

Cover Sheet

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

1. Trust Board news

- 1.1. I would like to congratulate **Paula Hay-Plumb** (Non-Executive Director) who was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours list in June for services to the public sector.
- 1.2. This is Paula's last OUH Trust Board meeting before her term of office ends in September. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Paula for her service as a Non-Executive Director and latterly as Chair of the Audit Committee.
- 1.3. **Paul Dean** and **Claire Feehily** have been appointed as Non-Executive Directors for an initial term of three years each. Our [Council of Governors](#) approved the appointments in April.
- 1.4. Paul Dean will join the Trust Board in September to replace Paula Hay-Plumb when her term of office comes to an end while Claire Feehily will join the Board in December to replace Anne Tutt, whose term of office finishes at the end of November. [More information is available on the Trust website.](#)
- 1.5. **Mark Holloway** has been appointed to the new Trust Board role of Chief Estates and Facilities Officer. He is due to join the Board in September. [Further details about Mark's appointment can be found on the Trust website.](#)
- 1.6. Congratulations to Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery, the Trust Chair, who was made an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health in June.
- 1.7. Congratulations also to Terry Roberts (Chief People Officer) who has been shortlisted in the Director of the Year category of the Healthcare People Management Association (HPMA) Awards.

2. Industrial action update

- 2.1. Junior doctor members of the British Medical Association (BMA) are due to take further strike action for five days from 7am on Thursday 13 July to 7am on Tuesday 18 July.
- 2.2. This is then due to be followed by the first strike action by consultant members of the BMA for two days from 7am on Thursday 20 July to 7am on Saturday 22 July.
- 2.3. We are will be working closely with staff and the BMA to ensure that patient safety is paramount at all times, whilst supporting the right of our people to take industrial action if they chose to do so. All patients affected will be contacted in advance.

- 2.4. Our two priorities remain maintaining patient safety at all times and ensuring staff wellbeing during periods of industrial action.
- 2.5. We recognise and sympathise with the frustration of patients who are affected by the unavoidable rescheduling of outpatient appointments and procedures during periods of industrial action.
- 2.6. However, we ask all patients and families to treat our staff with civility and respect – especially those colleagues who work in roles behind the frontline which mean they are contacting people whose treatment is impacted.
- 2.7. We have seen an increase in unacceptable behaviour towards colleagues relating to the industrial action postponements and we have put in place a programme of wellbeing and guidance for staff to support them.

3. Oxford Critical Care and Education Centre officially opened

- 3.1. [Oxford Critical Care, our new critical care building on the John Radcliffe Hospital site in Oxford, was officially opened on 22 June.](#)
- 3.2. The development of the £29 million state-of-the-art facility, which opened its doors to patients in 2022, was supported by Department of Health and Social Care funding as part of a regional approach to managing critical care demand, and supporting and alleviating future seasonal or pandemic-related pressures.
- 3.3. Dr Vaughan Lewis, Regional Medical Director for NHS England in the South East, joined colleagues from OUH and from Oxford Hospitals Charity at the event.
- 3.4. We also officially opened the new Oxford Hospitals Education Centre, located on level 5 of Oxford Critical Care, which has been made possible by funding from Oxford Hospitals Charity.
- 3.5. As a major teaching trust, Education and training are at the heart of what we do as a major teaching trust and so it is great news that we now have a dedicated centre for all staff.

4. New CT scanner for Horton General patients

- 4.1. [A second CT scanner has been installed at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury.](#)
- 4.2. This important development will ensure more patients can be treated locally instead of having to travel to Oxford by increasing our diagnostic capacity.

- 4.3.** Having two CT scanners operational at the Horton General means we can provide a better patient experience and it is part of our ongoing programme of investment in our services at the Horton General.

5. Work starts on our new renal dialysis unit in Milton Keynes

- 5.1.** [Construction work is now underway to develop a new OUH renal dialysis unit at the Whitehouse Health Centre in Milton Keynes.](#)
- 5.2.** This will be a life-changing service for patients who currently have to travel to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford or Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury to dialyse.
- 5.3.** When it is ready in Autumn 2023, the new unit will open to 32 patients initially, which will enable us to provide approximately 384 dialysis treatments monthly. When it is fully open, the new unit will be able to treat 64 patients, which will equate to approximately 768 dialysis treatments every month.
- 5.4.** To date, Milton Keynes City Council is providing £1.3m of upfront funding to complete the initial fit out and we will repay the Council as part of an enhanced rent agreement.

6. OUH colleagues share their stories as part of No Excuses campaign

- 6.1.** [Staff working across the Trust have shared their personal stories of abusive behaviour, and its impact, as part of our ongoing 'No Excuses' campaign.](#)
- 6.2.** The public-facing campaign was launched in 2022 to remind patients and visitors that the Trust has a zero-tolerance approach to both physical aggression and verbal abuse.
- 6.3.** We launched the next phase of the campaign in June with a particular emphasis on staff stories which remind people of the human impact of abusive and aggressive behaviour.
- 6.4.** The health and wellbeing of colleagues is one of the main priorities of our [OUH People Plan 2022-25](#). All our staff should be entitled to work in a place where they feel safe and free from abuse.

7. New equipment to improve staff wellbeing installed

- 7.1.** [Colleagues working across the Trust are benefiting from new wellbeing equipment which has been installed to improve their working lives.](#)
- 7.2.** Up to £500,000 of capital funding was approved earlier this year to purchase equipment on all four of our main hospital sites – the John Radcliffe Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital in Oxford and the Horton

General Hospital in Banbury – and at OUH Cowley, the Trust’s offices for staff working in HR, Finance and other support functions.

- 7.3. The equipment installed to date includes energy pods, sleep tubes and 'wellbeing nooks' which are two-person seating areas where colleagues can have private conversations.
- 7.4. Focusing on the basic health and wellbeing needs of our staff is a key priority in the implementation of our [OUH People Plan 2022-25](#) and the equipment purchased was based on discussions with Wellbeing Champions and other staff about what they would find most useful.
- 7.5. Outdoor gym equipment for use by staff is due to be installed later this year.

8. Congratulations to colleagues recognised in national awards

- 8.1. The **Rapid Intervention in Palliative and End of Life Care (RIPEL) service** and our **Preoperative Assessment Team** are both shortlisted for this year’s [Health Service Journal \(HSJ\) Patient Safety Awards](#).
- 8.2. **Megan Jones**, who works in Oxford Hospitals Charity’s Fundraising team, was the [South East regional winner of the NHS Rising Star Award in the NHS Parliamentary Awards](#) after being nominated by Robert Courts MP – she attended the national awards ceremony in Westminster on 5 July, the NHS 75th birthday.
- 8.3. **Emily Arthur, Ella Barks** and **Caroline Green**, who all work in the Clinical Photography team based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, were shortlisted for the [‘Our NHS at 75’ national photography competition](#), organised by NHS England in partnership with Fujifilm to celebrate NHS 75.

9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) news

Thousands of people with weakened immune systems, including patients at OUH, have the chance to take part in a [landmark new study](#) investigating which people are still at the greatest risk of COVID-19 infection after vaccination. Oxford is one of four Louise Knowles, Deputy Director for Research Capacity and Growth at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), led a delegation from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and the DHSC to visit Oxford’s two NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs) and Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs) on 26 June. They emphasised the importance of the BRCs and CRFs in supporting the UK’s Vision for Clinical Research Delivery, implementing the recommendations from the O’Shaughnessy review into the commercial clinical trials landscape, and improving equality, diversity and inclusion in research. The Directors of the BRCs and CRFs explained how they would continue to work together over in the next five years. The NIHR were also updated on how the BRCs and CRFs were collaborating in areas such as patient and public involvement and engagement, workforce and capacity building, digital health, and industry engagement.

An Oxford-led NHS trial of a new blood test for more than 50 types of cancer has correctly revealed two out of every three cancers in more than 5,000 people who had visited their GP with suspected symptoms. The [SYMPLIFY study](#), which is supported by the Oxford BRC, is the first large-scale evaluation of a multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test, known as the Galleri test, in individuals who presented to their GP for diagnostic follow-up for suspected cancer.

A study conducted by researchers at Oxford Population Health has found that women who are diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer today are [66% less likely to die](#) from the disease within five years of diagnosis than they were 20 years ago. The study, supported by the Oxford BRC, is the first to identify the extent of the decreased risk and to analyse whether this applies to all patients or only those with certain characteristics.

A new ophthalmic gene therapy company, which aims to restore and improve the vision of patients with retinal diseases, has been launched. [Beacon Therapeutics](#) starts out with £96 million in funding, the biggest launch for any company including an Oxford spin-out programme. Much of Beacon's work is based on the groundbreaking research of Professor Robert MacLaren, which has been underpinned by support from the Oxford BRC.

A new study has shown the need for more [widespread screening for frailty](#) in unplanned admissions to hospitals to better inform the care received by patients. Researchers at OUH, supported by the Oxford BRC, carried out a systematic review of studies on a total of 39 million patients with unplanned hospital admission, predominantly to acute general medicine. It showed that frailty was consistently associated with increased mortality, increased length of stay in hospital, and discharge to a location other than home.

The new Acute Multidisciplinary and Interventional Centre (AMIIC) at the John Radcliffe Hospital has carried out its first [stroke thrombectomy](#), a lifesaving emergency procedure to treat patients with an acute stroke. This is a major milestone for the centre as it opens up to more clinical and research services.

A study by Oxford researchers has uncovered the genetic signals that cause [ankylosing spondylitis](#), a common and debilitating form of spinal arthritis. The results pave the way for the development of more advanced treatment options that might cure the disease.

[Oxford BRC was awarded the Freedom of the City of Oxford at a ceremony at Oxford Town Hall on 17 May.](#) Accepting the award, BRC Director Professor Helen McShane said the honour – the highest which Oxford City Council can bestow – recognised the contribution of thousands of Oxford-based researchers, clinicians and members of the public who undertake and support our research.

The Oxford and Oxford Health BRCs held a joint [Open Day](#) at Oxford's Westgate Centre on 10 May. Hundreds of members of the public visiting the shopping centre were able to find out about the world-class healthcare research currently taking place in Oxford, and how they could get involved in research.

Following an external audit, the Oxford BRC has again been successfully certified to the internationally recognised [ISO 9001:2015](#) standard.

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 quarterly report from the Oxford AHSN covers the three months from 1 January to 31 March 2023.](#) It highlights how the AHSN is working with NHS partners to develop new care pathways, support adoption of innovations to improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequalities.

The quarterly report includes a case study on our successful partnership with the National Consortium of Intelligent Medical Imaging (NCIMI). [Details are on the Oxford AHSN website.](#)

The Oxford AHSN has also published its [Business Plan for 2023/24.](#)

[England's 15 AHSNs, including the Oxford AHSN, are to be relicensed for a further five years to 2028 and renamed Health Innovation Networks \(HINs\)](#) to reflect their role in supporting development and spread of innovation across the NHS. The precise new name of the Oxford AHSN has not yet been confirmed.

10.2. Oxford Academic Health Partners (OAHP) news

The Board of the OAHP met on 27 June, focusing on the development of Precision Public Health - essentially delivering the right intervention at the right time, every time, to the right population, across the five OAHP partners with wider engagement across BOB ICB and with other partners. Three areas for consideration have now been highlighted – cardiovascular risks, cancer screening, and mental health – and the work will continue.

The Director and Chief Operating Officer met with senior managers from the NIHR on 6 June to share insights and benefits of the Academic Health Science Centre designation scheme. Topics discussed included COVID-19 response, improved connectivity across the NIHR infrastructure, and the importance of collaboration for healthcare delivery through digital services.