

# Oxfordshire

## NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

27 January 2023

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

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We hope you find the information in here useful. Please email [bobicb.media-team@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb.media-team@nhs.net) with any queries.

## Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

### Industrial action update

RCN members working at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) and Oxford Health NHS FT voted to take industrial action, as was the case at many (but not all) NHS trusts and organisations in England.

Both OUH and Oxford Health will be affected by the RCN's next planned days of industrial action on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 February.

Both trusts are working closely with staff and the RCN to ensure patient safety is paramount at all times, while supporting the right of people to take industrial action if they chose to do so. All patients affected will be contacted in advance.

OUH and Oxford Health will also work closely with system partners in Oxfordshire in advance of the industrial action by ambulance service staff on Monday 6 February – GMB members working for South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) have voted to take industrial action.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) members at both trusts voted to take industrial action in the CSP's national ballot – neither OUH nor Oxford Health were affected by the CSP's first day of industrial action on 26 January and neither trust is affected by the next day of industrial action on 9 February.

The British Medical Association's (BMA) junior doctors' strike ballot closes on 20 February and strike dates in March will be announced if junior doctors vote to take industrial action.

- Please check the [News section of the OUH website](#) and follow the [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#) for the latest updates on industrial action
- Please check the [News section of the OHFT website](#) and follow the [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#) for the latest updates on industrial action

### Urgent and emergency care update

The Oxfordshire Transfer of Care (ToC) hub continues to grow and evolve.

Over the last few months, a multidisciplinary team has been regularly meeting daily to review discharge referrals of patients who are medically fit to leave hospital.



To date (mid-January) there have been 86 referrals into the ToC Hub; with 42 from the John Radcliffe Hospital, 11 from community hospitals and 19 from short-stay beds.

Rolling out the ToC is helping to capture key insights and lessons to expand further and help to reduce the number of days people spend away from home.

From 16 January 2023 the ToC Hub expanded into Didcot and Bicester Community Hospitals, further short-stay beds, and will be launched at the Horton General Hospital.

### High street mental health hubs

In a move to transform adult mental health care, a series of Keystone Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs are to open in town centres and communities across Oxfordshire.

Adults experiencing mental health challenges will draw on support from the hubs which are linked to their local GP practices, NHS mental health services, and third-sector mental health services.

The Keystone hub in Blackbird Leys and East Oxford opened in November as legendary boxer Frank Bruno MBE launched the Frank Bruno Centre at Oxford Stadium.

The Keystone Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub in Banbury set to open in Castle Quay Shopping Centre in the coming months.

A third hub will follow in Abingdon.

Keystone hubs are being developed after adults who use mental health services said they wanted to see more specialist care available at local level via their GP surgery, and improved communication between GPs and mental health services and form a core of the strengthening of community mental health services in the county.

For more information please see the [Oxford Health website](#)

### Changes at Kennington Health Centre

GP partner Dr Mary Akinola retires on 31 January after many years' service to the NHS at the Botley Medical Centre and its branch surgery Kennington Health Centre. As a result, the practice will have two partners and a small number of salaried GPs.

GP roles are being advertised and the practice is using locums but with the current workforce numbers it is difficult to support provision of the full range of GP appointments/services at both sites.

The team wants to continue to care for all patients with the resources available, so after careful consideration and discussion with the Patient Participation Group and the BOB Integrated Care Board a way forward has been agreed:

- Kennington Health Centre will stay open five days a week as now
- GPs, nurses and health care assistants will run clinics at Kennington on two and a half days each week on Tuesdays, Fridays and half Wednesdays
- Other health care professionals will be at Kennington on Mondays, Thursdays and half Wednesdays. These will be the physio, mental nurse practitioner, clinical pharmacist, wellbeing workers, care coordinators, and social prescribers
- Other community services may be based at Kennington. Currently it hosts community phlebotomists.

The practice understands these changes will cause some disruption for some patients, but they are

necessary at the moment to keep GP services running at both sites.

### NHS health checks in Oxfordshire now available in more locations

It is easier than ever for people aged 40 to 74 to get a free NHS health check, with the service now available in more locations.

Health Checks Oxfordshire is providing [free NHS health checks](#) on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council at convenient community-based locations across the county, including libraries. This is in support of existing GP practice provision.

### Share your views on the Integrated Care Partnership's strategic priorities

There is still time to take part in public engagement around on the Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership's integrated care strategy. The online survey is open until midnight on 29 January

Please visit <https://yourvoicebob-icb.uk.engagementhq.com/icp-strategy-engagement>



### Getting the best from local health services

[Staywell-bob.nhs.uk](https://staywell-bob.nhs.uk) is a new website which provides information about where to get the right care across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West.

On the website is information about how and where to seek medical advice and support, with a useful GP and pharmacy finder to help locate services close to home. Also included are useful videos about a range of health concerns. These have been created by local specialists, GPs and clinicians across the region.

There is clear information on where to seek help, including links to local services such as home care agencies, or organisations that can help with shopping or gardening.

People can also use the website to find out where to get flu and COVID jabs and there is a useful downloads section offering a range of resources that can be downloaded and printed for use in local communities.



All the information on this site aims to offer the best advice for families and carers and will be regularly updated with new topics.

### **Flexibility is key: making autism assessments in COVID times and beyond**

The Oxford Community Paediatrics service (part of OUH) is commissioned to provide assessments for possible autism in children referred before the age of five.

Due in part to the COVID pandemic and recovery funding, a new multi-disciplinary way of assessing children has allowed an increased number of assessments to be completed. This new way of working means children with the most straightforward or typical presentation have avoided additional assessments and can be diagnosed without delay. But more complex diagnoses can be made through specialised assessment tools or advice from multi-disciplinary discussions.

As a result, more than 500 children had assessment completed in 2022 (compared to 225 per year on average pre-2020).

There are currently more than 600 children who have assessments in progress and referral rates remain very high, so children are waiting for an initial assessment.

The team continues to seek out ways of making further improvements to its processes and reducing waiting times, from small-scale tweaks to larger pilot projects (such as exploring the use of parent-

recorded videos to aid assessment currently underway).

### **Thank you to OneTeamOneOUH staff**

Professor Meghana Pandit, Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), personally thanked all staff who were working over the busy festive period in the Trust hospitals in her [CEO Report for the Trust Board meeting on 18 January](#).

She said: “The Christmas and New Year period was challenging for the NHS here in Oxfordshire – and indeed nationally – due to increased attendances in our Emergency Departments at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury, particularly due to flu and COVID-19. “The Trust was on OPEL 4 (the highest level of operational pressures) in December, including between Christmas and New Year, and I would like to thank all staff for keeping our patients safe.

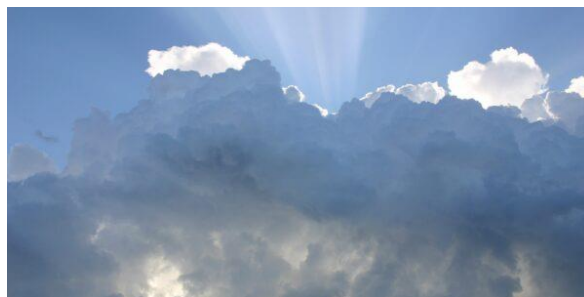
“We have worked closely with colleagues in the Oxfordshire health and care system – and the wider Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS) – to improve patient flow by ensuring timely discharges for those patients who are medically fit to leave hospital.”

### **Looking out for your year-round mental health**

Oxford Health has issued some new year mental health advice on social media.

Mental health affects people throughout the year and there is no month or day where people are more likely to feel unwell.

Anyone concerned about their mood or about someone close can call NHS 111 to access the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Mental Health Helpline.





The 24/7 NHS helpline supports children, young people, adults and older adults with their mental health at any time day or night.

People can also directly contact TalkingSpace Plus in Oxfordshire – NHS talking therapy services which support adults. Read more [here](#).

### Parents and carers needed for exciting new support roles in Tier 4 CAMHS

Oxford Health is seeking parents and carers of children who have been in inpatient CAMHS, to provide peer support to families of children currently in hospital.



The Family Ambassador programme employs parents who, with their experience, are uniquely placed to add a new dimension of support to families whose children are currently needing inpatient treatment for a mental health condition.

The post holders will be supported and work as part of a team. The roles are flexible, home based where this is preferred, and can be full or part time. To find out more please contact Lara Barnish at [lara.barnish@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:lara.barnish@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

### OUH innovation features in BBC Panorama

The Hospital at Home and Ambulatory Assessment Unit (AAU) teams, both based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, featured in a BBC Panorama programme about innovation and new ways of working in the NHS.

The episode, titled *The NHS Crisis: Can It Be Fixed?*, shows how the two teams adopt a pioneering approach to reduce the number of patients admitted to hospital and support those who can receive care in their own home.



Professor Dan Lasserson (Hospital at Home Physician), Yun Ody (Sister, Ambulatory Outreach Team), and Dr Jordan Bowen (Consultant in Acute Medicine and Geriatrics) Photo: Tom Pilston

Around 1.1 million people watched the BBC One broadcast at 8pm on Monday 16 January.

Find out more on the [OUH website](#). The programme can be watched on [BBC iPlayer](#).

### New resources help more patients receive IV treatment at home

[The Oxford Academic Health Science Network and Oxford University Hospitals \(OUH\) have developed a package of resources to support other NHS organisations wanting to deliver intravenous \(IV\) antibiotics to patients in their own homes.](#)



OUH began using elastomeric devices to deliver IV antibiotics in patients' homes in 2019 through 'hospital at home' nursing teams. Previously patients needing IV medication several times a day could only get it in hospital – even if they were otherwise well enough to be at home.

Enabling patients to receive IV medication at home means people spend less time in hospital. By August 2022, 180 OUH patients had benefited, with 2,478 hospital bed days freed up.

The new resources, funded by Health Education England, include a 'how to' guide and supporting videos.

### **New personalised approach to pre-operative assessment**

The introduction of pre-operative assessment triage is taking a more personalised approach to the individual needs of patients awaiting routine orthopaedic surgery. Potential issues are identified and treated early, leading to fewer procedures being postponed later. Previously all patients had a face-to-face appointment prior to surgery – now two-thirds of them do not need one.



It is being used prior to hip and knee surgery at the OUH Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. Initial findings indicate better patient management and outcomes, fewer missed appointments (down from eight per cent in 2021 to less than one per cent in 2022), environmental benefits due to fewer journeys to hospital, and cost savings to the NHS.

A [case study about the initiative](#) has been added to a national collection of [NHS best practice case studies](#). The Oxford AHSN is evaluating this and three other digital innovations to improve patient pathways, increase NHS efficiency, and help get NHS services back on track following the pandemic.

### **Imaging centre officially opened**

A new Acute Multidisciplinary Imaging and Interventional Centre (AMIIC) has been officially opened at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The [refurbished centre](#), previously known as the Acute Vascular Imaging Centre (AVIC), is located adjacent to the Emergency Department and Heart Centre at the JR and so it is a purpose-designed clinical research facility embedded in a clinical NHS hospital environment. AMIIC is the UK's first facility to offer photon-counting CT imaging.



**Professor Sir Nilesh Samani (Medical Director, British Heart Foundation) and Professor Charalambos Antoniades (Director, AMIC)**

### **Wantage and Chipping Norton MLUs reopen**

Two Midwifery-led Units (MLUs) run by Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) reopened earlier this month.

The Wantage and Chipping Norton (Cotswold Birth Centre) MLUs were temporarily closed for low-risk births in August 2021 due to staffing constraints. Both sites continued to provide antenatal and postnatal care during this time.

Both MLUs reopened on 9 January now that the OUH Maternity team has a safer level of staffing.

Further information can be [found on the OUH website](#).

### **OUH improves performance in 2022 Maternity Survey**

When the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published the results of the national 2022 Maternity Survey on 11 January, Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) was identified as performing 'Better than average' in two areas and has improved in several other areas when compared to the 2021 survey.

[The full story is available on the OUH website.](#)

### **New accommodation for NHS staff**

[Spencer Court, a development of 19 fully furnished flats, has been officially opened on the OUH Churchill Hospital site.](#)

The project, a collaboration between OUH, Oxford Hospitals Charity and A2Dominion, provides 91 homes for NHS workers within walking distance of their work. Each flat contains either three or five ensuite bedrooms, with a central living and kitchen area.



Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery, Chair of OUH, said he was pleased the Trust had been able to modernise its onsite accommodation and increase the number of homes it was able to offer to staff.



Pictured from left to right: Jane Bray (Oxford Hospitals Charity), Ian Wardle (CEO, A2Dominion); David Thoroughgood (MD, Exel Construction), Heide Servano (Spencer Court tenant), Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery (Chair, OUH), Professor David Matthews (Chair, Oxford Hospitals Charity) and Douglas Graham (CEO, Oxford Hospitals Charity)

### Art will depict the brilliance of Didcot

An artistic endeavour has been launched to shine a light on all that is wonderful about Didcot. A £10,000 National Lottery Community Fund Grant will be used by Oxford Health over the next year to work with patients and other residents on a series of works to be displayed in the town's community hospital and in other public places. Find out more [here](#).



### Run five miles for the Oxford Children's Hospital this March

Many families across Oxfordshire have first-hand experience of the Oxford Children's Hospital and know what a special place it is for young patients.



Many of the extras in the hospital are provided by the Oxford Children's Hospital Charity, which funds state-of-the-art medical equipment, makes the wards more welcoming for children and their families, provides play, music and craft materials, and even funds specialist staff to provide extra support for young patients.

Run, walk or jog five miles at the OX5 RUN which takes place at Blenheim Palace on Sunday 26 March to help raise funds so the charity continues to make a difference – anyone over the age of 10 can take part individually or as part a team.

Find out more at [www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run](http://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run)

### Nominate Oxford Health Patient Experience heroes

The search is on to find Oxford Health's winner for 2023's Improving Patient Experience Award. This is an opportunity for patients, family, carers and volunteers to nominate and recognise an Oxford Health individual or team which has provided outstanding care. Find out more [here](#).

### New year opportunity to spring a DAISY surprise on a nurse

At the start of a new year there is a chance to thank an Oxford Health nurse for the special contribution they made to someone's health or care in 2022.

The DAISY Awards is an international recognition programme that honours and celebrates the skilful and compassionate care provided by nurses each day. Oxford Health employs around 2,000 nurses who are eligible to be nominated and, so far, 18 nurses have received one of the quarterly awards. Find out more [here](#).

## Awards round-up

- IT saviours are among winners in Oxford Health's Exceptional People Awards. The self-created team of IT saviours is made up of more than 20 clinicians and managers who got together and created an information

solution when the Trust's clinical systems went down in the autumn. Read more [here](#)

- Wantage Community Hospital receptionists Sophie Delamore and Tessa Avenell received a highly commended recognition in the November round of Oxford Health's Exceptional People Awards. Find out more [here](#)

## Community resilience

### Hundreds of laptops gifted to help vulnerable people get online



Oxfordshire County Council has given 300 refurbished laptops to [Getting Oxfordshire Online](#), an initiative that recycles older technology to charitable organisations in the county. The laptops will be given to people accessing foodbanks, to refugees and those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in Oxfordshire.

The computers were provided by the council's IT, Innovation and Digital Service, which ensured they were securely wiped before arranging the handover.

## Children, Education and Families

### New Year honour for Oxfordshire's Head of School Improvement and Learning



Kim James, Head of School Improvement and Learning at Oxfordshire County Council, pictured above, has been awarded an MBE for services to education in the 2023 New Year's Honours List.

Kim has spent most of her 36 years teaching and senior leadership career in Oxfordshire secondary schools including St Birinus Boys School in Didcot, Gillotts in Henley and Fitzharrys School in Abingdon.

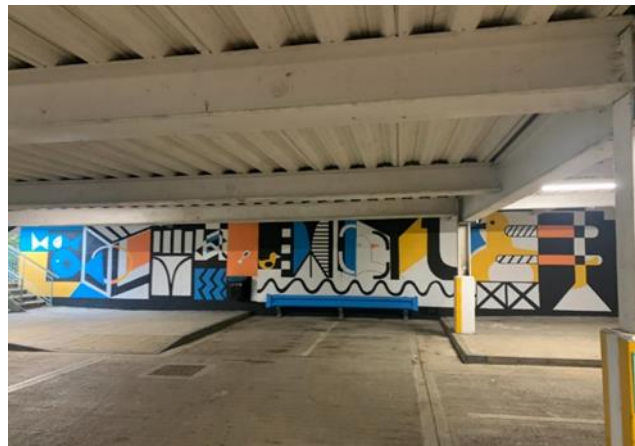
Kim returned to the council in 2018, where she leads school improvement and governor services, early years and the virtual school. Throughout the pandemic Kim led the county council's education COVID-19 response team, supporting schools, colleges and early years leaders.

### Car park transformed with young people's art

The Undercroft car park in Wantage has been transformed by a colourful mural, thanks to a local youth group and Vale of White Horse District Council.



The car park had become an eyesore after being covered in graffiti. In October the council's car park team decided to revamp the area with the help of local youth group, The Sweatbox, and two local artists – Nor and Lisa.



The artists set up two workshops at The Sweatbox, with around 12 local young people attending. Together they came up with ideas for the designs, which the artists then translated onto the wall of the car park

## Place, Transport and Infrastructure

### Oxfordshire providers join £2 bus fare cap scheme

Most residents will be able to travel more cheaply by bus until March 2023, thanks to a new Government scheme.

As part of the wider 'Help for Households' initiative, [the bus fare cap](#) will limit the price passengers will pay for an adult single fare to £2 on most routes operated by participating bus firms.

The bus providers taking part in the scheme are: Arriva, Oxford Bus Company, Redline Buses, Stagecoach, Thames Travel, Reading Buses, Thames Valley Buses and Langston & Tasker.



The temporary £2 bus fare cap on adult fares does not change the concessionary fare scheme or affect free travel. Services where singles already cost less than £2 are not included, and there are some exemptions such as dedicated school services, services which only run on school days, and coach services including the Oxford Tube.

### Continued city bus services secured by council investment

Oxfordshire County Council launched a tender process for new bus services following Oxford Bus Company's announcement of its withdrawal of routes 9 to Risinghurst and 13 to Northway.



Both areas are now served by Stagecoach route 14, which operates up to half-hourly to Northway and hourly to Risinghurst seven days a week, keeping these communities connected to the city centre while also opening new links to the JR and railway station.

Old Marston will also benefit through an increase in frequency in the evenings and on Sundays. All services will be numbered 14, and the 14A number will no longer be in use.

The full range of Stagecoach and SmartZone tickets, including return fares, will be available on the service – which will also be included in the [£2 single fare cap](#) scheme.

### **UK's first autonomous bus service arrives at Milton Park**

Milton Park is the home of the UK's first zero emission autonomous vehicle shuttle service. Two new high-tech electric buses were launched on 23 January and will help transport people around the site from next month. Once all the trials are completed later this year, the service will expand further to connect commuters with Didcot Parkway.

The 16-seater and 28-seater buses are fitted with a range of innovative cameras, radar technology and sensors to detect and predict any issues that may happen on the roads. A trained driver remains behind the wheel on all journeys to ensure the vehicle is safe and to take control if needed.

The ground-breaking project is being led by a multi-partner consortium, including Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, Zipabout, First Bus, Fusion Processing and Milton Park.

### **Plans for new active travel funding**

Oxfordshire County Council has secured more than £520k from the Government's Active Travel Capability Fund to invest in improving access to active travel options across the county.

This investment will be used for projects which enable more people to walk, wheel or cycle as a first choice for local transport. It will also be used to enhance high streets and improve access to work and education.

The funding enables the council to deliver more of its wider active travel strategy across South and Vale, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.

### **Planning application submitted for 32 affordable homes in Iffley**

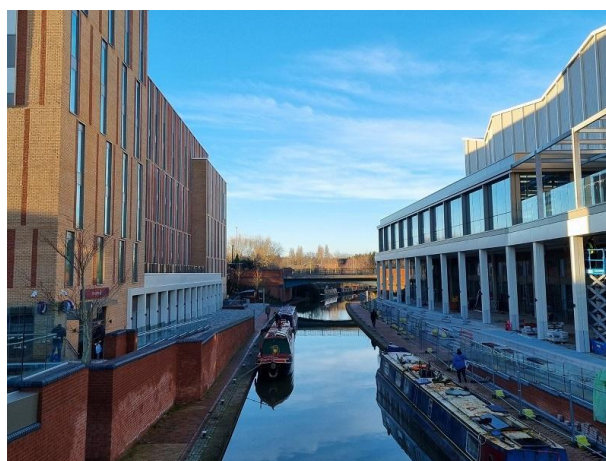
OX Place has submitted a planning application to build 32 new homes in Iffley on a development that will be 100 per cent affordable.



Oxford City Council's housing company intends to build the new homes on Meadow Lane land that was earmarked for development in the Local Plan 2036.

OX Place produced an initial masterplan for the development in October 2021 and this has now been amended following two rounds of public consultation. While half the development was originally envisaged as homes for market sale, all will now be affordable. There will be 19 council homes let at social rent and 13 homes sold for shared ownership.

### **Banbury Vision 2050**



Cherwell District Council will shortly start work on a comprehensive consultation and engagement programme called Banbury Vision 2050 to influence improvements in the town over the next 30 years.

Following the successful opening of Castle Quay Waterfront last year, the council is looking at the next phase of regeneration that will help shape retail, culture and tourism, the evening economy, housing, employment, and connectivity.

The initial phase of consultation is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2023 and dates will be announced in the coming weeks.



### Oxford to Cambridge pan-regional partnership given green light

Proposals for a locally led partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge region have been approved by the Government.

The partnership's role will be to champion the region as a world leader of innovation and business, acting to achieve environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth. It will strengthen cross-boundary collaboration among its partners to focus on tackling the issues that matter to the people who live and work in the region.

The partnership's initial programme is to:

- develop a set of propositions to attract international investment and profile the region on a global stage; and
- continue the work underway to embed shared environment principles.

Following the commitment from Government, the partnership will begin active recruitment of an independent chair. In the interim, a shadow Board has been set up to oversee the partnership's programme and agree governance and funding, chaired by Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of Cherwell District Council.

### West Oxfordshire District Council purchases Marriotts Walk in Witney

West Oxfordshire District Council has completed the purchase of the buildings and assets of the shopping centre in the middle of Witney as part of wider plans to help boost town centres across West Oxfordshire.

The 4.9 acre Marriotts Walk site sits in the centre of Witney. It includes 21 lettable business units along with a 590-space car park.



### Grow with OXGROW

The skills team at Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) is urging people seeking employment or a change in career – along with organisations that work closely with such individuals – to engage with their new virtual mentoring platform **OxGROW**.



A dozen experienced business mentors from across Oxfordshire have been secured through the initiative to offer support, with help in areas such as developing resilience, CV writing and preparing for interviews.

The £1.7m programme of activity aims to remove barriers to employment for people affected most by the pandemic or experiencing challenges to employment, education and training, including those over the age of 50. A core ambition is also to improve social mobility for minority ethnic communities in Oxfordshire.

### Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2023

Apprentices, businesses and education providers from across the county are being encouraged to enter their great examples of apprenticeship provision for this year's Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards.

Led by OxLEP, the awards showcase the value of apprenticeships and shine a light on successes across a variety of different schemes, each bringing new opportunities to young people in Oxfordshire. The closing date for nominations is 17 February. To find out more and enter, visit

[www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2023](http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2023)