OUH Trust takes next step towards achieving Foundation Trust status

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH) has moved a step closer to becoming a Foundation Trust.

At a Board meeting on 18 September, the NHS Trust Development Authority (NTDA) approved the Trust’s application and agreed that OUH is ready to proceed to the next stage of the assessment process, which is undertaken by Monitor, the regulator of NHS services in England.

This decision comes after the Care Quality Commission gave the Trust an overall rating of ‘Good’ in May, and after scrutiny of the Trust’s performance across quality, finances and service delivery over an 18-month period by the Trust Development Authority.

Sir Jonathan Michael, Trust Chief Executive, said: “This is further external recognition of the progress we are making together as an organisation. We and the rest of the NHS are working in very challenging times at the moment and it is a credit to all our staff, for their hard work and commitment to our patients, that we have passed this further milestone. “Being a Foundation Trust will enable OUH to further improve our services by increasing the involvement of patients, staff and the local communities that we serve.

We look forward to the Trust moving successfully through assessment by Monitor and finally being able to operate as an NHS Foundation Trust.”

Professor Stephen Dunn, Southern Regional Director at the NHS Trust Development Authority said: “Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has consistently been providing a high quality of care to its patients for a long time – something that was recently acknowledged by the Care Quality Commission. The Trust has made significant progress in recent months in dealing with some key performance challenges and we are confident that they are ready to be assessed by Monitor for Foundation Trust status.”

During the period of assessment by Monitor, which is expected to last at least four months, the regulator will assess whether the OUH is well-governed, financially viable, legally constituted and continues to meet the NHS performance standards.

Over the same period, the OUH will hold elections to form a Council of Governors that will hold its Board to account as a Foundation Trust. The Trust has 7,000 public members from Oxfordshire and surrounding areas and is encouraging more people to join before elections to the Council of Governors. Details and online membership forms are on the Trust’s website at www.ouh.nhs.uk/FT.

Public and Staff information sessions on becoming a Foundation Trust governor

In preparation for becoming a Foundation Trust, the Trust will need to elect a Council of Governors. The majority of governors will be elected from public members and staff members will also elect their own governors.

We have organised the following sessions for public and staff members who may be interested in standing for election as governors. Please sign up for the date that you wish to attend as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Each session will offer an explanation of the duties of a governor, the electoral process, advice about how to put together a candidate biography, a chance to hear from governors from other Trusts, and a chance to put your questions to one of our Directors. We look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 4 October, 2-4pm
Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

Monday 6 October, 6-8pm
Lecture Theatre, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford

Wednesday 8 October, 6-8pm
Richard Doll Lecture Theatre, Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus, Churchill Hospital site, Oxford

Monday 13 October, 6-8pm
Restaurant, Horton Hospital, Banbury

Wednesday 15 October, 6-8pm
Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

To register, please contact Caroline Rouse on ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk or 01865 743491.
The OUH Psychological Medicine Service and the Trust Lead for Psychological Medicine have both been shortlisted for prestigious awards by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Psychological Medicine Service provides psychiatric and psychological care that is fully integrated with patients’ medical treatment. This state-of-the-art service has been shortlisted for a Psychiatric Team of the Year award in recognition of the team’s innovative approach to improving patients’ quality of life.

Professor Michael Sharpe leads the Psychological Medicine Service and also has an international reputation for his research into the care of patients with cancer and depression, medically unexplained symptoms and chronic fatigue syndrome. He has been shortlisted for the award of Psychiatrist of the Year.

He said: “We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted for these national awards. It is an important recognition of the hard work which has been carried out by the Trust to improve the quality of care we are able to offer our patients.”

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday, 6 November, at The Royal College of Psychiatrists in London.

Free Wi-Fi launched for patients and visitors

The Trust has launched a free guest Wi-Fi system so that patients and visitors will now be able to use their smartphones and tablets to surf the net in many areas across the Trust’s four hospitals.

Currently available across the John Radcliffe and Churchill Hospital sites, it is planned to roll out Wi-Fi across the Trust’s other hospitals – the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Horton General Hospital – by the autumn. This will be a secure service working alongside, but completely separate from, the clinical network, (which is solely used by Trust staff).

Users simply select the ‘OUH-Guest’ network on their device, at which point they will be taken to a ‘welcome’ page. No password is required but users will be required to enter an email address.

Catherine Stoddart, Chief Nurse, said: “We are seeing more and more patients and visitors using modern technology such as smartphones, laptops, and tablet PCs. Communication via the internet is something that most of us take for granted, but if you are in a hospital bed and you suddenly don’t have that facility on your own device, it can be quite frustrating. We made the decision to offer free Wi-Fi to give more flexibility and control to our patients over the way they communicate while they are here.”
New service helps determine patients’ fitness before surgery

Patients facing the possibility of major surgery are benefitting from a new service that helps determine whether they can get physically and physiologically fitter before surgery.

The opening of a new pre-assessment clinic at the Churchill Hospital has been the catalyst for the development of a state-of-the-art Cardiopulmonary Exercise Test (CPET) facility. An Anaesthetic led service, the CPET helps assess a patient’s overall fitness level prior to major surgery.

Funded through the Trust’s Charitable Funds department, the CPET works and looks much like a standard exercise bike. However, during the CPET, patients are asked to pedal for a set period of time and at a specified pace while wearing an oxygen mask, and ECG leads to monitor their physical response to exercise.

The CPET simultaneously monitors the patient’s heart rate, blood pressure and the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood during exercise. The information gives the Anaesthetist an insight into how the patient’s heart and lungs are likely to behave under the stress of surgery.

Witney resident Andrew Binks underwent a 17-hour major abdominal reconstructive surgery earlier this year and felt reassured prior to his life-changing surgery by having completed the CPET. He said: “Doing the exercise test, and having an anaesthetist talk me through the results straight away, really helped me and my partner feel more comfortable that I would be able to safely undergo the operation I was so desperate to have. “Although I was fit enough to have my surgery, it made me realise that overall, I needed to be fitter. Since my operation I’ve continued to exercise and improve my fitness. The operation has given us our life back. Before, I couldn’t walk much, I couldn’t work and we didn’t go out much. Now that’s all changed, and I’m back at work full-time.”

So far, nearly 150 surgical patients having operations for major liver surgery, colonic cancer surgery, major gynaecological, transplant and urological surgery have already benefitted from the test.

Fast Track on to the OUH Staff Bank

Would you consider joining the OUH Staff Bank? Maybe you would like to work a few extra hours to help your own department out, gain experience in other areas, or earn some extra money?

If so, please contact the NHSP Client Relations Team on (5) 72707 and request a substantive registration form. This fast track process is available to Trust staff only, and will normally take just 5-10 days once your paperwork has been completed. Once on the bank, you only need to work a minimum of one shift every 12 months to keep your registration active. Any bank shifts worked and authorised will be paid weekly by NHSP, separate to the Trust’s monthly payroll.

The Client Relations Team are site based in the Carillion Building at the John Radcliffe, and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

For more information about NHS Professionals – please visit www.NHSProfessionals.nhs.uk
The Trust will undertake its biggest clinical transformation yet this autumn, when it moves from a paper-based prescribing process to an electronic system to prescribe and administer medication for our patients.

This will allow the Trust to realise huge clinical and financial benefits, including being able to see patients’ medications wherever and whenever they present, and provide anonymised data to support commissioning and research. Every clinician has an individual role of professional accountability to record and administer medications and their prescriptions accurately. Changing from paper to digital will support our clinicians in this regard.

Lead Nurses and Doctors from each clinical Division are responsible in making sure the switchover happens safely and efficiently in their particular area. Many of our staff have been giving up their time for more than a year to make sure the system is set up to best match our clinical practice.

Initially, the ePMA (electronic prescribing and medicines administration) roll out will be phased over a seven-month period across all inpatient areas. With a project of this scale, there may be some issues and delays, as staff become familiar with the new system, but we are working hard to ensure things run as smoothly as possible.

Further information is available from the intranet site and via emails. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter or contact the Trust’s Chief Clinical Information Officer, Paul Altmann: ccio@ouh.nhs.uk

Cerner partnership

The Trust has signed a 10-year contract with Cerner, a supplier of healthcare care information technology systems, to provide the software for its Electronic Patient Record (EPR) System. OUH is currently using Cerner software procured under the National Programme for IT, which expires in October 2015.

The new contract will provide a long-term platform for the Trust’s EPR, allowing OUH to continue to develop its electronic systems and processes.

Unlike paper notes, which can only be in one place at one time, an integrated secure digital record can enable clinical staff to support each other remotely to ensure better and safer care.

John Skinner, OUH Director of IM&T Services, said: “We believe that having a direct contract with our software supplier will make the system operate in the best possible way with regular updates and improvements. The system should be reliable and fast supported by good customer service.”

What is EPR?

The implementation of the Electronic Patient Record, an electronic system to store and manage patient information, is being delivered in phases over a number of years.

Clinical staff are now able to routinely order diagnostic tests and view results electronically. On our wards, patients’ admissions, discharges and transfers are being managed electronically. The next step is the implementation of electronic prescribing.

Information officers back in school

The challenges of implementing the Electronic Patient Record system at OUH came under the spotlight in July, when the journal EHI (E-Health Insider) hosted part of its annual Oxford Summer School for Chief Information Officers at the Trust.

Forty delegates were welcomed to the Trust by John Skinner, OUH Director of IM&T Services, who gave a talk entitled ‘OUH, Going Paperlight with a Big or Little EPR’.

Other speakers included Prof Lionel Tarassenko, who spoke on ‘Big Data – Data Fusion and Digital Health’, and Dr Paul Altmann, the Trust’s Chief Clinical Information Officer.

Tony McDonald, Divisional General Manager for Children’s and Women’s, was joined by Sylvia Ashton, Clinical Midwifery Manager, who gave a presentation outlining the challenges and lessons learned from implementing EPR in the Trust’s Maternity Services.

Delegates were also given the opportunity to take part in a series of short tours, focusing on the use of EPR in the Emergency Department, the SEND project in the Kadoorie Centre, and implementing electronic prescribing using a robot in Pharmacy.

The day concluded with a question-and-answer session chaired by Dr Tony Berendt, Interim Medical Director.
Nearly a year after the first Dementia Information Café was officially opened by Trust Chairman Dame Fiona Caldicott, the events have gone from strength-to-strength and continue to offer support and advice for people looking after someone with dementia.

A new calendar for the café-style events has now been planned for the coming months. The cafés provide people who may be visiting friends or relatives or with dementia in hospital, or carers looking after someone with the condition, the opportunity to have an informal chat about what support and advice is available to them. This may also include staff who are carers.

Representatives from other charitable and voluntary organisations, such as the Alzheimer’s Society, Carers Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire Age UK and Guideposts Oxfordshire, as well as Trust staff who have been trained in dementia care, are available to offer advice and answer any questions.

The Dementia Information Cafés are held once a month in the OnThree Restaurant on Level 3 of the John Radcliffe Hospital.

New and future dates for the cafes, which are held between 2.00pm - 3.30pm, are listed below:

• 28th October
• 25th November
• 23rd December
• 27th January
• 24th February
• 24th March

There is no need to register in advance to attend the events, anyone who would like more information can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01865 221473.

Trust leads the way on patient safety

Oxford University Hospitals Trust is taking the lead in a series of patient safety initiatives to improve patient care.

Senior leaders from the Trust took part in a workshop in August following the launch of the Patient Safety Academy (PSA) in Oxford.

Mark Power, Director of Organisational Development and Workforce, said: “This provided an opportunity to learn more about safety science and human factors, and to consider priorities for the OUH – for example, systems for sensing and analysing problems, and developing a leadership strategy for safety.”

Our surgical teams have also taken part in Patient Safety training alongside colleagues from other trusts.

Patient safety is high on the national agenda with a national network of Patient Safety Collaboratives to be launched this month.

“An opportunity to learn more about safety science and human factors”

Speaking at the PSA launch event in July, Mr Nick de Pennington, Specialist Registrar in Neurosurgery at OUH, outlined recent successes in neurosurgery including improvements in same day admissions, whole team handovers and referrals.

Supported by the Oxford Academic Health Science Network, the PSA aims to build on best practice around patient safety and set local priorities. It will work with existing expertise and experience, knit it together effectively and offer support, training and advice to ensure full frontline engagement.

The PSA is developing a programme of regional projects co-designed with others to build a coherent approach to improving safety and quality in healthcare. The focus is on making large-scale long-term sustainable change to systems, technology and cultures.

PSA Co-Director Dr Helen Higham said building effective collaboration was the key to making a real difference – identifying needs and sharing knowledge and best practice through bespoke training and access to robust data.

Paddington pays a visit

Children’s favourite, Paddington Bear, paid a visit to delighted young patients at the Oxford Children’s Hospital in September as part of a new UK tour to raise vital funds for Action Medical Research.

The charity’s mascot, who is set to hit the big screen later this year, spent the morning with patients in a bid to raise awareness of the new ‘Bear Miles for Breakthroughs’ campaign, which is calling on the public to support Paddington on his travels by donating through the website www.action.org.uk/BearMiles

Every penny raised through the appeal will go towards funding essential research to help save and change the lives of thousands of sick babies and children. Children like twins Grace and Isabella, from Oxford, who were affected by twin to twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS), where blood moves from one baby to the other via the placenta. As a result of TTTS, Grace became critically short of fluid and was sadly stillborn. Helping to fund research into syndromes like this is just one of the ways Action Medical Research is supporting sick babies and children across the country.

In 2001, Action Medical Research also funded a research team at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and University of Oxford to develop a sophisticated new tool to improve understanding of foot abnormalities and deformity in children with cerebral palsy. Their discovery, the Oxford Foot Model (OFM), uses gait analysis by motion capture technology to analyse movement patterns within specific parts of the foot and now benefits around 4,000 children a year.

Bronze Standard Award for Equality and Diversity

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has been awarded a Bronze Standard Award for its efforts in equality and inclusion. The award has been presented by the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion (enei).

A pioneering online tool designed by the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion, e-quality, is used to benchmark the Trust’s performance in equality and diversity.

The e-quality benchmarking exercise assessed the Trust’s performance in relation to five key areas of diversity:

- Organisational commitment and leadership
- Knowing your workforce
- Integrating equality, diversity and inclusion
- External relations and suppliers
- Organisational improvements

Becky Jenkins, HR Manager at OUH, said: “We are very proud to have been recognised with a Bronze Standard Award in e-quality by the enei. In accordance with the Trust’s values, ensuring equality throughout our organisation is a key priority for the Trust and achieving this award goes some way to recognising the continuing work efforts around the Equality and Diversity agenda.”
Here for Health opens

An innovative centre opened its doors to provide health improvement advice for patients, visitors, and staff on 27 August 2014 at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The Here for Health Centre is an exciting opportunity to help the people of Oxfordshire address unhealthy lifestyles, improve their health and reduce their chronic disease risk.

The Centre is a novel service for a hospital to provide. It forms part of the Trust’s commitment, through its joint public health strategy with Oxfordshire County Council, to improve health and prevent disease in patients, visitors and staff.

The Here for Health Centre is located in Blue Outpatients on Level 2 at the John Radcliffe Hospital and will be staffed by Aine Lyng (Health Promotion Specialist) and Emma Hagues (Health Promotion Practitioner). The centre will operate during standard office hours Monday to Friday.

A range of topics will be covered by the centre such as healthy eating, physical activity, alcohol, smoking and weight management. It will be accessible to individuals on a drop-in basis. Clinicians will also be able to advise their patients to drop in if they feel they could benefit from healthy lifestyle advice and information. The centre has worked with staff across OUH, Oxfordshire County Council, and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust to provide resources and ensure a consistent approach.

Aine Lyng, Health Promotion Specialist at the centre, added: “We are passionate about supporting individuals to live a healthy happy lifestyle. Our service is an exciting opportunity to access information and support to aid healthy lifestyle choices. Everyone is welcome, so please do come and visit. We look forward to meeting you.”

Trust launches 24/7 care project

The Trust has launched an OUH-wide ‘Care 24/7’ project to ensure that patients receive effective, timely care, every hour of the day, every day of the week, whatever the care setting.

The project will be working towards achieving standards set by the NHS Services Seven Days a Week Forum.

It is planned to deliver the project over a 12-month period, with implementation across all sites by March 2015. Project milestones were determined through ‘Risk Summit’ events held with key stakeholders from multi-disciplinary teams, patient representatives, CCG representatives, GPs and medical staff from external organisations.

Key themes arising from the Risk Summit events were the need for:
- a substantially enhanced ‘information & communications hub’
- a detailed look at the practice of existing staff and the consideration of new roles
- a logistics work stream to address timely access to diagnostics and to forward plan more effectively.

The Risk Summits held in March and April demonstrated that staff from the entire healthcare system were passionate about the need to strengthen relationships within and across teams, 24/7, and to work energetically and innovatively to achieve that.

The project has evolved to a site-based roll-out plan with the Horton as Phase one, Churchill and NOC Hospitals in Phase two and the John Radcliffe site Phase three. Each site project team meets every two weeks and feeds into a monthly Project Board led by Divisional Director Dr Jon Westbrook. The project is supported by the Patient Safety Academy, led by Professor Peter McCulloch.

If you would like to get involved in the project contact Belinda.boulton@ouh.nhs.uk. Visit the intranet site for more information.
Easy steps to tell us your views

As part of our on-going commitment to make it easier for patients to have their say about their care, the Trust has developed a simple patient survey. A new leaflet is available in our inpatient wards, A&E, maternity services and outpatient clinics asking no more than 8 questions, including asking patients how likely they are to recommend the OUH’s services to their friends and family – part of NHS England’s national drive known as the ‘Friends and Family Test’ to assess how well Trusts seek and act on patient feedback.

NHS England expects that all patients, including those using GP surgeries, patient transport, ambulance services, NHS dentists and community-based services such as Minor Injury Units, have the opportunity to answer the ‘friends and family’ question and this is now being rolled out more widely. In addition, the question will be extended for use in questionnaires designed for children and young people – previously only patients over the age of 16 have been invited to respond.

Concert to commemorate Dr John Radcliffe

On 8 November, the Radcliffe Orchestra will give a special concert at the Oxford Town Hall to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Dr John Radcliffe, royal physician to William III and Mary II and Oxford benefactor.

The concert will feature local choirs the Headington Singers, East Oxford Community Choir, East Oxford Youth Choir and Oxford Collutorium. The programme includes the premiere of ‘Tingewick’, a new piece composed by orchestra member Jill Elliott; ‘The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra’, by Benjamin Britten, and Carl Orff’s dramatic and popular choral work ‘Carmina Burana’.

The Radcliffe Orchestra was founded in 1977 by Consultant Chest Physician Donald Lane, also a viola player, pianist, conductor and composer. The orchestra consists mainly of healthcare staff from Oxford University Hospitals, Oxford Health Foundation Trust and primary care and university staff especially from the Medical Sciences Division.

Many have previously studied music to a high level and or continue to combine significant musical commitments with their clinical work.

The orchestra was conducted for many years by Dr Lane but has more recently engaged professional/semi professional conductors including Catherine Underwood, a music graduate of Oxford University and ex-National Youth Orchestra member, Dr Will Orr, consultant cardiologist in Reading and Oxford and solo baritone, and Peter Bergamin, conductor and academic. The orchestra performs works from the standard classical repertoire, often with professional soloists, and gives three concerts a year in the Tingewick Hall, John Radcliffe, in aid of medical charities (which are also broadcast live on the hospital radio).

The November concert is in aid of the British Heart Foundation and the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Tickets cost £18 (£15 concessions, under 10s free) and will be available via the Cairns Library (on the JR site), Tickets Oxford (at the Playhouse, www.ticketsoxford.com, 01865 305305), from members of the orchestra, the charities, and on the door. Early booking is advised.
Research @ OUH

Innovation in good health across our hospitals

Innovative ideas from across the Trust have received expert support in a bid to help them realise their patient potential.

Four projects have been supported by the inaugural OUH Innovation Challenge ranging from a novel walking aid design to a new biomaterial to repair soft tissue.

Trust Non-Executive Director Chris Goard, who chaired the assessment panel, said: “All our staff play a vital role in delivering care and it is their expertise and experience that gives rise to brilliant ideas. “This competition, open to everyone, is about tapping into that and giving great ideas the support they need to get to next level.”

The competition was open to all OUH staff and was part of a drive to increase awareness of innovation and build links with industrial partners. The aim was to develop solutions for unmet medical needs and to improve OUH services for patients.

This can include medical devices, diagnostic tools, computer software, guidelines or training packages, or questionnaires quantifying patient outcomes. The ideas must be able to be developed with an industry partner.

Supported projects in the 2014 Challenge were:

- An acute referrals system to document and manage acute, specialist referrals between different healthcare organisations (Nick de Pennington, Specialist Registrar, Neurosurgery; Lauren Morgan, Human Factors Research Scientist).
- An innovative walking aid device (Simon Wood, Senior Physiotherapist, NOC).
- A knee stress x-ray device (Thomas Hamilton, Clinical Research Fellow, NOC).

The competition is set to run again in 2015. For more information contact: Cynthia.Ugochukwu@ouh.nhs.uk

Sneak peek behind the scenes – Trust opens

Visitors went behind the scenes at some of the Trust’s cutting edge facilities as part of Oxford Open Doors including the Acute Vascular Imaging Centre and the Oxford Centre for functional magnetic resonance imaging of the brain.

Oxford Open Doors was a partnership between the Oxford Preservation Trust and Oxford University, which took place on 13 and 14 September. A number of colleges and departments that would normally be closed to visitors opened their doors to the public, and there was also talks at various sites around the city.
Expert review shapes future direction –

International experts met with research leaders to help the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) build on its achievement so far.

The centre is a £100m partnership between the OUH and the University of Oxford. The mid-term review assessed the centre’s science and marked the start of a process that will shape future directions beyond the current funding cycle in 2017.

For more information visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk

Oxford University Hospitals commits to AllTrials

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has pledged its support for increased transparency in medical research by supporting the AllTrials campaign. AllTrials calls for all past and present clinical trials to be registered, and their full methods and summary results reported.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has signed the campaign pledge and commits to the principles that all clinical trials should be registered and the results should be published.

The Trust supports a growing portfolio of more than 1,300 patient-centred studies and trials.

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust Director of Research and Development, Professor Keith Channon, said: “Transparency, openness and the sharing of knowledge are key principles in furthering research and in translating this new scientific understanding into patient benefit. We are underlining this by supporting the AllTrials campaign. We have also outlined further practical steps to help us support these principles.”

As part of the AllTrials commitment, the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and the Biomedical Research Unit in Musculoskeletal Disease (funded by the National Institute of Health Research) and hosted by Oxford University Hospitals and run in partnership with the University of Oxford will review their portfolios to continue to ensure the results from all clinical trials are published.

In addition, both programmes will further improve the information available to patients about the individual trials and studies they support.

To find out more visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk or follow us on Twitter @oxfordbrc
Programme gets under way to protect staff against flu

At the end of September, the Occupational Health and Wellbeing department launched the Trust's annual staff flu programme.

Patricia Poole, Occupational Health and Wellbeing Manager, said: “Last year, 67% of our frontline staff were vaccinated against flu. This year we want even more staff to be vaccinated, particularly frontline staff. It is important that health and social care workers protect themselves by having the flu vaccine, and in doing so, they reduce the risk of spreading flu to their patients, service users, colleagues and family members.

“We would ask staff who had the jab last year to have it again this year, and if you did not have the jab then please go along to one of our clinics and get it.”

Trust staff can access the flu intranet page by logging on to the staff intranet and clicking either on the A-Z or on the link on the front page. Staff will be able to see where and when clinics are taking place and view other information around flu vaccination.

Results of a flu survey undertaken on the 2013/14 programme show that staff are committed to the programme with more than 92% of respondents supporting it.

Full results of the staff survey will be available on the intranet flu site from 29 September, 2014.

Further information is available on http://orh.oxnet.nhs.uk/Pages/Home.aspx.

Over 60 and feeling under the weather?

A new campaign called ‘The earlier, the better’ has been launched to encourage people to seek help early on from their local pharmacist if they are feeling under the weather.

It is especially important over the winter months that elderly people tell a friend, family member or carer if they have a bad cough, cold or sore throat to prevent it getting worse.

The campaign asks those caring for or visiting an elderly relative to get advice from their local pharmacist or from www.nhs.uk/asap to prevent a minor illness developing into something more serious.

Professor Keith Willett, Director for Acute Episodes of Care at NHS England, said: “It’s easy to forget that our local pharmacists can provide expert guidance on how to help manage long term conditions, or give advice on the best treatment for a cough or cold.

“So it’s essential that older people seek help as soon as possible to prevent a trip to hospital if their condition gets worse. The earlier, the better.”

The campaign will run from 20 January to the end of March 2014 and will target the over-45s through a range of channels, and the over 60s through their friends, family and carers.

The public will see adverts in the national papers and on websites, hear adverts on national radio stations and see posters in their local pharmacies.

New sexual health premises

The Oxfordshire Sexual Health Service now offers a service at the Rectory Centre, Rectory Road in Oxford. There is a drop-in clinic which runs from 10am-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and there are plans to extend the opening hours later in the year.

The Rectory Road service offers the full range of contraception. Asymptomatic people wanting tests for sexually transmitted infections can also be seen. Patients with symptoms should be directed to the Churchill where immediate microscopy is available.

Specialist services and service administration are delivered from the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and the Orchard Health Centre in Banbury. These clinics offer the full range of sexual health services and are open to all, but are especially designed for people with symptoms or a complex history.

For further information: www.sexualhealthoxfordshire.nhs.uk
Meet the Team: Growing numbers of military staff working within the OUH

For some time, the Princess Nursing Royal Air Force Nurses Services (PMRAFNS) have been working within A&E and ITU, with both the Army and Royal Navy Medical Staff in various specialities across the Trust. From the start of 2014, the numbers have increased across the Trust, with military nurses starting in the surgical and medical areas. These personnel are employed by the Ministry of Defence and have honorary contracts with the OUH. There are currently 48 military personnel working across the John Radcliffe and Churchill sites, with more expected in the coming months. Many of these new starters are enrolled on academic pathways at Oxford Brookes University and are working within OUH to meet the clinical needs of these courses.

OUH was chosen by the military as an excellent regional trauma centre, offering a wide variety of expert clinical services that the military could offer their training and skills to support as well as learn from. All the military staff within the trust are expected to regularly move and operate in austere environments around the world such as Afghanistan. Many of the RAF nurses also complete duties in Critical Care Air Support (CCAST), Medical Emergency Response Teams (MERT) and Aeromed Evacuation. This is the RAF’s role in moving patients by air, some of which are critically injured and require expert trauma and resuscitation skills. Their work here in OUH helps them to prepare them clinically for these duties which can be expected at any time throughout the year.

The military staff within OUH are easily recognisable by their uniforms. When in the clinical areas you will notice them wearing the military ranks as an addition to the OUH scrubs. Feel free to stop and ask any of them about their roles and experiences here at OUH. Their office is on Level 3 of the John Radcliffe, next to the Volunteers office.

Recently, the arrival of the new Officer Commanding (Squadron Leader Julian Phillips) has taken up post to lead and manage the all military personnel. He said that he was thrilled to have been selected to take up this position of managing what is a highly effective and motivated team of clinicians. He added that working within such an esteemed Trust allows the military contingent to be completely at ease with working alongside their NHS colleagues gaining valuable skills and sharing best practice.

Focus on Diabetes

This is an exciting time in OUH Diabetes care as the Trust expands the Inpatient Diabetes Team. This significant investment underlines the Trust’s commitment to developing a service that supports all staff in delivering excellent and compassionate care for patients with Diabetes.

We are currently recruiting new Diabetes Specialist Nurses, Podiatrists and Administrators. The number of Inpatient Diabetes Nurses will double and Inpatient Podiatrist will increase four-fold following recruitment.

The focus of the new teams will be to improve the quality of care that patients with Diabetes receive during a hospital stay. There will be improved access to the Diabetes Nursing and Podiatry services on all four hospital sites.

New staff will be joining the teams and the improvements to the Inpatients Diabetes Services will be rolling out over the coming few months – we will continue to keep you informed.
Maggie’s Oxford now up and running

Maggie’s new purpose built cancer support Centre in the grounds of the Churchill Hospital will officially open this October and is already welcoming visitors. The building has been designed by acclaimed architect Wilkinson Eyre and is a warm and welcoming place with professional staff on hand offering support for anyone affected by cancer.

An interim Centre has been running from a temporary building since 1996 and the opening of the Centre means more people in Oxford and the surrounding area will be able to access Maggie’s free practical, emotional and social support to help them find their way through cancer.

Claire Marriott, Maggie’s Oxford Centre Head, has said of the new Centre: “We’re incredibly excited about the difference that our beautiful new Centre, right in front of the oncology department, will make to the community of Churchill Hospital. The Centre is open to people with cancer, their families and friends, where they can find advice on benefits and eating well, talk to our qualified experts about emotional support, or simply sit at our kitchen table with a cup of tea and talk to people going through a similar experience.”

The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm and no referral is needed. Claire and her team would be delighted for anyone to pop in for a cup of tea – either to access Maggie’s support or simply find out more.

Apprenticeships are coming for new and existing staff

The Trust Academy Team has announced new apprenticeship roles, and development opportunities for existing staff.

Apprenticeships are available for young people aged 16-18, in all areas in clinical and non-clinical settings across the Trust. They are also offered in team leading and management.

Apprenticeships give young people the opportunity to work for a real employer, earn a real salary and gain a real nationally recognised qualification whilst gaining valuable workplace skills and experience.

Apprenticeships are also ideal for existing staff, Bands 1-4, and are offered at different levels which take between 12-18 months to achieve. Currently, the Trust is keen to recruit Apprentices from existing staff members in Customer Services or Business Administration.

Completion times can range from 12 months for an intermediate level, to 18 months for an Advanced level.

For more information contact Fiona Voss Non-clinical Practice Educator at Fiona.voss@ouh.nhs.uk or call 07887451956.

Best foot forward for Amy

A Trust employee who underwent pioneering bowel and abdominal wall transplant surgery at the Churchill Hospital in 2013 completed the Great North Run, raising more than £1,500 for charity.

Amy Grime, an Administrator in Women’s Centre Theatres, was the first woman to receive a small bowel transplant in Oxford and the first female in the UK to receive a small bowel and abdominal wall transplant.

Amy after completing the race

She completed the run in 3hrs 17mins, a wonderful achievement for Amy and for the transplant team, raising more at least £1530 for For CICRA – Crohn’s in Childhood Research.

Amy said: “It was an overwhelming experience, crossing the finish line knowing a year ago I was in ICU with multiple complications. Thank you to all the Transplant team – without their consistent hard work, dedication and support, it would not have been possible for me to accomplish my goal. The challenge made all the more worthwhile, due to raising much needed awareness and cash to support the kids and teenagers that fight day in day out.”
A cyclist from Belgium who rode 10,000km around Europe to increase awareness of Huntington’s Disease called in at the John Radcliffe Hospital as part of his journey.

Jeroen De Schepper made the epic journey in honour of his grandmother and aunt, who both died from Huntington’s, and other family members who have the disease. In the days prior to his visit to Oxford, Jeroen rode through Ireland and Scotland. His journey finished with a homecoming in Belgium.

In Oxford, Jeroen was met by Dr Andrea Nemeth and her colleagues from the Oxfordshire Huntington’s Disease Service, which is based at the Churchill Hospital. They were able to explain the work of the service and offer him refreshment before the next leg of his ride. Huntington’s Disease is a neurodegenerative genetic disorder that affects muscle coordination and leads to cognitive decline and psychiatric problems. It typically becomes noticeable in mid-adult life.

Arriving at Oxford, Jeroen said: “It has been good to speak to people along the away about Huntington’s, and raise awareness of it. I have had a very good reception.”

Falls Prevention Specialist Practitioner in place

Aimee Taylor took up the new role of Falls Prevention Specialist Practitioner to implement the ‘Fall Safe’. This is a process of care which aims to prevent falls happening and minimise the risk of harm when they do.

The six month project includes education and training on the wards covering rapid falls risk assessments of patients on admission, sharing information to highlight patients at risk and patient observation towards a safer environment for patients.

Aimee will work with ‘Falls Champions’ to identify each ward’s needs. The Falls Champions will then work with colleagues, patients and relatives.

The wards will be deemed ‘Fall Safe’ if they comply with all specified requirements.

Contact Aimee Taylor at aimee.taylor@ouh.nhs.uk for support or further details regarding falls management.
Launch of First Year Registered Nurse Foundation Programme

September saw the launch of the Trust’s new Foundation Programme for Registered Nurses, a new initiative led by Chief Nurse Catherine Stoddart.

The programme is designed to provide structured, clinical supervision for First Year Registered nurses, using one-to-one Professional Development Nurse (PDN) support, corporate ‘buddying’, and action learning sets to help nurses develop issues from practice areas using peer and facilitator support.

The programme will be available to all newly registered Band 5 nurses entering the workplace for the first time.

Carol Forde-Johnston, Cohort Programme Lead, said: “The Foundation Journey is the start of these nurses’ journey with us, and will link to a clear career pathway to develop their future skills. At the end of the programme, they will have time with the education team, developing their future education plans, which may include access to graduate, post-graduate and Masters modular programmes.”

The programme runs on the first Wednesday of each month, for a year. On the first day, this year’s intake met members of the Professional Development Team, and the Professional Development Nurses for their areas of work.

They were also welcomed by Catherine Stoddart, who wished them all the best for their forthcoming careers in the Trust.

More than 2,000 research journals now available to Trust staff

All Trust staff now have enhanced access to cutting-edge research journals.

Thanks to a pilot scheme organised by Jisc (a company representing UK Higher Education) and the NHS, all NHS staff in the UK have been provided with online access to the full-text of more than 2,000 research journals.

Titles available include Science Translational Medicine, Cell, Science Signalling, Nature (and all other Nature branded titles such as Nature Medicine), and The Merck Index.


Some of the publishers have made their journals available from anywhere on the Internet via NHS OpenAthens whilst others have only made their content available from computers on the NHS network.

NHS OpenAthens usernames and passwords are available to all staff working in the Trust and already provide access to a large number of online journals, books, databases and point of care tools purchased by library services in the Trust. To register for NHS OpenAthens see https://openathens.nice.org.uk/ and for more information about the journal pilot (including links to all the titles available) see www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/hcl/pilot

Please contact your local Trust library with any questions or for help – www.tinyurl.com/ouhlibraries

Donald Mackay, Head of Bodleian Health Care Libraries, said: “We are delighted to be working with colleagues nationally to make this collection of online research information available to all staff in the Trust. It’s a valuable supplement to the many clinical titles that we currently provide via NHS OpenAthens and the usage data we get from the pilot will help us decide which research based journals to purchase in the future.”

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Catherine Stoddart, Chief Nurse, meets the first nurses to take part in the programme
Pantomime fun for young patients

Starlight Children’s Foundation brought a big dose of sunshine to poorly children at the Oxford Children’s Hospital when its amazing pop-up pantomime paid a visit.

Starlight is national charity that grants wishes for seriously and terminally ill children and provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

This year’s pantomime was ‘Robinson Crusoe’, produced exclusively for Starlight by The Panto Company.

Christine Turner, Play Specialist at Oxford Children’s Hospital, said: “Every year we look forward to Starlight’s Summer Panto and we simply couldn’t wait for the arrival of ‘Robinson Crusoe’. We know that play can significantly help to improve a child’s hospital experience and Starlight’s Summer Panto gives our young patients a chance to forget their illness for a short while and simply have some fun.”

Eight-year-old Annabelle Glover is pictured, centre, with, from left, cast members Jamie Park, Catherine Irlam, Zac Price and Melanie Greaney

Patients and medical staff get involved with new musical composition

On 1 November 2014, a one-day ‘Breath’ Festival of events, talks, performances and exhibitions will take place across Oxford’s museums.

- The centrepiece will be ‘Breathe’, a brand new composition by Orlando Gough, developed though research in the Respiratory Medicine department at the Churchill hospital. This piece of musical theatre will be performed at the North Wall in Summertown and will also be available for patients, staff and visitors to enjoy in specially designed listening pods at the John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals later this year.

- ‘Breathe’ has been developed to mark the tercentenary of the death of Dr John Radcliffe, who generously donated the funds to enable the building of The Radcliffe Infirmary – Oxford’s first hospital. This project celebrates his life by bringing together the arts and medical science. (See also article on page 9.)

- Orlando is currently undertaking research for the piece with the help of John Stradling, Emeritus Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the Churchill Hospital. His research for the piece has involved dialogue with patients and medical staff as well as Oxford University academics from a broad range of disciplines who have researched the theme of breath within their work.

- Tickets cost £14 full price, £10 concessions. To book call 01865 319450 or visit www.thenorthwall.com

- Further information on the performance at the North Wall can be obtained by calling 01865 319450 or by emailing www.northwall.com. To view information about Breath go to http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/artlink/breath/default.aspx
Five star fundraising

Raymond Blanc opened the doors of Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons earlier this year for an extra special fundraising evening in support of the Children’s Hospital.

The Michelin starred chef hosted an exclusive dinner for 50 guests raising funds for children’s neurosurgery.

Felicity Waley-Cohen, Cherry Jones and Helen Mortimer, all long term supporters of the hospital, organised the event with Le Manoir’s team and amassed an enticing selection of exclusive auction lots, to tempt the attendees.

Thanks to their hard work and generosity and the enthusiasm of all the guests, an incredible £180,000 was raised.

Consultant neurosurgeon, Jay Jayamohan, who spoke on the night, said: “The generosity has been overwhelming and the Neuro team can’t say thank you enough. We are now able to purchase the very latest medical equipment which will help so many children facing brain surgery.”

Pedal power for hospital charity

Neil Cowan, General Manager, Neurosciences, Orthopaedics, Trauma and Specialist Surgery Division, and Consultant Oncologist Robert Stuart, took part in the Ride London event this August. They cycled the 100 mile route from the Olympic Park in London, through the Surrey countryside before returning to the Mall in the capital.

The pair took on the challenge in support of one of the hospital charity’s funds – the Injury Minimization Programme for Schools (I.M.P.S). I.M.P.S aims to teach all of Oxfordshire’s 10 and 11 year olds life-saving skills, including CPR and using an AED Defibrillator.

Neil explains: “As the father of two young boys I really believe this is a hugely important cause as I.M.P.S. empowers young people to take personal responsibility for their own risk and equips them with the skills to cope in an emergency.

‘Robert and I are both keen cyclists, so it was great to be able to cycle in the tyre tracks of the likes of Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome, (though perhaps not at the same cadence!) whilst raising funds and awareness for this worthy and important cause.’”

Neil added afterwards: “On a very wet day I finished in 4 hours, 26 minutes, 58 seconds ride time. The ride was only over 86 miles as you may have seen on TV, but I had an awe-inspiring time.

“Some who have not yet had the opportunity have asked if you can donate following the event. My Justgiving page is open until October, and I have also uploaded a picture with my medal (when I was dry for a short while!) to Justgiving.

Christmas cheer

There are lots of ways you can support the hospital charity over the coming Festive season.

The Dorchester Abbey Christmas Concert is a fabulous evening of song and readings. Since the first event in 2006 the concerts have raised over £200,000 for the Oxford Children’s Hospital, helping to provide extra medical equipment and new facilities for young patients.

This year, you will be able to enjoy the glorious voices of Winchester Cathedral Choir, along with guest readings. It includes canapés and wine and is the perfect start to the Christmas season.

Tickets for the Thursday 4th December concert, which starts at 7.30pm, are priced at £25 to £70 p.p. and are expected to sell out very quickly.

We also produce a range of Christmas cards for all tastes and you can choose which hospital area you would like your purchase to support.

For information about the cards and concert visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk email charity@ouh.nhs.uk or call 01865 743444.
NHS Staff Survey 2014

This year, you can take part in the National NHS Staff Survey between 1 October to 1 December.

At Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, it is important to us that as many of our staff members as possible make their voices heard.

The survey is designed to be easy to complete, with the chance to provide comments. You will receive an envelope or an email containing the survey for you to complete.

Based on your feedback, we will try to make improvements.

Your thoughts, experiences and opinions are vital in improving the place where you work for you, your colleagues and your patients.

Ensuring Confidentiality

Effective and established processes are in place to ensure that all data is completely confidential and does not identify any individual or the responses.

Your National Staff Survey is being administered by the Picker Institute on behalf of your organisation.

Data is collected from ESR and sent to Picker, containing staff information.

- A unique code is assigned to each online or paper survey by the Picker Institute.
- The survey code is used to track who has and has not responded. If you complete the survey, your code is logged as complete. This means you will no longer receive reminders.
- You can return your survey blank or opt out of the survey. If you do this, your code will be logged as opted out. You will not receive a reminder if you opt out of the survey.
- Once the survey is received, the link between you and your responses is broken.

At no point will your organisation be able to see your responses. The Picker Institute will not supply identifiable data to your organisation.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is proud to recognise the contribution our staff make to the success of our organisation for our patients. Through Delivering Compassionate Excellence, our people and our teams go the extra mile to make Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust the special place that it is.

We would like to thank each and every member of staff who has taken the time to nominate a fellow colleague or team in any of the nine categories available for this year’s awards event. We have received a phenomenal response.

All nominees will be contacted in November to inform and congratulate them on their nomination. A shortlist of the best nominations in each category will now be chosen by a panel of judges chaired by a Non-Executive Director, with representatives from a range of stakeholders, including staff and patient. Those reaching the shortlist will be invited to a special awards evening on 3 December.

The OUH Annual Staff Recognition Awards are designed to mark the outstanding achievements, hard work and dedication shown by our staff every day of the year. They are about celebrating the amazing people that work here and the contribution they make.
Colleagues say farewell to Ann

After 25 years of working at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Ann Parnham retired in July.

Ann had a varied career that included working in medical records, ward clerking and most recently chasing and returning medical records around the hospital for the Clinical Coding team.

She said she had made some very good friends, and has lots of wonderful memories, but that “all good things must come to an end”.

Chris Middlemass, Clinical Coding manager, said that Ann would be a tough act to follow given her vast experience, and wished her well for her retirement.

Her colleagues gathered together for a special send off for Ann, who is now looking forward to devoting more time to her garden and her cat George.

Midwife retires after 42 years at the Trust

Janis Hedge started her career as a midwife 42 years ago at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. Now, after delivering hundreds of babies and caring for many patients she has decided to retire.

As one of the longest serving midwives at the Trust, Janis worked across many different areas of maternity, including delivery suite and the wards before finishing her career in the Observation Area.

Susan Marks, Observation Area Manager, said: “We are all going to miss Janis terribly. It has been a pleasure working with her and having her share her knowledge and expertise. She is an amazing midwife, and has been a really important member of the team in the Observation Area for over 15 years.”

During her retirement, Janis plans to spend more time with her family, especially her three grandchildren. She has a passion for singing and, after returning from a well-deserved holiday, she intends to join a local choir.

She said: “I’d really like to thank all the people that I’ve worked with over the years, especially everybody in the Observation Area. It’s a fantastic team and it’s been a real privilege to have been a part of it. I’m going to miss everybody greatly.”

OUH ‘one of the best places to work in the NHS’

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust has been highlighted in a new report as one of the best places in the NHS to work.

According to the Health Services Journal, the weekly journal for health service workers, “employees report effective team working, good communication between senior management and staff and low experiences of violence and harassment”.

It adds: “The organisation also offers flexible working and career breaks to staff where possible.”

Mark Power, Director of Organisational Development and Workforce at OUH, said: “Our workforce is our single most important asset. There is a strong connection between establishing and maintaining effective staff engagement and involvement in the workplace, and the delivery of excellent patient care.

“We strive to make continuous improvements for our staff and to assist teams and individuals in achieving their personal and career aspirations. We will continue to invest in the support and development of our multi-professional workforce, in order to ensure our continued success as an organisation.

“We are currently recruiting in a number of areas, so I would encourage people who might be thinking of a change in career or workplace to look at NHS Jobs or our website for opportunities that may be of interest.”

OUH News – your bi-monthly newsletter with news from around the John Radcliffe Hospital, Horton General Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital.

Look out for the next edition of OUH News, which will be out in December 2014. If you have any news from your team or department that you would like to be featured, please contact the Media and Communications Unit, on 01865 231471 or email media.office@ouh.nhs.uk. Deadline for copy is 31 October 2014.