

## Cover Sheet

Public Trust Board Meeting: Wednesday 13 January 2021

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**Title:** Chief Executive Officer's Report

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**Board Lead:** Chief Executive Officer

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## Executive Summary

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## Chief Executive Officer's Report

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### 1. Recognition Day thanks staff for OneTeamOneOUH response to COVID-19

- 1.1. Just before Christmas we announced that our staff will receive an extra day's annual leave to say thank you for their amazing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2. 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges for all of us, both professionally and personally, and while the Trust Board recognised we cannot put a price on the hard work and personal sacrifices made by so many, we wanted staff to know how much they are appreciated.
- 1.3. We also wanted to reiterate that taking a break is vital for good mental and physical health, and never more so than now when we have all experienced a very challenging period in our lives.
- 1.4. And so as a token of the Board's appreciation, staff will receive an extra day of annual leave in the 2021/22 financial year, to be taken on their birthday if possible - a Recognition Day.
- 1.5. I would like to personally thank all those staff who were at work over the festive period in our hospitals to ensure that our patients continued to receive the best possible care.
- 1.6. The Christmas and New Year period was hugely challenging for the NHS here in Oxfordshire – and indeed nationally – with a rapid increase in the number of COVID positive patients.
- 1.7. And so I would like to thank all staff who pulled together and showed great flexibility as clinical areas were converted for use with COVID positive patients and staff were in some cases redeployed.

### 2. World's first COVID Oxford Vaccine delivered at OUH

- 2.1. Monday 4 January 2021 was a proud day for all of us as the NHS launched the rollout of the new Oxford AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine – with patients at OUH the very first in the world to be vaccinated with the Oxford Vaccine.
- 2.2. OUH dialysis patient Brian Pinker, 82, a retired maintenance manager who has been having dialysis for kidney disease at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford for a number of years, was the first person to receive his vaccination from our Chief Nursing Officer, Sam Foster.

- 2.3. He said: “I am so pleased to be getting the COVID vaccine today and really proud it is one that was invented in Oxford.”
- 2.4. We were delighted that our COVID vaccination hub at the Churchill Hospital was chosen to be the first location to provide the Oxford Vaccine.
- 2.5. I would like to thank all our staff who have played their part in ensuring that we can deliver the vaccine for our patients and staff, and I would also like to pay tribute to the team here in Oxford who developed this vaccine in record time.
- 2.6. It was fitting that Professor Andrew Pollard, an Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at OUH and Chief Investigator of the Oxford Vaccine Trial, was among the first people to be vaccinated on 4 January.
- 2.7. We can be proud of the strong partnership between OUH and the University of Oxford, especially in the area of the vaccine clinical trials. Hundreds of staff at OUH took part in the vaccine trial and so played a key role in its development.

### **3. Muslim Chaplain leads community drive to encourage COVID vaccination**

- 3.1. Tuesday 8 December 2020 was also a momentous day for Oxfordshire and an historic day for the NHS as we started the COVID-19 vaccination programme with the Pfizer vaccine.
- 3.2. We were part of the biggest and most highly anticipated immunisation campaign in history as the Churchill Hospital was designated one of 50 hospital hubs to deliver the vaccine.
- 3.3. Almost 6,000 vaccinations were delivered at our hospital hub by the start of 2021 which represents a significant achievement by everyone involved – and we look forward to building on this now that the Oxford Vaccine is also available for use.
- 3.4. I would like to thank our Muslim Chaplain at OUH, Imam Monawar Hussain, who has been working with other community leaders in Oxfordshire to make videos for use on social media to encourage uptake of COVID vaccination.
- 3.5. Monawar talks passionately about his decision to have the COVID vaccine and addresses commonly asked questions which may present barriers to others wishing to be vaccinated.

#### 4. NOC achieves accreditation for use of technology to improve patient care

- 4.1. Our Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) in Oxford has been rated highly for how it uses technology to improve patient care.
- 4.2. The NOC was recently accredited by the international [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS) following a two-day virtual inspection, showing how the Trust is joining up healthcare for patients through groundbreaking digital initiatives.
- 4.3. Staff at the NOC were the first at the Trust to go live with the Cerner Millennium electronic patient record (EPR) platform, which helps clinicians securely access clinical information about their patients.
- 4.4. [More information about the NOC's HIMSS accreditation is available on our website.](#)

#### 5. Katharine House Hospice announces potential partnership with OUH

- 5.1. At the end of November 2020, Katharine House Hospice announced it is exploring a potential partnership with OUH in order to protect the services that the hospice provides.
- 5.2. The hospice, which is based in Adderbury in North Oxfordshire, was formed almost 30 years ago and now supports more than 900 families every year.
- 5.3. Angharad Orchard, Chief Executive of Katharine House Hospice, says: "Changing demographics mean that we need to deliver a broader range of services to more people in the coming years, and so we have needed to be open to exploring ways of ensuring that happens."
- 5.4. As an organisation, we are committed to working in partnership in order to provide the best possible care for patients in Oxfordshire and beyond.
- 5.5. [More information is available on the Katharine House Hospice website.](#)

#### 6. Celebrating the achievements of our award-winning staff

- 6.1. Recognising the excellence of our staff at OUH, and celebrating our successes as OneTeamOneOUH, has never been more important.
- 6.2. Congratulations to Endocrine Lead Nurse **Anne Marland**, who is based in the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM) at the Churchill Hospital, for being chosen as the winner of the **Society for Endocrinology's 2021 Nikki Kieffer Medal**. The medal is awarded to recognise nurses who have demonstrated innovative and successful nurse-led initiatives in the endocrine field that have advanced best practice in patient care, education or research.

6.3. Two individual members of staff and a team from OUH were recognised at the **Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership's Audit Heroes Awards**. **Sue Pavord** (Consultant Haematologist) won the Clinical Practitioner of the Year category, **Sahana Rao** (Consultant Paediatrician) was highly commended in the same category, and our **Resuscitation Services team** was shortlisted for the Team of the Year award. [More information is available on our website.](#)

6.4. A maternity training programme developed by the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) with staff from OUH – notably **Wendy Randall** (Consultant Midwife) – and colleagues from the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading won an award category, was highly commended in a second category, and shortlisted in a third category at the **Health Safety Journal (HSJ Patient Safety Awards)**. [More information is available on the Oxford AHSN website.](#)

## 7. OUH junior doctor and volunteer recognised in New Year Honours

7.1. Congratulations to **Dr Gareth Hynes**, a junior doctor at OUH, who was awarded an MBE for Services to Medical Education during the COVID-19 pandemic in the New Year Honours List on 30 December 2020.

7.2. Gareth is not only a Specialist Registrar in Respiratory Medicine at OUH but also co-chair of the Trainee Physician Committee for Health Education England's Thames Valley Deanery and co-represents the region on the national Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Trainee Committee.

7.3. He was involved in organising the regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic for junior doctors, including pandemic preparation, the education of clinicians on COVID-19 and its clinical management, regular communication and information dissemination, caring for the physical and emotional wellbeing of colleagues during the response, and of course looking after patients with COVID-19 on the Respiratory High Dependency Unit.

7.4. [You can read more about Gareth in a news story on our website.](#)

7.5. Also congratulations to **Andy Baker**, who has been a volunteer at OUH since 2014, who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List for his charitable work.

7.6. Andy is a brain injury survivor who has raised more than £250,000 for Oxford Children's Hospital and other charities through the fundraising group Play2Give.

7.7. [You can more about Andy's inspiring story on the Play2Give website.](#)

## 8. Best ever Staff Survey response rate

- 8.1. I would like to thank all OUH staff who took the time and trouble to complete the annual national NHS Staff Survey which was open from 28 September to 30 November 2020.
- 8.2. In total, 6,971 staff took part in the 2020 survey – 53.1% of staff who were eligible to participate – which is our best ever response rate and a significant improvement on 2019 when 48.2% of staff took part in the survey.
- 8.3. The results of the NHS Staff Survey will be published nationally – and will be shared with all staff on the same day. We don't have a confirmed date yet for publication but it is usually in late February/early March.

## 9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) news

The **RECOVERY treatment trial**, the world's largest randomised trial of potential COVID-19 treatments, has found no evidence that the widely used antibiotic azithromycin has any clinical benefits for patients who have been hospitalised with COVID-19.

[A preliminary analysis](#) found no significant difference in the primary endpoint of 28-day mortality, the risk of progression to mechanical ventilation, or the length of hospital stay.

The RECOVERY trial, which has so far recruited more than 20,000 patients across 176 NHS hospitals, continues to study treatments including Tocilizumab (an anti-inflammatory treatment given by injection), Convalescent plasma (collected from donors who have recovered from COVID-19 and contains antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus), Regeneron's antibody cocktail (a combination of monoclonal antibodies directed against coronavirus), Aspirin (commonly used to thin the blood), and Colchicine (a commonly used anti-inflammatory drug).

The azithromycin arm is the fourth result to come out of the RECOVERY trial, which is supported by the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC).

An artificial intelligence (AI) test has been shown to be able to [rapidly screen patients](#) arriving in Emergency Departments (A&E) for COVID-19, using clinical information routinely available within the first hour of coming to hospital.

Results of the **CURIAL study**, published in *The Lancet Digital Health*, show that the AI test correctly predicted the COVID-19 status of 92.3% of patients coming to the Emergency Departments at the John Radcliffe and Horton General hospitals during a two-week test period.

Compared against results of laboratory swab testing, the CURIAL AI screening test correctly ruled out COVID-19 97.6% of the time. While swab testing typically takes 24 hours, the AI screening test offers rapid results using data that is already routinely available within one hour.



A study, part of the major ongoing **COVID-19 staff testing programme at OUH**, suggests that individuals who have previously had COVID-19 are [highly unlikely to contract the illness](#) again for at least six months following their first infection.

The study, supported by the Oxford BRC and Public Health England, covered a 30-week period, during which 12,180 staff employed at OUH were tested for antibodies to the virus.

None of the 1,246 staff with antibodies developed a symptomatic infection subsequently, and just three tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms. The study will continue to collect data, with the goal of verifying how long protection from re-infection might last.

Initial findings from a study looking at the longer-term impact of COVID-19, also known as Long COVID, show that a large proportion of COVID-19 patients discharged from hospital still experience symptoms of breathlessness, fatigue and anxiety two to three months after contracting the virus.

The University of Oxford scientists [carrying out the C-MORE study](#), who are supported by the Oxford BRC, have also detected abnormalities on MRI in multiple organs and believe that persistent or chronic inflammation may be an underlying factor for these changes among COVID-19 survivors.

The **C-MORE study**, which aims to recruit more than 500 patients, will use Oxford's state-of-the-art imaging facilities to assess the long-term effects of COVID-19 infection on the body's organs. It is a key part of the wider national PHOSP-COVID platform, which is investigating the long-term effects of COVID-19 on hospitalised patients.

More than 6,000 patients who underwent an endoscopy at 18 NHS hospitals between April and June 2020 were tested for COVID-19 and [none contracted the virus](#) as a result of the procedure, a study involving OUH clinicians has found.

Clinicians hope the findings will reassure people that it is safe to attend their endoscopy appointments, which can be crucial in detecting cancer at an early stage. The findings coincide with a national campaign reminding people that safe cancer care is still available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 19 November, the Oxford BRC organised a public webinar by Julia Hippisley-Cox, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and General Practice at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. She discussed her research into risk prediction models for a range of diseases, including COVID-19, and how these tools can be used to improve healthcare and support the NHS. The video is [available to view online](#).

For the first time, a [comprehensive database](#) comprising an initial cohort of 960 patients with chronic hepatitis B infections and 1,404 patients with chronic hepatitis C infections has been developed for potential future research into the conditions. The

methodology to develop a pipeline to collect and manage this data was presented in *BMJ Health & Care Informatics*.

The work has been done under the auspices of the NIHR Health Informatics Collaborative (HIC), established in 2014 to make routinely collected clinical data available for translational research across multiple sites. The NIHR HIC viral hepatitis theme is led by OUH and the University of Oxford, through the Oxford BRC.

A new anti-tumour immune response drug for patients with metastatic melanoma has given [positive results in clinical trials](#) conducted by the University of Oxford and the UK biotech company Immunocore.

The trials into the use of tebentafusp for metastatic uveal melanoma mean the drug could now be used in future treatment. Previous trials found that this first-of-its-kind treatment showed great promise in helping the immune system fight off melanoma cancers of both the eye and skin. The phase 3 clinical trial for this drug is the first for an affinity optimised T cell receptor drug. Tebentafusp has come out of clinical trials led by Professor Mark Middleton, the Oxford BRC's Co-theme Lead for Multi-modal Cancer Therapies.

The Oxford BRC has appointed four Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) to take part in a [pilot programme](#) to develop their research skills and knowledge. Each appointee will spend five months working on a digital health research project in a BRC research theme. They will support research into the use of remote consultations and contribute to an evaluation of remote clinics at OUH. The programme, which was awarded NIHR Research Capability Funding, aims to develop a critical mass of NMAHP researchers in Oxford who will be able to act as research champions in clinical practice.

A study by Oxford BRC researchers has looked at the role digital technology can play in reducing social, physical and psychological risks during the COVID-19 pandemic, and addressing the short- and long-term impacts of social isolation and [lockdown loneliness](#). Their paper suggests that the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people, who are more prone to lockdown loneliness, should be provided with access to digital technology so that they can connect socially with their loved ones and others.

The Oxford BRC has continued its series of webinars aimed at patient and public involvement volunteers. On 25 November, Dr Nikki Newhouse of the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, explained what [qualitative research](#) is and why it matters for healthcare. On 3 December, Dr Thomas Kabir, who leads the Public Involvement in Research programme at the McPin Foundation, [provided an introduction](#) to finding and reading a health research paper.

## **10. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) and Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news**

### **10.1. Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) news**

The latest [Oxford AHSN quarterly activity report](#) is available – it includes a case study on the new regional network centred on OUH which is harnessing AI technology to support remote clinical decision-making and speed up stroke care. [You can read more about this on the Oxford AHSN website.](#)

AHSNs are playing a key role in implementing the NHS COVID Oximetry @home initiative (previously known as COVID virtual wards). Patients are supported to self-monitor at home using pulse oximeters which detect any decline in condition and can trigger escalation to hospital. [Patient Safety Collaboratives \(PSCs\), part of AHSNs, have been commissioned through the managing deterioration safety improvement programme to scale this up at pace.](#)

The Oxford AHSN is one of eight European partners recruiting 600 sepsis patients in intensive care units (ICU) to evaluate their immune status. The clinical study aims to identify a sub-group of sepsis patients at high risk of a poor outcome and further infectious complications, and to validate the prognostic biomarkers. We would like Healthcare professionals working in ICU are being invited to complete a [short survey](#) on the potential value of this predictive tool.

A national programme supported by all AHSNs has led to 30 fewer cases of cerebral palsy in babies born following pre-term labour, saving £24 million in lifetime health and social care costs. The PReCePT initiative ran from 2018-20 and is being sustained in the Oxford AHSN region. During the first nine months of 2020, 92% of mothers in pre-term labour in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire received magnesium sulphate – the national target is 85% – and the rate was 100% in four months so far this year.

## 10.2. **Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news**

Briefing meetings have been arranged with senior teams of all OAHP partners and the Director, Professor Keith Channon, has outlined the work of the OAHP to the University of Oxford's Research and Innovation Committee.

In addition, as part of the drive to make the local health and economic systems aware of the work of the OAHP and to look at ways of working together, meetings have been arranged with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Integrated Care System (BOB ICS).

The Board of the OAHP met on 8 January 2021 to finalise its key short term objectives which include supporting renewal of the Oxford BRC and Oxford Health BRC during 2021, increasing participation of patients in the RECOVERY and PRINCIPLE trial for COVID-19 treatment, developing the Joint Research Office across the partners, supporting delivery and alignment of Hospital at Home and associated initiatives, and increasing collaboration across and within the health and social care systems, including public health and BOB ICS.

Regular updates about the OAHP are available at [www.oxfordahsc.org.uk](http://www.oxfordahsc.org.uk).