

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

19 August 2022

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

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Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

National clinical systems outage

Oxford Health NHS FT is currently experiencing technical issues with some of its clinical systems due to a national outage. This has resulted in limited access to online patient records, including appointments.

Trust clinicians in physical and mental health services are committed to providing the best possible patient care at this challenging time.

Robust contingency plans are in place. However, patients may experience some delays and may be asked additional questions by clinicians during this period.

The Trust thanks everyone for their patience and understanding during this time. Updates are being provided to the public on social media, the Trust website and via posters in Trust buildings.

Please keep up to date via the [website](#), twitter and Facebook.

COVID-19 and Flu vaccination programmes

The Autumn vaccination programme is expected to begin on 12 September when a COVID booster jab will be offered to the following groups of people:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All adults aged 50 years and over
- People aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group
- People aged five to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- People aged 16 to 49 years who are carers

The schedule for these groups has not yet been finalised, but **everyone eligible will be contacted by the NHS when it is their turn** and are asked not contact GP practices about boosters.

Anyone eligible who has not yet had a first, second or booster dose is still able to [book an appointment](#) or call 119 free from mobiles and landlines. Lines are open every day from 8am to

8pm, and 119 can provide support in 200 languages.

The vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford is currently open from 8am - 6pm on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays for walk in jabs.



The local NHS is also gearing up to deliver the annual flu vaccination programme this autumn. It is expected this will be the first winter when COVID-19 will co-circulate alongside the seasonal flu virus.

The expanded flu jab programme will continue this year. This means that the offer for 50- to 64-year-olds will continue to protect this age group.

In addition, this year's programme has been extended to 4 additional cohorts in secondary school so that all those from years 7 to year 11 will be offered the vaccination.

Children aged 2 and 3 will continue to be offered the quick and easy nasal spray through their GP and all school aged children will be offered it in school unless they have an underlying health condition.

An alternative flu vaccine, in the form of an injection, will again be available this year for children whose parents decline the flu nasal spray due to its porcine gelatine content.

A full list of those eligible for the flu vaccination can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Oxfordshire bucks the trend on adult social care waiting lists

Statistics released [by the Association for Directors of Adult Social Care \(ADASS\)](#) show a deteriorating picture for adult social care across the nation, with 37 per cent more people estimated to be waiting for assessments, care, direct payments, or adult social care reviews than in November 2021.



However, in Oxfordshire there has been a 40 per cent decrease in the total number of people on waiting lists. People are also having to wait less time overall to be seen – times have decreased by 43 per cent.

A fundamental transformation of how care is delivered, called 'The Oxfordshire Way', is the reason why the county council and its partner organisations are achieving far better results, with a linked improvement in outcomes for people in receipt of care.

The county council is keen to emphasise that such innovation can only remain sustainable if adult social care is properly funded nationally by central government.

[Read more](#) on Oxfordshire County Council's website.

Two new extra care housing facilities come to Oxfordshire

People in south Oxfordshire who need additional care later in life will soon have access to two new extra care housing facilities.

Poppy Meadows is being delivered by Housing 21, a national provider of retirement living and extra care, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council, supported by the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

The facility on Greenwood Way in Didcot will provide 80 flats for people wanting to live independently, but with extra care available on site. It is due to open in November 2022.



In

Wallingford, a 75-unit scheme called Highcroft is being developed by housing association Soha and is due to open in January 2023. This is in addition to Willow Gardens in Chipping Norton, which provided 80 new extra care flats for residents in April 2022.

Extra care housing is a positive option for anyone over the age of 55 who does not need the fulltime support of a care home but who may not be able to remain in their current home. They might have additional care needs, learning difficulties, mental health concerns or feel isolated or lonely.

Joint Chief People Officers appointed at Oxford University Hospitals

Terry Roberts, Chief People Officer at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), has been appointed by NHS England (NHSE) as Joint Director of Equality & Inclusion.



Terry took up this national role on 1 August for eight months until 31 March 2023 working part-time.



Rachel Stanfield, pictured above, who has been Director of Workforce at OUH since December 2019, has been appointed as the Trust's Joint Chief People Officer to share this post with Terry during the period of his additional role with NHSE.

Annual public meetings

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's Annual Members' and General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 21 September 2022 from 6pm to 8pm.

The meeting is being held online and information about how to join is available on the [Oxford Health website](#). The meeting will review the delivery of mental and physical health care and support to communities over the past year, plus some of the Trust's future plans, and offer the opportunity to ask questions.

The **OUH Annual Public Meeting** will be held at 7pm on Thursday 22 September at Oxford Town Hall, with refreshments available from 6.30pm. Please register to attend via <https://bit.ly/3zUReel>.

Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery, OUH Chair, will host the event and speakers will include Chief Executive Officer, Professor Meghana Pandit, and Lead Governor, Graham Shelton.

There will also be a Question Time session with the Trust Board. Questions will be invited during the event but can be submitted in advance via apmquestions@ouh.nhs.uk.

Thousands take part in health research in Oxfordshire

New figures show that nearly 30,000 people volunteered for [health research studies](#) supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network in Oxfordshire in 2021-22 including:

- 17,527 participants who took part in 487 studies at OUH.
- 9,965 people who took part in 58 studies in the community
- 2,270 participants who volunteered to be part of 60 studies at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Organ donation at OUH saves lives

New figures published by [NHS Blood and Transplant](#) (NHSBT) in July show that 26 patients donated their organs after death at OUH last year, helping save or improve the lives of 63 people in need of a transplant.

The figures show an 18 per cent increase year on year in deceased organ donation in the UK – in total, 1,397 people donated their organs after death last year but 6,393 people are on the active waiting list for a transplant.

Dr Andrew Brent, Chair of the Organ Donation Committee and Deputy Chief Medical Officer at OUH, said the Trust was immensely grateful to all the OUH patients and their families who donated their organs to help save and improve the lives of other patients, and to the organ donation and transplant teams that make it possible.

A new team will make a difference to the lives of young people

There is a host of exciting opportunities to be part of a ground-breaking new mental health team based in Oxford.



Work to build a new eight-bed children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) at the Warneford Hospital is well under way and recruitment has begun.

Please signpost people in your networks to the [Oxford Health website](#) find out more about the new unit and the job opportunities .

Oxfordshire welcomes Kenyan nurses

OUH has become the first NHS trust to welcome Kenyan nurses as part of a bilateral agreement between the UK and Kenya governments which provides employment opportunities for qualified but unemployed Kenyan healthcare workers.



A total of 13 nurses joined OUH in June, with 12 working at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and one starting at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury.

They were officially welcomed by some of their new colleagues at OUH, as well as representatives from NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, and the Kenyan High Commission on 28 July.

Churchill Hospital marks 80 years young

Oxford Hospitals Charity supplied cupcakes and an ice cream van to enable staff at the OUH Churchill Hospital to mark the 80th anniversary of the much-loved Oxford hospital on 20 July.



The Oxford Hospitals Charity is also looking forward to the return of the [Great Big Hospital Abseil](#) is

back this September for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is open to anyone aged 18 and over who is up for the challenge of abseiling down the Women's Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital on either Saturday 17 September or Sunday 18 September.

[Information and details on how to sign up](#)

OneTeamOneOUH – Past, Present and Future eBook launched

A OUH eBook reflecting on collective achievements and looking forward to the future as OneTeamOneOUH has been launched.



[OneTeamOneOUH - Past, Present, Future](#) is structured around the three key elements of the OUH Strategy which underpins all its work – Our People (all staff working across the Trust), Our Patients and Our Populations.

This is the third in a series of eBooks published by OUH over the past 18 months, designed and produced in-house by communications and Oxford Medical Illustration (OMI) teams.

Awards round-up

- [OUH is shortlisted in the Freedom to Speak Up Award category of the Health Service Journal \(HSJ\) Awards 2022.](#)

The OUH in-house communications team is in the running for the Best Wellbeing Programme category of the [Institute of Internal Communication Awards](#) for its *Growing Stronger Together* campaign.

- The in-house communications and Oxford Medical Illustration (OMI) teams are also

shortlisted in the Best Publication category of the [Chartered Institute of Public Relations \(CIPR\) PRiDE Awards](#) for the [Beyond Words](#) book of images from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Oxfordshire county council's public health team have been recognised for their work to support research in local government with the Outstanding Contribution to Public Health and Social Care Research Award from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Thames Valley

Health Research Awards. Their work evaluated the approach the county council has undertaken in Bicester and Witney to promote active travel, which includes cycling and walking to work, school and other journeys.

Community resilience

Homes for Ukraine

Oxfordshire system partners are continuing to work hard to deliver our response to the government's Home for Ukraine scheme.

Three-month free bus passes

We have been working closely with Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, Thames Travel and Arriva to offer three-month free bus passes to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The passes will enable guests to travel extensively in their local area, as well as access Oxford city. There will be a number of passes available and suitability will depend on where the guests are living, working or what journeys they are more likely to need to take.

Information about the scheme will be published on our shared partnership [Homes for Ukraine webpages](#) on 22 August. This will guide people into choosing and applying for the right bus pass.

Helping guests take their next step

We are actively working on arrangements to support Ukrainian guests and hosts who are approaching six months of their sponsorship arrangements. We want to ensure that hosts and guests receive all the help they need so current arrangements can continue, wherever possible.

Some guests may have agreed with their host to extend their sponsorship arrangement, others may have plans to independently move on, while others may require a new host. Our aim is to work with our guests to help support them with their living

arrangements and assist them with taking their next step when they are ready – whether that is settling in Oxfordshire, moving elsewhere in the UK, or ultimately going home to Ukraine.

To help us plan for the likely support and funding required, we are writing to hosts and guests who are at this four-month mark to ask about their plans and whether they need any further help or support. The responses we receive from this short questionnaire will help us shape what support is needed for our guest and host community across Oxfordshire.

We are also doing all we can to support the rematching process. The city and district councils are managing any rematching cases that are identified and are contacting people who have expressed an interest in becoming a host so we can find new sponsors. A new three-strong team is being established, hosted by the city council, to lead on the rematching of households where sponsorship arrangements cannot continue.

Visit by Lord Harrington

On 15 August, Refugees Minister Lord Harrington visited Bicester, where he was welcomed by Leader of Cherwell District Council Cllr Barry Wood. He met with some of the Ukrainian and Afghan refugees the council has helped welcome to north Oxfordshire, and he spoke to representatives from Oxfordshire system partners, who discussed with the Minister the need for long-term support from central Government.

Lord Harrington advised that the Government was supporting the programme in a number of ways, from looking at ways to help Ukrainian guests rent

housing through the private rented sector to supporting the rematching process by writing to people across the country who had originally expressed an interest in hosting to see if they would be willing to do so. He also confirmed he was working with the Treasury to try to increase the funding offered to hosts to enable sponsorship arrangements to continue wherever possible.

Supporting sustainable food production and reducing food waste in south Oxfordshire

Councillors at South Oxfordshire District Council have agreed a series of steps to help sustainable food production and the reduction of food waste. These include supporting local farming businesses, encouraging developers to include community gardens and allotments in their plans, and supporting food charities in the district.



At their meeting on 14 July councillors voted in favour of a motion which looked to use different means to help influence food production, support sustainable farming and distribution, reduce food waste, and promote healthy eating for the benefit of residents and the environment, while also supporting action to address climate change, building on the council's corporate plan objectives.

The plans follow the development of a new countywide [food strategy](#), which has been developed in partnership between Oxfordshire's local

authorities, Good Food Oxfordshire, community groups, local farmers and other food businesses to improve Oxfordshire's food system and make it more sustainable, affordable and resilient.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service praised by inspectors

Oxfordshire firefighters have received praise from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), following a recent inspection.



Inspectors assessed how effectively and efficiently the service prevents and protects the public and how well it looks after staff.

The Inspectorate awarded Oxfordshire three 'good' ratings in its effectiveness, efficiency, and people categories.

Fire and rescue services in England are subject to independent inspection by HMICFRS, who examine all aspects of performance. This includes operational response, prevention and protection services, the culture of the service and how staff are looked after.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently recruiting on-call firefighters. To find out more, visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters or email fire.recruitment@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Children, Education and Families

New healthy weight service to support children and families



Families in Oxfordshire can benefit from a new service which helps get the whole family moving more and making healthier lifestyle choices together.

[Gloji Energy](#) is a new child weight management programme run by Achieve Oxfordshire, a service funded by Oxfordshire County Council. It provides free one-to-one and group support looking at health, nutrition, movement, sleep and mental health.

The 12-week programme for four- to 12-year-olds works in targeted areas of Oxfordshire and is free for those who meet the criteria. It also provides fun activities for children, while parents and carers can also access expert tips and advice on food, portions, snacking and self-esteem.

Children who receive benefit-related free school meals can also access the new [You Move programme](#), which provides free or low-cost activities for families to enjoy together, including swimming, holiday activities and gym passes.

Place, Transport, Infrastructure

Broad Street transformed

Oxford's city centre will be welcoming back more open social space following a decision by the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council Cllr Liz Leffman to partly pedestrianise Broad Street temporarily.



The approval for an experimental traffic regulation order for a temporary public realm scheme of the street was given on 21 July, as part of a delegated decision meeting for highways management.

Last year, Oxford City Council transformed the western part of Broad Street into an outdoor space during the pandemic. Called Broad Meadow, it contained wildflower meadows, lawns and seating, enjoyed by more than 100,000 visitors between July and October. Around 90 per cent of people responding to a city council consultation on Broad Meadow said they would like to see this happen again.

The wealth of positive feedback has helped inspire the county council's plan for a new, longer trial of 18 months, covering a larger area of Broad Street. While there will be traffic restrictions, buses and cycles will have access and the scheme will include several disabled parking bays.

£50,000 funding for community climate projects

Energy saving in Botley, a new community hub in Shrivenham and drought busting in Wantage are just some of the many community projects which will receive funding from Vale of White Horse District Council to help tackle climate change.



Thirteen projects across the district will receive a share of £50,000 after successfully applying to the district's [Climate Action Fund](#). The council launched the fund earlier this year to help encourage and support people to get involved in climate focussed projects at a grass roots level.

The funding aims to help create real opportunities for everyone to get involved in climate action in their community, and to help raise awareness of the climate emergency locally.

Anti-litter campaign in Oxford parks

Oxford City Council and partner ODS have launched a new litter campaign in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy's [Love Where You Live](#) campaign.

The council is installing two litter picking stations in Cutteslowe Park and Wolvercote Park to provide free litter pickers, bags and a place to dispose of waste.

The litter picking stations are designed to encourage residents and visitors to take part in short two-minute litter picks. Participants can promote on social media using a selfie or hashtag

and by scanning a QR code on the litter picking station to log their work.

New green technology cuts emissions at council-run swimming pools

The energy used to heat its swimming pools has historically been one of the biggest sources of Cherwell District Council's carbon emissions.

But now, the outdoor pool at Woodgreen leisure centre is being kept warm for swimmers by one of the largest solar thermal installations of its kind in the UK. And the council's three other public pools are being kept warm by new air source heat pumps.



Air source heat pumps - being installed at Spiceball in Bicester, Kidlington and Gosford - draw energy from the wider atmosphere, meaning no fossil fuels need to be burnt. The solar tech at Woodgreen's heats the pool using free power from the sun. The

upgrades are set to save 785 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) every year.

Helping families get closer to nature



West Oxfordshire residents were invited to turn citizen scientist at the district council's first BioBlitz on 7 August. Held at Kilkenny Lane Country Park in Brize Norton, the event aimed to gather as many environmental records as possible over a 24-hour period.

The free family-friendly events are designed to help build a picture of the lives of the different insects, animals and flowers in the park and document the level of biodiversity at this popular green space. They also encourage people to get out in nature and spread the word about the importance of biological recording.

Economy

OxLEP grant scheme supports businesses to embrace apprenticeships

The OxLEP Business and OxLEP Skills teams have joined forces to launch the [Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Grant Scheme](#) to help businesses remove potential barriers experienced by apprentices.

The new scheme will see grants of between £1,000 and £1,500 made available to eligible Oxfordshire-based businesses. Grants are set to be awarded to companies on a first-come, first-served basis, with some grants of up to £3,000 available under certain circumstances.

The deadline for applications is 30 September. You can [find out more](#) on the OxLEP website.

Oxfordshire's 'global economic strengths' continue to draw top international investment

OxLEP has highlighted Department for International Trade (DIT) figures which have shown the county maintained a strong position attracting worldwide business investment, as the economy continues to emerge from the pandemic.

Over the past year, [a total of 38 international business ventures](#) – otherwise known as foreign direct investment (FDI) projects – invested hundreds of millions of pounds into the Oxfordshire

economy, with significant investments into key sectors, including life sciences and space, during the 2021/2022 financial year, according to the DIT's update.



The significant level of investment into Oxfordshire has also had a positive impact on job levels in the county, with data indicating more than 450 jobs were supported across the county through Oxfordshire FDI investments.

We hope you find this information useful.

Please email **bobicb.media-team@nhs.net** with any queries and we will try to get back to you as soon as we can.