

Trust Board Meeting: Thursday 6 September 2012
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Title	Oxford Academic Health Science Network
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Status	<p>To update the Board on the progress with the application to form the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (OASHN)</p> <p>For the Board to consider a number of recommendations including that for the hosting of the OASHN</p>
History	

Board Lead(s)	Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive			
Key purpose	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	Performance

Summary

1	Following a meeting organised by the OUH in June 2012 with NHS partners, an expression of interest was developed and submitted to the NHS South of England.
2	A wider partnership was also engaged in this submission and the partnership, which covers the NHS, the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), local authorities, industry and the Third sector, continues to develop
3	The OUH is now leading work to prepare and submit a detailed prospectus/business plan for the establishment of the Network based on the guidance issued in June. The deadline for the application is Monday 1 October 2012.
4	<p>The application will propose that the Oxford University Hospitals act as the host body and that the Chief Executive will be the accountable officer until the appointment of the Chief Executive/Accountable Officer by the Network.</p> <p>Plans are also being developed for the appointment of the independent chair of the Network.</p>
5	The Board is asked to note the work to date and to endorse the role of the OUH as the hosting body for a period of time to be agreed.

Oxford Academic Health Science Network**Introduction**

1. The OUH organised a meeting of NHS partners in June as the first step in the establishment of the Oxford Academic Health Science Network as outlined in the Innovation, Health and Wealth paper published in December 2011.
2. The AHSN guidance was issued subsequent to that meeting and the OUH prepared the Expression of Interest in partnership with NHS partners, the commissioners, HEIs, industry and the third sector. In addition, a number of local authorities have also expressed an interest in joining the Network.
3. The approach has been that whilst the OUH is leading the process, strong engagement and collaborative working has been the model from the start. The same approach is being used in the development of the next stage.
4. The Expression of Interest (attached as Appendix 1) was approved by all parties and subsequently approved by NHS South of England. A full prospectus and business plan is now in preparation for submission by 1 October. It is expected that between 12 and 14 AHSNs will ultimately be licensed following the application process. The OAHSN would hope to be licensed from 1 April 2013.
5. Some additional guidance is expected at a national meeting to be attended by Sir Jonathan in September. In particular it is hoped that additional information on the funding streams and the relationship with the National Commissioning Board will be forthcoming.

The Network

6. All NHS bodies within Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are part of the AHSN and in addition, Bedford Hospitals NHS Trust has also expressed its wish to join the Network. NHS trusts in neighbouring counties have expressed a wish to be affiliated to the Oxford AHSN whilst maintaining primary partnership with their local AHSNs. These include the Trusts in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Northamptonshire.
7. The population included within the developing Network is c 3.3 million with eight universities, seven clinical commissioning groups, and eleven NHS provider organisations covering the full range of acute, community and mental health services.
8. All HEIs within the geography are part of the Network and include Oxford's two Universities, the Open University, Reading University, Buckinghamshire New University and the University of Buckingham, a private university.
9. Strong relations are being developed with the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry through a number of strong existing networks including the Thames Valley Chambers of Commerce, the Local Enterprise Partnerships, Science Vale UK, SEHTA and NISE (NHS Innovations South East).

10. Similarly, close partnership working is being developed within the individual universities building on their particular strengths, e.g. Reading University in Pharmacy, Oxford Brookes and Bucks New University in the healthcare professions and the Open University. Relationships are also being taken forward within a number of bodies within Oxford University including the Centre for the Acceleration of Medical Innovation (CAMI), the Said Business School, Isis Innovations and the George Institute. National bodies including the Cochrane Centre UK are also engaged.
11. Further work is being done to develop partnerships with the Third Sector.
12. A meeting has been arranged for 13 September for all partners to come together and to approve the application documents in advance of submission.

The proposals

13. The mission of the AHSN is as set out in the Expression of Interest :
To deliver consistently excellent high value care across our geography through network collaboration and knowledge sharing, always working to improve patient experience, patient safety and outcomes and to create wealth by innovation.
14. The approach being taken to the delivery of the mission and the strategic objectives is through the development of four programmes and associated themes, some of which cut across all aspects of the work. Partners have been asked to identify areas that they particularly wish to be engaged with. The programmes and themes have identified lead coordinators and are working closely with partners across the Network.
15. The programmes are as follows:
 - 15.1. Clinical services – taking forward the development of clinical networks and driving service improvements (to include mental health, cardiovascular, cancer, neonatal etc.;
 - 15.2. Research and Development – particularly to ensure steps changes in research participation and realisation of benefits across the network; this programme will build on the work of BRC, the BRC and the CLRN;
 - 15.3. Education and training – to work in support of the Local Education and Training Boards and particularly the LETB in the Thames Valley;
 - 15.4. Accelerated medical innovation and wealth creation – drawing on all the skills, knowledge and expertise available across the Network partners.
16. The themes are listed below:
 - 16.1. Population healthcare (which includes a number of disease groups)
 - 16.2. Patient engagement and co-production
 - 16.3. Long-term conditions
 - 16.4. Genomic medicine
 - 16.5. Knowledge management
 - 16.6. Bio/clinical informatics
 - 16.7. Sustainable and integrated healthcare

17. The programmes and themes are preparing plans and specific objectives to be included within the Business Plan section of the document. All theme and programme leaders are being asked to include evidence of past activity and current and proposed activities that can support delivery of the mission, with a particular focus on innovation, service improvement and wealth creation. The OUH is providing project management, financial and planning input to the process.
18. The Board will note also that the work of the Oxford Academic Health Consortium (to be launched on 17 September) continues and it is expected to become part of wider networking. The exemplar project on dementia, chosen by the Consortium, will feed into the clinical services programme focus on mental health and dementia.

Governance arrangements

19. The governance arrangements are to provide “dynamic, skills based leadership. The current proposals are that a Network Partnership Board, with an independent chair be established to meet at least three times a year. Below the Board would sit an Executive, with the Independent chair and the Accountable officer and appropriate representative membership from the partnership, covering all sectors. The Executive will be responsible for the development of the Strategic Director and annual plans for the Network for the approval of the Network Partnership Board and for managing the operations of the Network.
20. Membership of both the Network Board and the Executive will take account of the required relationships with, for example, the LETB. In addition, relationships will be developed with the new Leadership Academy and other relevant NHS bodies.
21. Proposals are also being drawn up for contributions to be made to the running of the AHSN by individual members. Clarity is also being sought on potential funding streams from the National Commissioning Board and, perhaps the LETBs.
22. It is proposed that the OUH act as the host body for the Network and that it houses the support structure consisting of the Accountable Officer and support staff. The details of the support have yet to be determined but it is likely that financial and project/programme management support would be included.
23. Additional work is being done on the implications of the Hosting arrangements and more detailed proposals will be considered by the Executive Team in due course.

Conclusions

24. The application process is now underway and it is clear that there is already strong partnership engagement and enthusiasm across the proposed Network. The programme and theme approach has received broad approval and interest from all sectors. A number of companies have also approached the OUH expressing their willingness to become part of the Network and further work is being done with the Third Sector.
25. The final application document will be submitted on 1 October. The subsequent process involves interview and, hopefully, licensing from 1 April 2013.

Recommendations

26. The Board is asked to note the above process and work being done to develop the prospectus for submission.
27. The Board is asked to note the outline governance arrangements and plans to appoint both an independent chair and an accountable officer at the appropriate time.
28. The Board is asked to consider and endorse the proposed hosting arrangements (subject to further review); i.e. that the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust acts as the host organisation for the Oxford Academic Health Science Network from its establishment scheduled to be from 1 April 2013.

Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive

Mrs Megan Turmezei, Assistant Director, Special Projects

August 2012