Patients departments.

Charitable Funds team member Andrew Styles was determined to set the fastest time of the day – cycling 10km in the 15 minute slot.

Many thanks to everyone who took part and to Nexus Leisure and GO Active for their support.
Cancer Campaign success!

Just two years ago, Charitable Funds set off on a journey to raise £2.2m to enhance the Trust’s world-class facilities for cancer patients in our region.

Our goal was to help provide the very latest medical equipment and a relaxed and calming environment for patients. The campaign was launched with a flurry of activity – with marathons and walks, black-tie dinners and discos, abseils and cycle rides all contributing enormously towards the goal. The support of local people and the business community and grants from other charitable organisations was incredible.

Cancer Campaign Committee Chairman, Neil Ashley is delighted to announce that the original target has not only been reached, it has been smashed with the total committed now standing at £2.82m.

He said, “Anyone visiting the new Cancer Centre will have seen the great advances that have been made possible thanks to these donations. Work is also starting soon on the £300,000 extension of the Horton General Hospital’s Brodey Centre – enlarging the facilities whilst keeping its homely atmosphere for cancer patients in the North of Oxfordshire. It’s a fantastic achievement.”

Director of Fundraising, Alice Hahn Gosling adds, “The money raised in excess of the original goal has been used to help fund new priorities such as a robotic arm to speed up dispensing at the Pharmacy, a cutting edge da Vinci robot for keyhole surgery and further enhancements to the Brodey Centre. Very many thanks to everyone who has helped us achieve this wonderful result.”

We will still be fundraising for the Cancer Centre in order to keep up with new medical developments, so a new Cancer Care Fund is being set up and we are looking for more members to join. Contact us on campaign@orh.nhs.uk or 01865 743444.

Jason Donovan to start the OX5RUN

The annual Oxford Mail OX5RUN – raising money for children’s services across the Trust will be officially started by long-term Children’s Hospital supporter, Jason Donovan.

Last year’s five mile event raised over £57,000 and it is hoped that the run on 18 April – round the grounds of Blenheim Palace – will be even more successful.

Trust staff and supporters are already signing up and with your help we will reach our target of 1,000 runners. So what’s stopping you? Grab your trainers and sign up now.

To enter pick up a form from around the hospitals or go to our website – www.orhcharitablefunds.nhs.uk

If seeing Jason Donovan isn’t enough to get your adrenalin going, how about joining one of our abseils? On 28 March we have THE Abseil – supporting seven different causes across the Trust – and on 23 May it’s the Heart Centre Abseil. There are only 150 slots for each event, so book early to confirm your place. It costs just £10 to enter.

Take a look at our website for full details of our current fundraising events: www.orhcharitablefunds.nhs.uk or call 01865 743444
Junior Research Fellowships

Oxfordshire Health Services Research Committee (OHSRC), Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund (NOHF), and Biomedical Research Centre (OxBRC).

OHSRC meets each year to award up to £7,000 per grant to support research projects in the Oxfordshire Health District. It recently received significant bequests / other grants and is in a position to award seven or eight larger grants to support some one-year junior fellowships.

In addition the NOHF generously gives the OHSRC significant sums of money and has requested that half its donation this year goes towards a junior fellowship. The BRC has also set aside some money for the same purpose, which should be used for translational work. Some of the donated money came in the form of specific bequests to support particular areas, such as cancer research or mental health research, and the donors’ wishes have to be respected.

Medical and non-medical health professionals in training are invited to apply, preferably at the beginning of a potential research career. Applicants should have an NHS contract.

Applicants will be shortlisted and interviewed. Deadline for applications is 1 April 2010. Interviews are planned for the 4 May.

Cancer research
One research fellowship to specifically support cancer research.

Clinical research
Four or five research fellowships to support research in any area directly related to clinical practice. Areas covered by the BRC’s 14 research themes would be particularly relevant and would need to be in the area of translational research, although this restriction only applies to about ⅓ of the sums currently available for this category.

Mental health research
Two research fellowship to specifically support mental health.

Discuss eligibility for these fellowships with Professor John Stradling on 01865 225236 or email john.stradling@orh.nhs.uk before completing the application form, which is available from the Committee Secretary, Elaine Cherry on 01865 226640 or email elaine.cherry@orh.nhs.uk

Pensions Choice

What is Pensions Choice?
You may be aware that a package of changes to the NHS Pension Scheme was implemented in April 2008. The NHS Pension Scheme now has two sections. If you were a member of the NHS Pension Scheme on or before 31 March 2008, you are a member of what is called the 1995 section. From 1 April 2008 new staff joined the new 2008 section.

These two sections are not the same. It is therefore important that the pension arrangements available to staff since 2008 should be offered to members of the 1995 section.

Who does it affect?
If you are a contributing member of the 1995 section on or after 1 October 2009 you are eligible and will be offered the opportunity to make your NHS Pension Choice.

When is it happening?
The anticipated timetable for the Trust is:

• Members aged 50 or over on 1 October 2009 - April 2010 to June 2010
• Members aged under 50 on 1 October 2009 - October 2010 to December 2010

What happens next?
If you are eligible to move to the 2008 section you will be given a NHS Pension Choice Pack. Your pack will include:

• Your personalised NHS Pension Choice Statement
• Your NHS Pension Choice Guide
• Your NHS Pension Choice Form
• Your NHS Pension Choice DVD

Do I need to do anything now?
You do not have to do anything until you receive your NHS Pension Choice Pack. This will be distributed to staff in accordance with the timetable above.

Where can I find out more information?
You can find out more about Pension Choice by visiting the Pensions website on www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions and clicking Your NHS Pension Choice. You can also phone the helpline on 0300 123 1601.

Oxford Health Service Retirement Fellowship

If you are retired, or are shortly retiring, from the NHS, you might like to join the local branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship.

The Oxford Health Service Retirement Fellowship (OHSRF) holds monthly meetings at the John Radcliffe Hospital, and also organises a variety of talks, outings and holidays for members.

For more information on the Oxford branch, please contact:

Marion Read, Honorary Secretary: 01865 361438 or see www.nhsrf.org.uk
Passionate patient wins prize

Alex Kelly, a 13 year old patient at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, has been awarded £1,500 to pursue his love of swimming by Baxter Healthcare’s Advance your Passion competition. Prizes are awarded to the top three winning haemophilia patients aged 4 to 18 who enter a competition explaining about their passion and why it is so special to them.

In his entry Alex explained that swimming was great exercise, and a good way to build up his muscles to prevent bleeds. Because swimming is a non contact sport Alex can be healthy without the risk of getting hurt.

Sharron Greatorex from Baxter Healthcare said, “Haemophilia does not mean you can’t take part in sport. Alex’s explanation about how swimming is not only good fun but actually helps him with his condition was not only inspiring but also a shining example to other boys living with haemophilia. Baxter is delighted to help him advance his passion. Remember, anyone with haemophilia can enter the competition, just visit the website.”

Alex swims with a competitive swimming team called the Chalfont Otters and plans to use his prize money learning how to scuba dive.

Visit www.advanceyourpassion.co.uk for more information about the competition.

What is haemophilia?
Haemophilia is a blood condition in which an essential clotting factor in blood is either partly or completely missing. This causes a person with haemophilia to bleed more than usual. Cuts and grazes are not the greatest problems; internal bleeding into joints, muscles and soft tissues, if untreated, can lead to disability.

Haemophilia is a lifelong inherited genetic condition affecting about 6,000 people in the UK. There is no cure for haemophilia. Treatment is to replace the missing clotting factor with medication.

New Oxford institute for research into fertility and reproduction

The Institute for Reproductive Sciences, a new centre for cutting-edge research into causes of infertility and assisted reproduction techniques such as IVF, has opened on the Oxford Business Park in Cowley.

The £3m development brings together under one roof the University of Oxford’s research in reproductive medicine; the Oxford Fertility Unit, a research-led IVF clinic known for pioneering new treatments; and new University teaching laboratories.

Infertility is estimated to affect around one in seven UK couples – approximately 3.5 million people – at some point. Although many of these will become pregnant naturally given time, a significant minority will not.

The move from premises at the Women’s Centre of the John Radcliffe Hospital, which were getting increasingly cramped, means the Oxford Fertility Unit now has significantly more space.
Our website is looking different

The Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals’ external website www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk has a new look.
The home page has been redesigned and the inside pages have been brightened up.

The work was all done in-house by the OHIS Web Team and the ORH Media and Communications Unit.

Along with the general improvements, a new more user-friendly video player is being developed, and we are looking forward to the first ‘virtual tour’, a 360 degree look around the new Oxford Heart Centre, due to be launched soon.

The snow in early January saw visits to the Trust’s website increase by around 3,000 per day. There were over 34,000 visits during the snowy week in January, compared to 18,000 for the same period last year. During that week the website was visited by web users in every continent, although mainly in Europe and North America.

If you would like to update the information on your web pages, please contact Frances Bonney, Web Communications Officer, on ext. 31474 or email: frances.bonney@orh.nhs.uk

Filipino group

A group that celebrates and promotes Filipino Culture meets in Oxford.

Everyone welcome.

19 June 2010
112th Philippine Independence Day Celebration
9am to 5pm Tingewick Hall, John Radcliffe Hospital

14 August 2010
7th Filipino Sportsfest
Oxford Brookes University Sports Centre

11 September 2010
The Family Crusade
St. Anthony Church, Headley Way

30 October 2010
The Living Rosary Celebration
Venue: TBC

11 December 2010
Filipino Christmas Party Celebration
Venue: TBC

For further information contact the Chairman, Haydee Tinamisan.
Email: hyde_tinamisan@yahoo.com

Do you need help finding information?

The Cairns Library has a mobile search clinic on alternate Thursdays for the Oxford hospital sites. If you have internet access a librarian will come to you.

Contact:
Liz Callow on (7)40471 or email: liz.callow@hcl.ox.ac.uk

You can also get 1:1 training and literature searches at any time through enquiries@hcl.ox.ac.uk

The Horton General Hospital Library also offers search services to ORH Trust members working in Banbury. Tel: 29316 or email: library.horton@orh.nhs.uk

For advice on the use of medicines please contact the ORH Medicines Information Service on 21505 or email: vicky.mott@orh.nhs.uk
NISE to be a Winner

NHS Innovations South East (NISE) is one of nine regional hubs spanning the NHS in England. It exists to help NHS staff in the region convert their ideas into reality.

NISE ran a competition offering a Christmas hamper worth £100 to find out what your three Christmas wishes would be to help improve the NHS service. We were looking for wishes to help improve patient services, reduce costs or reduce the carbon footprint of the Trust.

The competition was won by Cristina Dollard, a secretary in the Obstetrics Anaesthetic Department. Her wishes were the use of timed motion sensor light switches, pre-printed cards for all patients who require clinic appointments, and an information leaflet distributed at the first clinic appointment advising patients about alternative hospitals for their treatment.

Christmas may now be a distant memory but NISE can still help with your ideas and innovations. NISE works with doctors, nurses and a wide range of other healthcare professionals that have great ideas about how to improve the NHS service, but don’t always know what to do next. The funding for projects comes from NISE, the Trust and other funding bodies. This means innovators can concentrate on their project and still benefit personally and professionally from their innovations.

If you think you have some great solutions or any other ideas, then NISE can help you develop them from your initial concept all the way to a final product. NISE is also happy to give presentations to your team about the innovation process, and how simply reviewing possible areas of innovation within your particular field can help improve performance, and create a more stimulating and rewarding environment for your workforce.

To fully understand the range of services NISE offers, please review our website www.innovationssoutheast.nhs.uk or contact Chris Rowe, the Innovation Manager at NISE responsible for the ORH directly, using the details below.

Chris Rowe: 01235 838539 Email chris.rowe@nisehub.co.uk
Little things make a big difference

When it comes to donations, the little things can make a very big difference. This January, the Bowel Cancer Screening team at the Horton General Hospital were delighted to receive a fantastic new printer in memory of a former patient who held the Horton General in high regard.

Naomi Woods, Lead Administrator of the Bowel Screening Programme said, “We are absolutely delighted with this very generous donation, the new printer will make our work look much more professional and it’s much easier and quicker to produce.”

Horton physiotherapy staff celebrate new HIEF Fund

The Physiotherapy team who are based in the BORT (the Building of Rehabilitation Therapy), building at the Horton General Hospital, are celebrating being awarded just over £6,000 from the new HIEF fund.

Sarah Baimbridge, Musculoskeletal Team Lead at the Horton explains more. “We heard about the HIEF fund from Mike Fleming, Director of the Horton General Hospital, and as our department was in real need of new gym equipment to keep our Orthopaedic inpatient and outpatient services for the community of Banbury up and running, we applied for funding. “The gymnasium is important to allow the community of Banbury to work within a bespoke therapy programme. Gym sessions and gym equipment use are so important to help keep patients well enough to stay out of hospital, and now that we know we have got this funding, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Group has also been able to get going again – which is a great thing for patients.”

“After filling in a few forms, getting quotes and showing our case for funding, a few months after our initial approach we are absolutely thrilled to hear we have been successful. Together with a donation of £2,500 from the Horton League of Friends we now have the £8,500 needed to buy all our equipment. We are so grateful to all those who have helped make this possible. “This will make a huge difference to patients and has been a real boost to staff morale – we feel as if the good work we do here has been recognised.”

The HIEF fund has been recently created by ORH Charitable Funds Trustees. It is designed for use by any member of the Trust who wishes to bid for funding costing over £5,000 for innovative new projects and projects designed to enhance the provision of patient care – where other funding is not available. It is particularly helpful for those areas which don’t normally receive large donations.