

## Cover Sheet

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## Chief Executive Officer's Report

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### 1. Trust Board news

- 1.1. Welcome to **Dr Andrew Brent** who joined the Trust Board as our new Chief Medical Officer on 9 October. Andrew is a Consultant in Infectious Disease & Medicine at OUH and was previously one of our Deputy Chief Medical Officers and Director of Clinical Improvement.
- 1.2. This is **Anne Tutt**'s last OUH Trust Board meeting before her term of office as a Non-Executive Director comes to a close at the end of November. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank Anne for her service and for everything she had done for OUH.
- 1.3. **Claire Feehily** will join the Trust Board in December to replace Anne following her appointment as a new Non-Executive Director by the Council of Governors earlier this year.
- 1.4. Congratulations to **Terry Roberts** (Chief People Officer) who was named as Director of Year at the [Healthcare People Management Association \(HPMA\) Awards](#).

### 2. 'Team Oxfordshire' approach to care for our patients this winter

- 2.1. OUH teams will be working together with their colleagues from GP practices, social care, community and mental health services, ambulance services, and the voluntary sector to provide safe, effective and care for our patients and populations this winter.
- 2.2. This '[Team Oxfordshire](#)' approach is key to ensuring that people who require medical treatment this winter are able to access services and to get the care they need.
- 2.3. We are building on our experience of collaborative working across Oxfordshire and the wider Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) geography throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and previous winters.
- 2.4. A particular focus for our teams this year is providing more support to patients at home. [Colleagues from health and social care organisations have been working collaboratively to provide hospital level care in people's homes](#), with a particular focus on tackling the additional pressure which winter puts on healthcare services.
- 2.5. Thank you in advance to all OUH colleagues, and their counterparts across health and care in Oxfordshire and BOB ICB, for everything they will be doing to keep patients safe this winter.

### 3. UK's first womb transplant carried out at the Churchill Hospital

- 3.1. [The UK's first womb transplant has been carried out at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford by a team from OUH and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.](#)
- 3.2. A 34-year-old woman who was born without a functioning womb now has the possibility of getting pregnant and carrying her own baby. Both she and the donor, her older sister, have recovered well.
- 3.3. The organ retrieval and subsequent transplant took place at the Oxford Transplant Centre as part of the UK living donor programme, sponsored and funded by the charity Womb Transplant UK with approval from the Human Tissue Authority.
- 3.4. OUH surgeon Isabel Quiroga said: "It was a privilege to carry out the transplant. The operations, while long and complex, went according to plan and I am delighted that the donor and recipient are recovering well. I look forward to the time when this procedure becomes more common and more women have the opportunity to have their own baby."
- 3.5. Congratulations to everyone who played a part in this remarkable achievement which featured as a 'good news' story on seven national newspaper front pages and was the lead story on many national TV and radio news bulletins.

### 4. New facilities to improve patient experience in our Emergency Departments

- 4.1. [Our Emergency Departments at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury and the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford have new facilities to improve people's experiences](#) – in response to feedback from patients, visitors and staff.
- 4.2. Improvements at the Horton General include new wayfinding signs to explain what to expect when in OUH Emergency Departments, additional call buzzers for patients to alert staff if needed, improved Wi-fi, and new coffee machines. Further improvements are planned at the Horton.
- 4.3. Similar improvements have been made at the John Radcliffe, as well as new phone charger units, improved lighting and redecoration, new seating in waiting areas, and hot food delivery via catering services based at the hospital.
- 4.4. Sara Randall (Chief Operating Officer) said: "We are constantly surveying people's experiences in our Emergency Departments, and these improvements are an example of listening to people's views and turning them into meaningful changes. improvements like these mean that people are

more comfortable, are in better surroundings, and can potentially have an overall improved experience during their time with us."

- 4.5. The improvements were funded by the Trust, with colleagues at [Oxford Hospitals Charity](#) kindly funding the new seating.

## 5. First patient receives cutting-edge CAR-T therapy in Oxford

- 5.1. I am delighted that OUH is now a highly specialised NHS centre offering CAR-T therapies to people with cancer, after NHS England expanded access to the potentially life-saving treatment.
- 5.2. This cutting-edge therapy, which uses a patient's own immune cells to create a tailored treatment, has been made available through the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) for people with certain forms of blood cancer.
- 5.3. CAR-T has been shown in trials to cure some patients, even those with quite advanced cancers where other available treatments have failed.
- 5.4. Stephen Milton, 29, from Aylesbury was the first patient to receive CAR-T therapy in Oxford as part of his ongoing treatment for Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. [He speaks about his experience in a news story on the OUH website.](#)
- 5.5. The development of CAR-T therapy in Oxford has been made possible by a partnership between OUH and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT).

## 6. OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon marks first anniversary

- 6.1. 11 October 2022 was a red letter day as [our new OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon – on the Great Western Hospital site – opened its doors to patients for the first time.](#)
- 6.2. This extension of our radiotherapy service, previously provided solely from the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, was made possible by an investment of £18.4 million from OUH and a further £2.9 million donated by local people through the charity Brighter Futures' Radiotherapy Appeal.
- 6.3. Our OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon enables our staff to provide high quality care closer to home for cancer patients living in and around Swindon.
- 6.4. [Nearly 600 people received cancer treatment in the first year of the OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon being open to patients.](#)
- 6.5. A total of 593 patients were cared for between 11 October 2022 and 11 October 2023, involving 6,606 radiotherapy treatments and 544 CT scans.
- 6.6. Based on a 70-mile round trip from Swindon to Oxford, this has saved people driving approximately 500,000 miles and a total of 17,900 hours, or 744 days.

## 7. Speak Up Month, Black History Month and National Menopause Day

- 7.1. October was a busy month as we marked Speak Up Month, Black History Month and National Menopause Day with a series of engagement events and activities run by staff for staff, many also attended by Trust Board members.
- 7.2. October is designated by the National Guardian's Office as the annual [Speak Up Month](#). This year the theme was Breaking Barriers and the OUH Freedom to Speak Up team held Speak Up Month roadshows on our four main hospital sites and at OUH Cowley.
- 7.3. They spoke to more than 1,000 staff at the five roadshows and also held a joint event with colleagues from South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) on the John Radcliffe Hospital site, using their 'Speakupulance'.
- 7.4. I recorded a [Speak Up Month video clip](#), as did [Terry Roberts](#) (Chief People Officer) and [Claire Flint](#) (Non-Executive Director), and these were shared via OUH social media channel to demonstrate our commitment to speaking up.
- 7.5. Our Freedom to Speak Up vision as a Board is to 'promote and ultimately create an open and transparent culture in which every member of staff can add should speak up safely, action is taken so the concern is resolved, and our patients ultimately benefit'.
- 7.6. Our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network organised a great line-up of events for staff to mark [Black History Month](#) at OUH in October.
- 7.7. Here for Health promotion pop-up stands – promoting healthy aspects of traditional African and Caribbean diets – were held on our hospital sites.
- 7.8. Sue Tranka (Chief Nursing Officer, Wales) and Terry Roberts (OUH Chief People Officer) hosted a career development webinar focusing on professional equity, breaking barriers and accelerating career progression for BAME staff, while the Black History Month @ OUH Conference on 25 October was well attended by staff from across the Trust.
- 7.9. [World Menopause Day](#) on 18 October was an opportunity for us to acknowledge the menopause, its symptoms and the impact which it can have on colleagues. Terry Roberts (Chief People Officer) wrote to all staff to highlight our new Trust Menopause Policy, which was launched earlier this year, and our Menopause Toolkit to support staff. Our Women's Network teamed up with Here for Health and the Trust's Specialist Menopause Nurse to run pop-up events on our hospital sites where staff were able to get their blood pressure checked, learn about symptom management, and share their experiences.

## 8. OUH teams and colleagues recognised in national awards

- 8.1. **Two fundraisers nominated by Oxford Hospitals Charity** won categories at [BBC Oxford's Make a Difference Awards](#) on 28 September. They included Finn Hagger, 11, a former patient on Kamran's Ward in Oxford Children's Hospital, who was named Fundraiser of the Year after he, his family and friends raised an incredible £17,000. Thank you Finn!
- 8.2. The **OUH Finance Team** won the awards for 'Digital and Innovation' and 'Team of the Year' at the [Healthcare Financial Management Association South Central Conference](#) on 14 September.
- 8.3. The **Integrated Severe Asthma Project (ISAC)** and **Cost of Living support for OUH staff** are both shortlisted for this year's [Health Service Journal \(HSJ\) Awards](#). Good luck to both teams at the awards ceremony on 16 November.
- 8.4. **Ariel Lanada**, one of our Divisional Leads for Practice Development and Education, is shortlisted in the Practice Educator of the Year category of the [Nursing Times Workforce Awards](#). The awards ceremony is on 21 November.
- 8.5. Our **Maternity** team were the South East regional winners in the charity [Baby Lifeline's UK MUM \(Maternity Unit Marvels\) Awards](#) on 5 October.
- 8.6. **Mirka Ustic**, who works in the Ophthalmology Outpatients Department at the John Radcliffe Hospital, has won an NHS England Chief Nursing Officer Healthcare Support Worker Award. [Paula Gardner \(Interim Chief Nursing Officer\) presented Mirka with her award](#) on 6 October.
- 8.7. **Emily Hodgkins**, Senior Health Play Specialist in Oxford Children's Hospital, was named as [Health Play Specialist of the Year](#) by the charity Starlight during Play in Hospital Week in October.
- 8.8. **Duncan Whitwell** and **Gerard Mawhinney** are shortlisted nominees in the 'Surgeon of the Year' and 'Clinician of the Year' categories respectively of the Bone Cancer Research Trust's ['Bone Idols' Awards](#). Winners will be announced on 3 February 2024.
- 8.9. Consultant Cancer Pharmacist **Professor Nicola Stoner** has been awarded the title of Honorary Fellow of the [British Oncology Pharmacy Association](#) and Consultant Anaesthetist **Professor Jaideep Pandit** has been awarded the [Sir Ivan Magill Gold Medal of the Association of Anaesthetists](#).

## 9. Oxford Biomedical Research Centre news

- 9.1. A study looking at the longer term impact of COVID-19 has found that nearly a third of patients who had been hospitalised with severe COVID-19 displayed [abnormalities in multiple organs](#) five months after infection.

- 9.2. MRI scans of patients on the trial showed that lung abnormalities were almost 14-fold higher among patients discharged from hospital for COVID-19 than in the control group, while abnormal findings involving the brain and kidneys were three and two times higher respectively.
- 9.3. The C-MORE study, which is supported by the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, showed that the extent of abnormalities on MRI was often influenced by the patient's age, severity of the COVID-19 infection, and co-morbidities.
- 9.4. In a related study supported by the Oxford and Oxford Health BRCs, [high levels of two proteins](#) at the time of COVID-19 were found in patients who later experienced cognitive problems, including 'brain fog'. The findings suggest a cause of their symptoms may be blood clots.
- 9.5. The R21/Matrix-MTM malaria vaccine developed by the University of Oxford has been [recommended for use by the World Health Organisation](#) (WHO), paving the way for its global rollout.
- 9.6. The WHO made the announcement after the vaccine, developed with support from the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, underwent a rigorous scientific review and was found to meet the required safety, quality and effectiveness standards.
- 9.7. The University of Oxford has launched a new global collaboration backed by £8 million funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The research seeks to improve our understanding of how, through vaccination, the training and preservation of protective immune response can keep us safe from disease.
- 9.8. Technology to get more accurate readings of the pre-cancerous condition [Barrett's oesophagus](#) that was devised in a study supported by the Oxford BRC is to be developed as part of a new collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Canadian medical company Satisfai Health. The Oxford Translational Gastroenterology Unit and Biomedical Engineering Department at the Big Data Institute have developed a method to assess the length and area of involvement by Barrett's oesophagus. Satisfai will further develop this work so that it can be tested in trials and turned into products for clinical use.
- 9.9. The Oxford BRC has staged a successful first face-to-face public talk since the start of the pandemic. Professor Dan Lasserson, Clinical Lead of OUH's Acute Hospital at Home Service, Professor of Acute Ambulatory Care at the University of Warwick, and sub-theme lead within the BRC's Digital Health from Hospital at Home Theme, held a talk on how digital innovations can be deployed for acute medical care in people's homes and in care homes. The talk, held at the Saïd Business School in Oxford on 11 October, is now [available to watch on the BRC's YouTube channel](#).



## 10. Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley & Oxford Academic Health Partners news

### Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley news

- 10.1. England's 15 Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs), including the Oxford AHSN, have been relicensed for a further five years to 2028 and renamed 'Health Innovation Networks' to reflect their role in supporting development and spread of innovation across the NHS. [The Oxford AHSN is now Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley.](#)
- 10.2. [The Stroke Unit at OUH is among the first in the country to hit an NHS target for mechanical thrombectomy \(MT\)](#) which can reduce disability and prevent or limit long-term care needs following a stroke.
- 10.3. One of the priorities outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan in 2019 was to increase the proportion of eligible patients receiving MT from 1% to 10%. Latest figures show MT rates for patients admitted directly to OUH topped the target for the first time in 2022, hitting 12%, up from 2% in 2019. There was a six-fold increase in the number of thrombectomies carried out in this period from 14 in 2019 to 87 in 2022.
- 10.4. OUH is at the centre of the Thrombectomy Innovation and Transformation Network, connecting hospitals in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Reading, Milton Keynes, Northampton and Swindon, which Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley helped to establish in 2020.
- 10.5. From 2019-2022 there was a five-fold increase in the number of thrombectomies carried out across the region as a whole.
- 10.6. A regional network for Emergency Department teams met in Oxford in October for the first time since before the pandemic. The ED Collaborative, facilitated by Health Innovation Oxford and Thames Valley, aims to improve patient safety through shared learning. Further meetings are planned.

### Oxford Academic Health Partners news

- 10.7. The Board has had positive feedback from the NIHR on the OAHP Annual Report and three accompanying case studies which were submitted in July.
- 10.8. One of the case studies focused on the development and support for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals, drawing on the partnership between OUH and Oxford Brookes University with the appointment of clinical research leads within each Division, as well as the Research Development Awards made in 2022 through the OAHP Charity #1174725.
- 10.9. [The case studies are available on the OAHP website.](#)

- 10.10. Professor Keith Channon, OAHP Director and Dr Sara Ward, OAHP Chief Operating Officer attended the OUH Trust Board Seminar on 27 September and presented on the work and plans of the OAHP and those being developed. Topics covered included precision public health, healthcare workforce improvement and resilience, and cross-partnership collaborations and infrastructure.
- 10.11. The Oxford Joint Research Office (JRO) has published a [brochure](#) outlining its teams and the work they do to support clinical and other healthcare-related research. The JRO is a partnership that brings together the clinical research support teams at OUH, the University of Oxford, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Oxford Brookes University. JRO Staff provide services such as research governance, contracts, grants, finance and business development.
- 10.12. The JRO held its second Away Day on 18 October. This was an excellent event reflecting the strength and depth of research across the partners. It provided the opportunity for team members from across the partner organisations to meet and learn about the specific team roles and the areas of established and planned collaboration, all aimed at enabling successful research through collaboration.