

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

16 July 2021

Oxfordshire health and local authority partners are working together to respond to the pandemic and help the county restart, recover and renew after COVID-19.

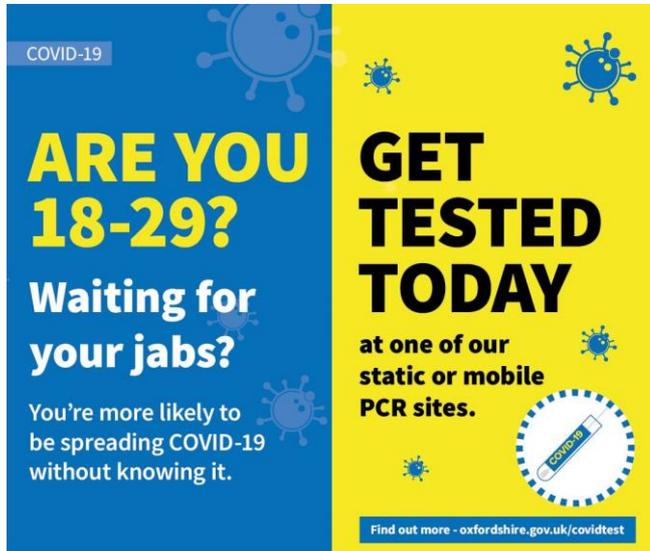
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Outbreak Management

Tackling record COVID-19 cases in Oxford City

Over the last two weeks, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and wider partners have been working together to bring COVID-19 cases in the city down.



By Friday 2 July, cases in Oxford City had hit record highs, including the highest in the south-east and in the top ten in the country.

The councils worked rapidly with the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to secure three mobile testing units to set up camp in key locations in Oxford to offer 18 to 29 year-olds a PCR test to help stop the spread. At the time, 80 per cent of positive cases were in this age group. A big promotional push drove over 1,600 young people to the testing sites over the weekend of 3-4 July.

The following week, the DHSC continued its support and a system-wide 'surge testing' partnership plan was activated. A concerted joint communications effort began, including working with health partners to amplify messages about the importance of both testing and vaccinations. Late on Friday 9 July, the government announced that Oxford City was an enhanced response area, which rubber-stamped the extra support for testing, vaccinations and communications.

From 12 July, the PCR offer was expanded to all adults living or working in Oxford. The decision was informed by a 21 per cent increase in cases in those aged 30 to 59 in the last week, while there had been a welcome decline in cases among 18 to 29 year-olds.

Close to 4,000 people have now taken part in this mobile PCR testing. A fourth mobile testing unit was added on 16 July (in Headington), and a fifth is scheduled for 19 July (in Blackbird Leys). The current enhanced testing programme will continue until 24 July, and case numbers are being monitored to see if the testing programme will continue further beyond this.

Thanks to the efforts of all those who have taken part in testing and isolating, the weekly rate in the city has reduced from 637.6 per 100,000 population to 447.3, a 30 per cent reduction.

Information about COVID testing is available on the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#).

Step 4 in the government roadmap

The prime minister has now confirmed that the roadmap will end on 19 July, meaning that most legal restrictions will end, social distancing and social contact restrictions will be removed and remaining businesses will reopen. The last remaining council services will open then, including the splash pads at the Riverside outdoor pool area in Wallingford, Abbey Meadow in Abingdon and Wantage Memorial Park; while the outdoor Woodstock Pool will reopen on 22 July. These facilities are run by leisure contractor GLL on behalf of South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire District Councils

The prime minister has underlined that, while all restrictions are being lifted on 19 July, the pandemic is not over and we are now moving into a period of caution and taking individual responsibility. Oxfordshire system partners will continue to work together closely as we take this final step out of

lockdown and will be working hard to support individuals, businesses and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable as we enter this next phase of the pandemic.

The government is due to publish an updated contain outbreak management framework for local areas by the end of this month. In addition, on 16 August, the rules on self-isolating as a contact will change for people who are fully vaccinated and for those under 18. Those not fully vaccinated will still need to isolate if they are contacts and everyone will still have to isolate if they test positive. In September, the government will undertake a review into whether to continue or strengthen public and business guidance as we approach the winter, including on face coverings and test, trace and isolate, and will review remaining regulations.

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Keeping NHS patients and staff safe after 19 July

The NHS in Oxfordshire is set to continue with the current COVID-19 pandemic safety measures to keep staff, patients and visitors safe – changes coming into effect on Monday 19 July will **not** apply to healthcare settings where to keep staff and patients safe we **must not relax our guard**.



This means that mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing will remain in place on all hospital sites, for example, to protect vulnerable patients and the staff who care for them.

It is particularly important at the present time when the number of COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire, and in Oxford City specifically, is very high and the number of COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital has increased in recent weeks.

The roadmap out of lockdown **STEP 4**

Most of the remaining legal restrictions have now been lifted, but COVID-19 has not disappeared. We need to remain cautious and make decisions that protect ourselves and others.

from 19 July, what continues:

- PCR testing** if you have symptoms.
- Regular LFD testing** to check you don't have the virus without any symptoms.
- Isolation** if you're contacted by NHS Test and Trace or test positive - this remains the law.
- Quarantining** if you're back from a red list country, or if you're an unvaccinated adult back from an amber list country - this remains the law.
- Caution in crowded areas,** or when mixing indoors. Face coverings, open windows and mixing with fewer people is recommended to reduce the risk.
- Regular hand-washing** or using hand sanitiser makes it harder for the virus to spread.
- A gradual return** to working in the office, with safety in mind.
- Get vaccinated** as soon as you are able to.



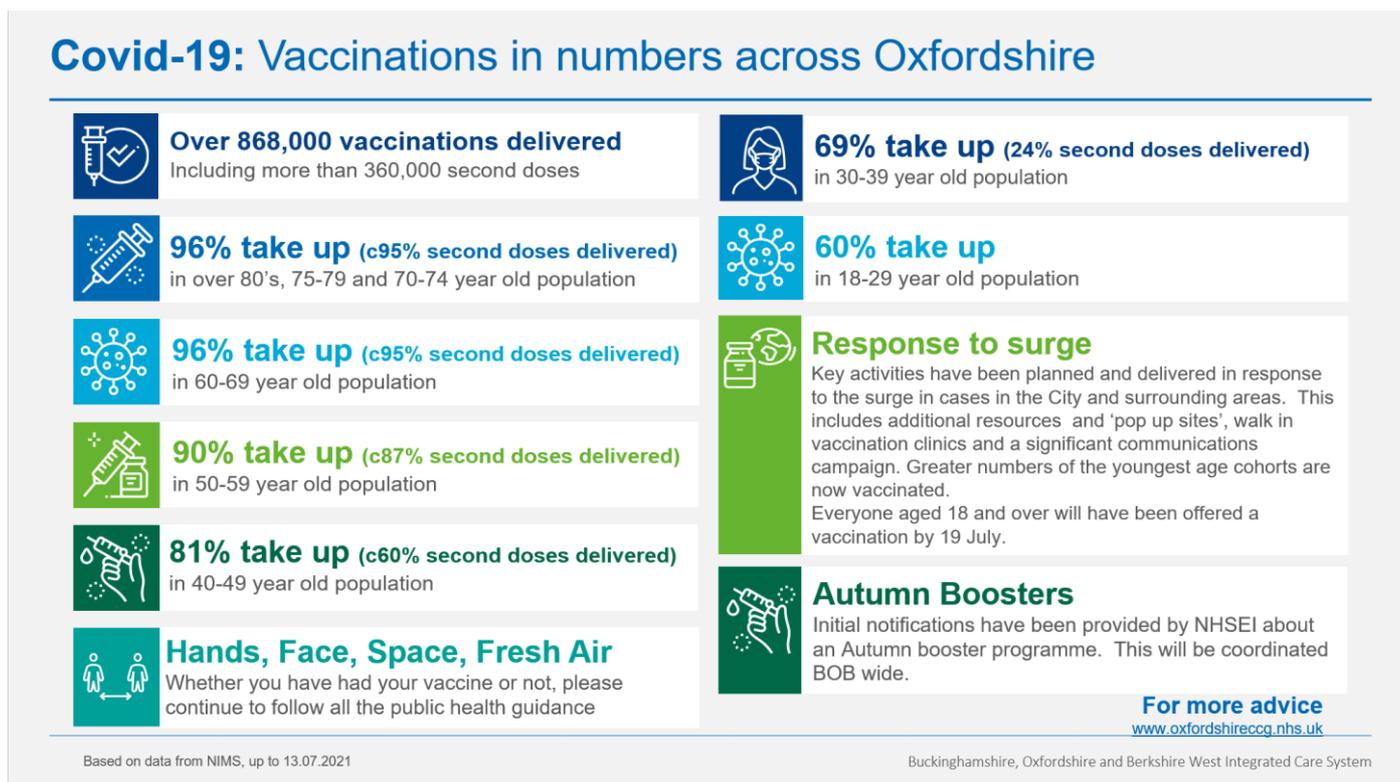
We expect patients and visitors to our hospitals, clinics and GP practices to continue to wear a face covering and we will be communicating this in patient letters, through the media and our social media accounts, and in flyers that we will make available to receptionists and other staff to support this request.

Our staff are encouraged to politely challenge anyone who is not wearing a face covering and who [doesn't have a sticker](#) or lanyard indicating they cannot wear one.

It is clear that the infection prevention and control measures on our hospital sites and GP practices

Vaccination programme update

The summary below provides the position of the Oxfordshire COVID-19 Vaccination Programme at 13 July 2021:



As we approach the lifting of most COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July, health and local authority partners are working to maximise the uptake of vaccinations and testing amid very high rates of infections in Oxford, especially among the 18 - 29 age group. The city has become an enhanced response area (ERA) with rapid additional support from central Government, including increased testing.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective – it provides the best protection against coronavirus. The first dose will give good protection from 3-4 weeks after having it. The second dose gives longer lasting protection and early evidence suggests that the vaccine is effective against current new variants

will continue to be vital in protecting everyone into the future. Our main concern is keeping everyone as safe as possible, particularly as our staff look after some of the most vulnerable people in society at a time when they are often very ill.

too. It is important that second doses are booked and that patients make every effort to attend appointments for second jobs

The NHS is now offering vaccines to everyone aged 18 and over and the timing for the second dose is 8 weeks for all. The latest vaccination figures are updated daily at the [NHS England website](#)

For Oxfordshire, more than 868,000 doses have been delivered. Local options available on the national booking service include several local pharmacies as well as the Kassam in Oxford and some Local Vaccination Sites (LVS) run by GP practices. People in Oxford City can continue to access walk-in jobs without appointment at Iffley

Road Sports Centre, at Ewert House in Summertown and at Oxford Brookes in Headington.

This coming weekend (17 and 18 July) additional walk-in 'pop-up' clinics will be available to the public:

- Oxford Brookes
- Oxford City Centre (outside Clarendon Building in Broad Street)
- Banbury Cross Health Centre (Saturday)

Full details of all walk-in services, including opening times, are available [here](#).

Anyone getting their first jab at a walk-in clinic will have their vaccination record updated online and they can then book their second dose appointment using the [NHS national booking system](#) for eight weeks later.

In addition, jabs are offered at some local primary care-led local vaccination centres across the county, seven pharmacies or at the mass vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium. These can be accessed via the national system, which regularly updates available slots to help in finding a convenient time and location. For people living close to the edge of the county, they may find a closer vaccination centre available to them over the border.

People without online access can call the booking service on 119.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) 'Health on the Move' vaccine vans began their first schedule of visits to Oxfordshire on 5 July and were in the county at various sites over the course of two weeks. The two vans can offer up to 240 jabs a day seven days a week. They are staffed by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust but are the result of partnership working between health and local authorities across the BOB ICS.

During the first two-week tour, a van visited the Luther Street Medical Centre in Oxford to offer jabs to homeless people and the Rose Hill Community Centre to offer vaccinations to women in the local

community. In addition, health and local authority partners have worked closely with the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership to arrange vaccinations at local business sites. The first of these included sessions at the Hello Fresh warehouse and Fine Lady Bakery in Banbury for drop-in vaccinations for the workforce and at the Rectory Farm Shop in Stanton St John to offer the jab to farm workers.

Celebrating the NHS Birthday

Monday 5 July was the 73rd birthday of the NHS and all parts of Oxfordshire's NHS recognised the occasion to say thank you.

Staff at Oxford Health produced a special video to wish the NHS happy birthday and to thank their colleagues for their amazing work during the pandemic. You can watch the video [here](#).



OxH thanked their staff, volunteers, university partners, Oxford Hospitals Charity, all keyworkers and the wider community in Oxfordshire who have supported their #OneTeamOneOxH throughout the past 12 months.

It was a chance for us to all to reflect on the highs and lows of the last year, to celebrate what we have achieved together, and to look forward to the future with at least some hope and cautious optimism, thanks to the brilliant COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Dr Bruno Holthof (Chief Executive Officer) and Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery (Chair) sent a personal [NHS Birthday message](#) to all OxH staff in which they said: "On behalf of the Trust Board, we want to say a heartfelt thank you for

being part of our #OneTeamOneOUH. Thank you for providing the best possible care for our patients and for your compassionate excellence in this time of unprecedented challenges for all of us, both professionally and personally."

They also highlighted Oxford's role at the heart of global research into COVID-19 – not only the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine but also groundbreaking research into new treatments – because of the close working relationship between clinicians at OUH and university academics and researchers.

Bruno and Jonathan said: "The COVID-19 pandemic may not be over but the vaccine and the new treatments which are now available have brought new hope – and that is definitely worth celebrating on our NHS Birthday."

OUH Trust Board members and senior management teams visited staff on the day to say thank you in person and to deliver mini cupcakes courtesy of Oxford Hospitals Charity.

OUH Chief Nursing Officer and Muslim Chaplain attend national thanksgiving service at St Paul's



Photo courtesy of Graham Lachao for St Paul's Cathedral

Sam Foster, Chief Nursing Officer at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), attended the [national service of thanksgiving](#) and commemoration at St Paul's Cathedral on the NHS Birthday – Sam administered the first Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to a patient at the

Churchill Hospital vaccination centre in Oxford in early January 2021.

Imam Monawar Hussain, the Muslim Chaplain at OUH and the current High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, also attended the service at St Paul's – he has played a key role in promoting the positive benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and has been a trusted voice in addressing vaccine hesitancy within our local communities.

Oxford Vaccine Group and Jenner Institute win NHS Parliamentary Award

The Oxford Vaccine Group and Jenner Institute team who developed the Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine won the Excellence in Healthcare Award at the annual NHS Parliamentary Awards on 7 July.

Dr Maheshi Ramasamy, Consultant Physician at Oxford University Hospitals and principal investigator with the Oxford Vaccine Group, received the award on behalf of the team.

She said: "Doctors, nurses and scientists here in Oxford and at hospitals around the UK have worked hard to deliver the clinical trials that led to the approval of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. The vaccine itself is being administered by an army of NHS staff and volunteers.

"It is an honour to receive this award on behalf of the many people who have played their part in the battle against COVID-19."

Layla Moran MP, who nominated the team, said: "The Oxford Vaccine Group and the Jenner Institute have saved the lives of millions of people across the UK and the world. I hope this award will be one of many ways that we continue to show our thanks for the work that they have done.

"Their work is in no small part the reason why we have been able to ease lockdown rules. The vaccine has undoubtedly saved countless lives and led the way out of the pandemic."



Dr Maheshi Ramasamy, Consultant Physician at Oxford University Hospitals and principal investigator with the Oxford Vaccine Group, receives the NHS Parliamentary Award from Layla Moran MP and Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director at NHS England

Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals, added: "I am delighted that the Oxford Vaccine Group and the Jenner Institute have won this prestigious award.

"Their work has given hope to people around the world and many colleagues at Oxford University Hospitals can be very proud of the role they played in the vaccine trial; together we have changed the course of this pandemic."

Care Quality Commission report on infection prevention and control at OUH published

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an unannounced infection prevention and control (IPC) focused inspection at the John Radcliffe Hospital in early May and their report was published on 9 July.

Positive areas highlighted by the inspection include:

- The Trust's IPC teams have the skills and abilities to run the service and manage infection prevention and control
- Leaders operate effective IPC governance processes and learning across the Trust is focused on supporting patient safety
- The Trust has an open culture so that patients and staff can raise concerns about infection prevention and control without fear
- The Trust has actively engaged with staff to understand their thoughts and feelings during the pandemic and developed an e-Book

'Stories from the COVID-19 pandemic - #OneTeamOneOUH', funded by Oxford Hospitals Charity, to capture staff experiences

In a personal message to all OUH staff following publication of the CQC report, Chief Executive Officer Dr Bruno Holthof said: "I would like to thank all staff for your positive approach to the CQC inspection in May and for everything that you do in order to keep patients, visitors and staff colleagues safe. I would particularly like to thank our Infection Prevention and Control team for the leadership and expertise which they have shown throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

Areas for improvement highlighted by the inspection include:

- Not all signs and floor markings were clear
- In some areas, social distancing changes had not been made to the communal seating
- More storage was needed to allow effective cleaning and reduce the risk of cross contamination, as boxes and some other items were stored on the floor

A comprehensive action plan has been put in place to address these areas for improvement following the initial feedback from the CQC inspectors on the day.

[More information is available on the OUH website.](#)

New specialist ambulances for babies and children needing emergency treatment

Seven new specialist ambulances came into service on 1 July to support young patients needing specialist treatment in the Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) and Paediatric Intensive Care (PICU) units at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and Princess Anne Hospital in Southampton.

These new and modernised ambulances – provided and run by the British Emergency Ambulance Response Service (**[BEARS](#)**) – will help deliver enhanced care for babies and children needing

emergency treatment, acting as mobile intensive care units.

This is excellent news for our youngest patients and has been made possible through a partnership with charities that have contributed so generously, such as Oxford Hospitals Charity and SSNAP (Supporting the Sick Newborn and their Parents), in providing specialist equipment including incubators and ventilators.



[You can read more about this development on the OUH website.](#)

Dedicated service created to support the psychological needs of OUH staff

A dedicated Psychological Medicine Staff Support Service has been created to support all Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) staff – thanks to the support of NHS Charities Together.

[Oxford Hospitals Charity](#) was successful in bidding for £150,000 from NHS Charities Together to fund two clinical psychologist roles and one part time clinical psychiatrist who will proactively address the psychological needs of staff coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This will build on the outstanding work done to support staff since the start of the pandemic, not only by OUH's Psychological Medicine and Occupational Health teams, but also by more than 250 Wellbeing Leads based in teams throughout the Trust's wards and departments.

Dr Simon Prangnell, Clinical Director for Psychological Medicine at OUH, said: "We are

incredibly grateful to Oxford Hospitals Charity and NHS Charities Together for supporting this new initiative. This has allowed us to provide rapid and easy access to specialist assessment and treatment for staff affected by the pandemic and the challenges associated with working in an acute hospital."

The dedicated Psychological Medicine Staff Support Service forms part of our [Growing Stronger Together - Rest, Reflect, Recover](#) programme to support the health and wellbeing of the #OneTeamOneOUH staff.

Stroke rehab unit gets top marks

An innovative Oxford Health service that helps people regain their mobility and independence has received top marks from a national healthcare quality organisation.



The Oxfordshire Stroke Rehabilitation Unit (OSRU) has received the highest 'A' rating for its work from the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) following a recent inspection.

The aim of SSNAP is to provide information to clinicians, commissioners, patients, and the public on how well stroke care is being delivered so it can be used as a tool to improve the quality of care. Find out more about the OSRU team and their latest achievement [here](#).

National award for creating with care

The amazing work done through an Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust artistic initiative has been celebrated.

People connected with the Creating With Care programme gathered at Witney Hospital to celebrate all that it has achieved in recent years and

also to give special congratulations and thanks to the two driving forces behind it.



The programme founders, arts coordinator Angela Conlan and dementia nurse Paula Har, were officially handed Community Hospital Association prizes won earlier this year at a special socially-distanced event at Witney Hospital.

Creating with Care is an innovative arts programme running at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's six community hospitals. With the support of artists and the Oxford Health Charity paintings, murals, mosaics, music, dance and poetry have all become a feature of the Trust's hospital life.

The work was put forward for, and won, one of the Community Hospitals Association's 50th Anniversary Innovations and Best Practice Awards. Find out more [here](#).

OUH cancer research team shortlisted for national award

The Early Phase Clinical Trials Team, based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, are shortlisted in the ['Excellence in Cancer Research Nursing' category of the RCN Nursing Awards](#) after introducing a mental wellbeing assessment for early phase trial patients to ensure they receive effective and holistic care from the start of their treatment.

Former patient Susan Roberts, who was enrolled on a trial by the team, says: She is positive about the experience, saying: "From day one everybody was very welcoming to me and I was made to feel very much at home there. If I had any issues or concerns, I could raise them and the team would

listen to me and do something about it immediately. Everything was dealt with speedily and the communication was fantastic.

"It was very much about being treated as the whole person. I never went there and felt that I was a body on a drug trial. It felt to me that they cared about me as an individual and made sure that my wellbeing was good."

You can watch two YouTube videos on [being recruited](#) onto the Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit and [taking part in a trial](#) with the team to find out more about their work.

RCN Nursing Awards winners will be announced on 12 October.

Oxford Health BRC wins government funding for its CHRONOS project

A project using artificial intelligence to develop digital triage tools for mental health clinicians (CHRONOS) has been successful in the latest round of the [Artificial Intelligence in Health and Care Award](#).



Oxford Health BRC was one of a handful of organisations to receive the funding, which was announced on June 16. The AI Award is making £140 million available over four years to accelerate the testing and evaluation of artificial intelligence technologies which meet the aims set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](#). Find out more [here](#).

'Virtual' OX5 Run raises £100,000 for Oxford Children's Hospital

Oxford Hospitals Charity is delighted to announce that this Spring's Children's Hospital fun run has now raised £100,000. The OX5 RUN normally takes place at Blenheim Palace and is a key fundraiser for the Oxford Children's Hospital and Children's Services across Oxford University Hospitals (OUH).

This year the event had to happen virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions, with people from across Oxfordshire – and even as far afield as Greece and Sri Lanka – running five miles for the charity at the end of March.

The event was boosted by staff from across the OUH taking part including Sam Foster (Chief Nursing Officer), Anne Tutt (Vice Chair), and teams from areas including Microbiology, Horton General Hospital porters and Neurology.

Fundraising from the event will help make a difference for young hospital patients in Oxfordshire, with two special projects already earmarked for support:

- Funding for a new Play Specialist role, to help more children have MRI scans without the need for a general anaesthetic so that our young patients spend less time in hospital and avoid potential side effects
- Making the new Children's Emergency Department waiting area at the Horton General more child-friendly, with activities and artwork to keep youngsters occupied



Great British rowing team moor up with Oxford Health and grab a jab

Efforts to encourage as many people as possible to get their COVID jab have received a boost from the GB Rowing Team.



The group of elite athletes, who are destined for the Tokyo Olympics, called in at Oxford Health's vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium, Oxford, to get their vaccinations before heading off to continue their training.

They were welcomed to the centre by the committed team who have been vaccinating members of the public at the specially set up centre since it opened in February.

In a [special video message](#) Ollie Cook said: "It's really important for as many people to get it so that the country can open up and get back to normal as quickly as possible.

"The staff here that are working to get everybody vaccinated make us proud to be British and see everyone working so well to get the show back on the road. So thanks everyone!" Read more [here](#).

South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Inpatient Beds

Following the closure of the Sue Ryder palliative care inpatient unit in Nettlebed, South Oxfordshire in March 2020, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) has been working closely with the charity to increase the number of South Oxfordshire residents being supported at home for their palliative care.

However, in some exceptional cases, a very small number of people at end of life with complex care needs are better served by inpatient palliative care. Since March 2020 these South Oxfordshire patients have been admitted to the Michael Sobell House in

Oxford or the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading.

The local community, councillors and GPs in South Oxfordshire feel travelling to Oxford or Reading is not a suitable alternative in the long term. OCCG met with Henley Town Councillors in early 2020 to discuss the gap in local service provision and committed to exploring options for providing inpatient palliative care beds closer to home.

OCCG is now proposing to transfer funds tied up in four beds which are not being used by the Rapid Access Care Unit (RACU), located at Townlands Memorial Hospital in Henley, to commission two supported palliative care beds at Wallingford Community Hospital from Oxford Health. These would be delivered in close collaboration with the expertise of the Sue Ryder Hospice at Home service, whose Oxfordshire hub is now located at nearby Preston Crowmarsh.

Local GPs and RACU clinicians have confirmed that the decommissioning of these beds would have no adverse effects on patient care. In clinically appropriate circumstances, RACU patients could be admitted to Abingdon, Didcot or Wallingford community hospitals if required.

Following a further (virtual) meeting with the Henley Town Councillors in April 2021 to discuss these proposals - which they broadly supported - a further public engagement meeting for the local community was organised to share the proposal, answer questions and capture the views of the South Oxfordshire residents.

The meeting took place virtually in June 2021. A recording of the meeting can be found on the Henley Town Council YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VQrmRjJ0U&ab_channel=HenleyTownCouncil

There were no objections to the decommissioning of the RACU beds at the adjacent care home and Oxford Health's plans to expand the other services at RACU were welcomed. It was agreed that the redirecting of part of the funds to commissioning

inpatient palliative care beds at Wallingford Hospital would go some way to addressing the current gap in service provision.

Farewell to Carol, our Service Manager for Community Hospitals... for now

Carol Duncombe, Oxford Health's Service Manager for Community Hospitals, has retired after a career that saw her start work in a couple of businesses in her native Liverpool before nursing came calling.



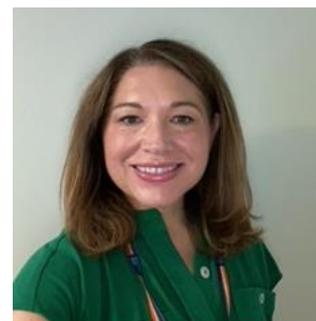
Her work has seen her nurse in some incredibly challenging situations. But the pandemic has, in her view, been the toughest of all for her and her Oxford Health colleagues.

After a varied career with many challenges, not least her time spent working in a warzone, Carol rates the COVID-19 pandemic as the most difficult of all.

"The last fourteen or so months have been much more stressful and challenging than being at war in Bosnia. But while nobody would have wished for the pandemic it really has shown what Oxford Health colleagues are capable of." Read more about Carol's career [here](#). You can also hear her interview with BBC Radio Oxford [here](#) from 1hr 15m.

MPs hear benefits of social care in mental health care

MPs heard about Oxford Health's approach to social work in mental health recently when associate director of social care Mary Buckman gave



evidence at an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Social Work.

The group was looking into the integration of health and social care and Mary appeared in her role as co-chair of the mental health group for the British Association of Social Work.

She shared learning about the vital role of social work and social care in mental health care in the last 20 years, what works well, and highlighting the benefits of individualised care focused on the needs of people, their family and friends alongside the benefits different professionals can bring to their work. Find out more [here](#).

Ground-breaking treatment offers new hope for patients with persecutory delusions

Feeling Safe is a new treatment programme for persecutory delusions, which promises a step change in the treatment of severe mental health problems.

The clinical trial results show that the new Feeling Safe programme is the most effective psychological treatment for persecutory delusions, with 50 percent of patients achieving recovery from their persecutory delusions. Find out [more](#).



Professor Christopher Fairburn recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours

Emeritus Professor Christopher Fairburn, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, has been appointed to the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in this year's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his work at the forefront of eating disorder research for over 30 years.

Professor Fairburn founded the Centre for Research on Eating Disorders at Oxford (CREDO) in 1981 and, through close collaboration between the



University of Oxford and Oxford Health NHS FT, has pioneered treatments for adults with an eating disorder. Read more [here](#).

Academic-Industry Meeting day (AIMday) launches new experimental medicine industry hub

Researchers at Oxford Health BRC have created a new hub to foster collaboration with



industry in the field of experimental medicine, helping to accelerate the rate at which new treatments can begin to benefit patients.

The [Experimental Medicine Industry Partnership \(EMIP\)](#) will provide a framework through which BRC researchers can use their expertise to support commercial organisations implementing experimental medicine approaches in psychiatric treatment development programmes.

More extra care housing coming to Oxfordshire in 2022

Work on a new extra care housing development at the Great Western Park site in Didcot has begun, with a ground-breaking event on 30 June. The facility is being built by Housing 21 – a specialist housing provider – with the land provided by Oxfordshire County Council under a long-term lease.

Extra care housing provides a higher level of support for people with care needs who want to remain independent.

Once complete, the new facility will provide 80 additional extra care housing units - all 100 per cent affordable housing. 60 units will be available for

rent, while the remaining 20 units will be provided under shared ownership.



All flats will be self-contained and accessible one- and two-bedroom properties, with communal areas and facilities for residents. On-site facilities will include a café/ bistro, hair salon and communal lounge for both residents and local people. There will also be 24-hour call-out facilities as well as planned care for individual residents, giving people the peace of mind that help is available when they need it. Work is set to complete in December 2022, with residents due to start moving in from early 2023.

Two Oxford Health Services win national awards

The Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Respiratory Team rose above strong national competition to pick up the Health Service Journal 2021 award in the Best Pharmaceutical Partnership with the NHS category.

Oxford Health also shared the Most Effective Contribution prize with Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and the technology company Oxehhealth. And the HealthTech Partnership of the Year was awarded to Oxford Health and Oxehhealth. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Crisis care where and when its needed most

A specialist team has launched in Oxford City and North East Oxfordshire offering care and support for people experiencing mental health crisis.

The Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Team will offer emergency assessment for people aged 18

to 65 experiencing an acute deterioration of their mental health with the aim of providing care and support at home where and when they need it most, helping people avoid a hospital admission. All referrals to the team are made via GPs and other health or social care professionals. Find out more [here](#).

Oxford Health drive for change with new pool car initiative

Oxford Health's drive to reduce carbon emissions and travel towards net zero by 2040 has stepped up a gear. The Trust's district and community nursing teams in Oxford are taking part in a free trial of lower-emission pool cars to test ways that will help hit NHS national green targets and support the reduction of air pollution in communities.



The teams have so far clocked up over 1,200 miles with 20 members of staff using the service hosted by Co-wheels. Find out more [here](#).

Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar recognised for international education

Oxford Health consultant forensic psychiatrist and Oxford Health's governor Dr Hasanen Al-Taiar has taken his place on the Royal Society of Medicine's Wall of Honour. His name is now engraved in one of the floor-to-ceiling glass panels that adorn the central atrium at 1 Wimpole Street, London.

Hasanen was nominated by Prof Colin Green, Director of the International Medical Education Trust, for his role in international education.



Hasanen works at Littlemore Mental Health Centre in a secure unit which provides specialist mental

health support to forensic patients. In addition, he provides in-reach psychiatric care to prisoners at HMP Bullingdon near Bicester. You can read more about his other work and achievements both within and outside of Oxford Health [here](#).

Are you a carer? Care for a chat?

Are you a carer or know someone who is? Oxford Health's Family & Carer befriending phonenumber, set up with help from the Oxford Health Charity, is there for anyone needing a chat.

All any carer needs to do is call 01865 901012 at any time and leave their details. A befriender will call back between 11am and 12 noon, Monday to Friday. Find out more [here](#).



Children, Education, Families

Summer holiday activities and food support for Oxfordshire children

Children and young people will benefit from an expansion of the holiday activities and food programme this summer thanks to a £400,000 investment by Oxfordshire County Council.



The money – made available to the council by the Department for Education – will fund wellbeing pursuits, life skills and health care initiatives for five to 16-year-olds, such as swimming lessons, bike riding, dental care and hygiene.

The extra support will be allocated to ten localities: Northfield Brook, Banbury Ruscote, Rosehill and Iffley, Blackbird Leys, Banbury Cross and Neithrop, Banbury Grimsbury and Hightown, Carfax, Barton and Sandhills, Abingdon Caldecott and Littlemore.

This latest support builds on the county council's commitment to the holiday activities and food programme, which has already delivered 4,500 activity places for local children during the last

Easter break. There are currently 25,000 days of free places available to children over the summer.

Fifty things to do before you're five

Parents and carers are being given a range of suggestions of things to do with their children before they are five as part of a new early language development scheme from Oxfordshire County Council.



The '50 things to do before you're five' initiative uses a free downloadable phone app to provide families with a list of activities designed to help their child's pre-school development. There will be an emphasis on parent-child interaction to assist with speech in the under-fives. You can read more about it on [Oxfordshire County Council's website](#).

Youngsters play John Lennon song to reflect on lockdown

Young musicians in Oxfordshire have been given special permission to share a virtual performance of John Lennon's song 'Imagine', which they put together during lockdown.

Oxfordshire County Council's Music Service approached the ex-Beatle's estate with the project and were thrilled to be given permission for their performance, which has been shared on social media and will remain live until October.

Individual musicians had their own part in the piece recorded and they were then pieced together to re-create the familiar chart-topping 1971 song, which came from an album of the same name. The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Yk51u-vmjr8>

Community resilience

Oxfordshire wins Bronze Sustainable Food Places Award

Efforts made across Oxfordshire to improve food sustainability have been recognised by a Bronze Sustainable Food Places Award – making Oxfordshire the first two-tier county to win the award.



The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined-up, holistic approach to food and that

are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.

The award has recognised the collective efforts of councils, community and voluntary groups, businesses, universities and individuals across Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire firefighters' film recalls experiences of the pandemic

A short film from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service highlights the knowledge and experience that crews have gained while adapting to the challenges of the pandemic. The film is being used as part of the service's induction and training resources and shows the broad range of community safety initiatives offered by Oxfordshire's firefighters. You can find out more about it and watch the film on the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#).

Economy

£2.15m worth of grants awarded to county's businesses

34 businesses from across Oxfordshire are set to benefit from a £2.15m investment fund, created by OxLEP earlier this year to support economic recovery from COVID-19. The Oxfordshire Business Investment Fund – which launched in March – was developed to boost the county's business community to move into an effective renewal phase following the COVID pandemic.

Established Oxfordshire businesses were invited to put forward expressions of interest towards the fund's co-investment grants of £25,000 to £100,000 for capital projects. Over 100 expressions of interest were received, and grants awarded to 34 Oxfordshire-based businesses, which span a broad range of sectors including creative industries, food and drink, life sciences, the visitor economy, green tech and high-value manufacturing.

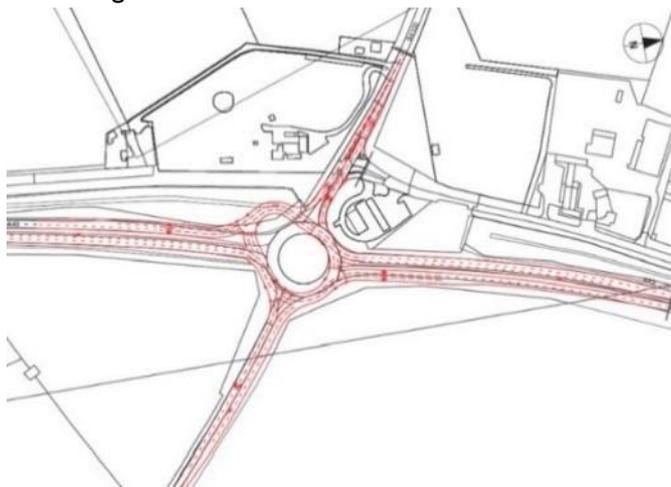
Place, Transport, Infrastructure

Funding agreement to deliver M40 roundabout improvements

Plans to improve Junction 10 of the M40 are a step closer after a funding agreement was signed between Oxfordshire County Council and Highways England.

Oxfordshire County Council has allocated £18.8 million of its Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal funding to improve the existing roundabouts at the Upper Heyford development site in North Oxfordshire. The project will be delivered by

Highways England, which is currently developing the designs.



The proposed project will:

- Improve the road infrastructure in the area to cope with the future traffic demand due to planned housing and employment growth.
- Boost economic growth and opportunities by providing additional highway network capacity.
- Improve road safety at junctions.
- Reduce journey times.
- Reduce impact on the environment and carbon footprint by tackling congestion around Junction 10.

The total cost of the project is expected to be in the region of £18.8m, with the majority coming from the Growth Deal. The housing developers will be repaying some of the costs, through legally bound developer contribution agreements.

Consultations on future infrastructure and housing needs in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire residents are being asked for their views on future major infrastructure and sustainable development plans in the region through three consultations that launch this month.

16 July saw the start of a consultation on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OxIS), which provides a strategic framework for Oxfordshire authorities to establish future infrastructure investment priorities alongside potential delivery and funding opportunities to 2040. Its aim is to set out the priority strategic infrastructure investment needed to support sustainable growth across

Oxfordshire as set out in the infrastructure strand of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

A separate 10-week consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will start in late July. This is a long-term spatial plan that sits over the top of all five Local Plans across the county and sets the framework for future planning decisions about housing and infrastructure needs in the county up to 2050. This is the second public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan and seeks the public's view on policies and options that address climate change; improve our local environment; create strong and healthy communities; plan for sustainable travel and connectivity; and create jobs, investment and provide homes.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will in turn need to align with the spatial framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc - the area which spans Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. A government-run consultation on the spatial framework launches on 20 July and seeks to set out the vision for the Arc area and help shape an agreed approach to coordinating infrastructure and new developments across the Arc region.

Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to take part in all three consultations in order to have their say about what they want for the county over the longer term and to ensure that Oxfordshire has a strong voice in the development of the Arc.

On 29 July, OxLEP will be hosting a webinar for the business community '**Oxfordshire Plan 2050 – why the business voice needs to be heard**', which will see high-profile Oxfordshire-based business leaders outline why it's vital that the county's business community engage with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Catalyst and Oxford City consultation on redeveloping Blackbird Leys

Catalyst and Oxford City Council are launching a new round of consultation on plans to redevelop Blackbird Leys, with both in-person and virtual events scheduled this month.

The plans envisage revitalising the district centre with improvements to public spaces and new shops and community facilities. The £100m investment would also see the council's development partner build 294 new homes on two sites in the district centre and at Knights Road – including 174 homes at social rent and another 46 homes for shared ownership. The remaining 74 homes for market sale will help subsidise construction of the affordable housing. Find out how to get involved on Oxford City Council's [website](#).

Roadmap towards Oxfordshire's zero-carbon future

A major report – launched on 29 June – has challenged Oxfordshire to embrace a number of new recommendations, aimed at supporting the county's drive towards a zero-carbon future.



The '[Pathways to a Zero Carbon Oxfordshire](#)' report – produced by the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute, alongside leading sustainability organisation Bioregional – has highlighted several pathways for the county to achieve a zero-carbon economy by 2050. The report was backed by OxLEP and featured contributions from Oxfordshire's six councils, Oxford

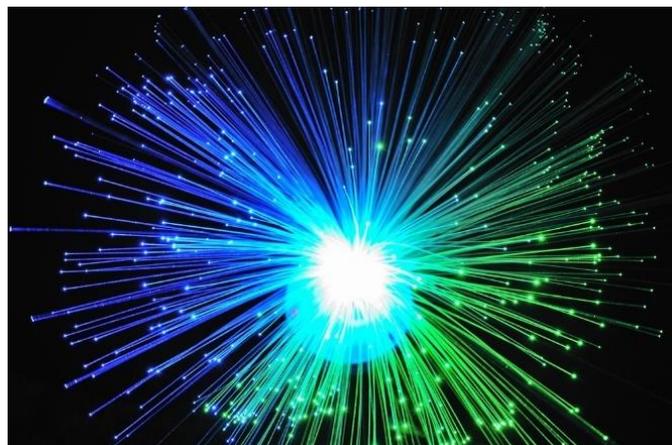
And finally...

We hope this update is useful. Please email occg.media-team@nhs.net with any queries and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.

Brookes University, Oxford Sciences Innovation, the Greater South East Energy Hub and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks.

Gigabit capable, full fibre broadband coming to Oxfordshire

Residents are set to benefit from faster internet with a significant number of Oxfordshire towns confirmed for upgrade to gigabit capable, full fibre broadband.



The county council's digital infrastructure team has already helped to ensure over 98 per cent of homes and businesses have access to superfast broadband.

The council's latest collaboration with suppliers is the biggest boost yet as a further eighteen exchange areas, including Oxford, are to be modernised by Openreach with gigabit capable fibre infrastructure. Meanwhile, other operators – such as Gigaclear and Airband – continue with significant full fibre infrastructure work across the county.