

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

24 February 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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Health, Wellbeing and Social Care



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 were due to be affected by the RCN's planned industrial action over a 48-hour period from the morning of Wednesday 1 March to the morning of Friday 3 March, but this action was postponed as the Government and the RCN held talks to resolve the pay dispute.

Both Trusts are working closely with health and care system partners in Oxfordshire in advance of the industrial action which is due to be taken by junior doctors in March.

After the British Medical Association (BMA) strike ballot closed on Monday 20 February, the BMA has announced that junior doctors have voted for a 72-hour strike starting at 7am on Monday 13 March.

- Please check the [News section of the OUH website](#) and follow us on social media including our [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#) for the latest updates on industrial action
- Please check the [Oxford Health website](#), [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates

Chief Executive Officer appointed by OUH

The Council of Governors of OUH has approved the [appointment of Professor Meghana Pandit](#) as the Trust's permanent Chief Executive Officer with effect from Wednesday 1 March.

Meghana was appointed to the post on a fixed term basis in July 2022 and has now been appointed permanently, following a rigorous and competitive process which concluded after an extensive national and international recruitment search, including international applicants.



Meghana, picture above, becomes OUH's first female CEO and she is also the first person of colour to be appointed as the CEO of any NHS trust in the Shelford Group, which represents some of the biggest teaching hospitals in the country.

Health Minister visits Oxfordshire

The Minister for Health and Secondary Care, Will Quince MP, visited several OUH sites on Tuesday 14 February.



He met with members of the Trust Board and clinical staff and had the opportunity to see for himself the positive work undertaken increase surgical and diagnostic capacity for Oxfordshire patients.

This included a visit to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) and to the Oxford Community Diagnostic Centre in Cowley, which is run in partnership by OUH and Perspectum.

Read more in the [OUH web story](#).

NHS Medical Director visits Oxford Health

Professor Stephen Powis, the National Medical Director for NHS England, had a tour of Oxford Health, meeting staff at Warneford Hospital before visiting Abingdon Community Hospital. Pictured second from left, with CEO Dr Nick Broughton, left, and colleagues, on Friday.



Prof. Powis said on Twitter: “A fantastic visit - thank you [@OxfordHealthNHS](#)

“A great opportunity to hear more about the services being delivered across Oxfordshire and learn more about some of the research and innovation driving improvements for patients.”

Join the BOB Integrated Care Partnership meeting on 1 March

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) is a group of organisations which plan and provide health and care services for 1.8 million people who live and work in the local authority areas of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire's three westerly local authority areas of West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham (known as 'Berkshire West').

[Members](#) include local authorities, local NHS organisations and GPs, public health, Healthwatch, care providers, voluntary sector, the Oxford Academic Health Science Network and other research partners.

The BOB ICP will meet in public a minimum of three times a year. The next meeting is on Wednesday 1

March at: Oxfordshire County Council, Council Chambers, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND at 2pm - 4pm.

Members of the public who wish to attend this meeting can join in person or 'virtually' through an online live stream:

<https://oxon.cc/BOBICP01032023>

For more information about the agenda for the meeting, attending or how to ask a question or petition the partnership please visit:

[Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership](#)

<http://yourvoicebob-icb.uk.engagementhq.com>

Oxford Health selected to drive innovation in mental health care

Oxford Health has been selected to be part of a new national NHS initiative to improve the quality and efficiency of patient care across the country through provider collaboration and clinical leadership.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire West (BOB) Mental Health Provider Collaborative – formed by Oxford Health and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Berkshire Healthcare) in partnership with BOB Integrated Care Board – has been chosen by NHS England to be one of just nine from across the country to receive specialist national help developing innovative new approaches to health care as part of the Provider Collaborative Innovators scheme.

The aim is to drive the transformation of mental health services as part of a broader Mental Health Partnership set up across the ICS, bringing together partners from primary care, local authority and the voluntary sector working across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Find out more [here](#).

Spotlight on GP appointments

Despite the well documented pressure on health services over the winter period, the 67 GP practices in Oxfordshire carried out 350,836 appointments in December 2022.

Of those:

- 201,605 were face-to-face
- 91% of all appointments took place within two weeks
- More than half (54.6%) of appointments were with a GP

- approximately 45% of appointments were for the same day
- More than four million appointments were delivered by GP practices during 2022.

Oxford City Urgent Care Centre – now live

The Oxford City Urgent Care Centre is now live on the John Radcliffe Hospital site. The centre is run by the Oxford City Primary Care Network, to support the day-to-day pressures on local GP practices, NHS 111, and is working towards taking redirections from the JR Emergency Departments. The centre does not offer walk-in appointments.

WATCH: Join Oxford Health Meadow Unit team

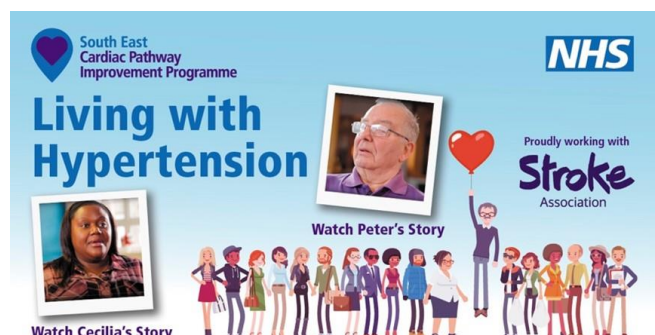
Watch and listen to Oxford Health colleagues working on the Meadow Unit psychiatric intensive care unit project and hear why they would encourage others to find out more about the jobs on offer.



The Trust is recruiting nurses, support workers and administration staff – [hear why the PICU team will be a great one to join.](#)

Blood pressure awareness campaign

A new campaign is raising awareness of the dangers of unchecked high blood pressure, which can increase the risk of stroke, heart attacks and kidney disease among at risk adults.



The NHS England campaign highlights how a third of adults in the UK have undiagnosed hypertension, but it can be managed by checking their blood pressure regularly. [For more information see here](#)

Top travel study published

An [award-winning active travel study](#) by the University of Bristol and Oxfordshire County Council has been published.

The qualitative study was carried out between May and October 2022 to learn more about active travel priorities and what might help people adopt more active habits. The study focused on cycling and walking for commuters and older people aged 65 to 75 living independently in Bicester and Witney.

The study received the [“outstanding contribution to public health or social care research” award](#) from the National Institute for Health and Care Research at the 2022 Thames Valley Health Research Awards last year.

Oxford BRC given Freedom of Oxford

The Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) has been awarded the Freedom of the City of Oxford, the highest honour which Oxford City Council can bestow.



The Oxford BRC, which is a partnership between Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) and the University of Oxford, was given the [Freedom of the City](#) at a council meeting on 30 January. A formal presentation will take place at a ceremony later this year.

Councillor Louise Upton, who proposed the conferment of the Freedom of the City on the Oxford BRC, said the researchers and developers at the Oxford BRC saved more than six million lives by producing the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19

vaccine, and their work across many other diseases has a huge and beneficial impact on patients, both in Oxfordshire and nationally.

OUH Quality Conversation event focuses on priorities for year ahead

Staff, partners and stakeholders of OUH gathered at the John Radcliffe Hospital on Monday 23 January for the annual Quality Conversation event to hear an update on the progress made by the Trust in achieving its Quality Priorities for 2022/23 and to contribute to the development of Quality Priorities for 2023/24.

The Trust's Quality Strategy is based on three key domains of Patient Safety, Patient Experience, and Clinical Effectiveness and Outcomes.

Each year the Quality Conversation event enables staff and the community, Public Governors, Foundation Trust members and Board members to come together to decide, jointly, what the focus should be for the year ahead.

OUH's Quality Priorities 2022/23 are available at www.ouh.nhs.uk/about/quality-priorities/#quality – our Quality Priorities for 2023/24 will be published online when finalised and approved by the OUH Trust Board.

OUH's 'No Excuses' campaign continues to protect staff from abuse

The [No Excuses campaign](#) was launched at OUH in January 2022 following a more than 100% increase in reports of abusive and aggressive behaviour towards staff by patients and visitors.

It was launched alongside the rollout of body-worn cameras in OUH's Emergency Departments (A&Es). The trial was successful, and body-worn cameras have since been rolled out across other hospital areas. Pre-trial, 63.33% of A&E staff agreed or strongly agree there was a need for body cameras – this increased to nearly 97% post-trial.



Overall, reports of violent and aggressive behaviour have dropped from a peak in November 2021 to pre-campaign levels, but more needs to be. The next stage of the campaign will focus on staff stories and the negative impact of abusive and aggressive behaviour.

New security devices introduced for lone workers at OUH

Personal safety devices are being rolled out for lone workers at OUH as part of its [People Plan 2022-25](#) to provide a physical and psychological environment that enhances staff wellbeing.



There are more than 500 lone workers at OUH across a variety of teams, including community nurses, occupational therapists, and estates staff.

The devices, which have SOS alarms and GPS/wifi positioning technology, alert staff at a call centre who speak to the staff member, assess the situation, and escalate as necessary – including contacting the police if needed.

Meet the ChatHealth team helping parents and young people by text

A pioneering service that gives parents and young people direct access by text to health advice and support is looking forward to another successful year.



The ChatHealth service has been adopted by dozens of NHS organisations, including Oxford Health, to give parents and young people more choice over how they access advice and support. The Oxfordshire-focussed service has three lines – each aimed at meeting the needs of different groups of clients. There are numbers for parents of children aged 0-4, parents of children aged 5-11 and young people themselves aged 11-19.

All the services are easy to access, and users can remain anonymous. Find out more [here](#).

Emergency doctor's research work recognised

Alex Novak has been awarded a Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) Associate Professorship for developing Emergency Medicine research in Oxford and nationally.



Professor Novak, pictured above, works in Emergency Departments at OUH and is the Director of Emergency Medicine Research Oxford (EMROx).

He said the appointment represented a landmark moment for academic emergency medicine in Oxford and serves as recognition of the tremendous work of the EMROx team as well as its large network of collaborators.

Charity announces major PICU fundraising push

A new drive to raise £125,000 has been launched to enhance a state-of-the-art mental health facility for young people that is currently being constructed. Oxford Health's brand new 'Meadow Unit' building is taking shape at the Warneford site. Please check progress inside and out [here](#)

Run five miles for Oxford Children's Hospital this March!

Oxford Children's Hospital, part of Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), is a very special place.

OUH is grateful to 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.

You can run, walk or jog five miles at the OX5 Run at Blenheim Palace on Sunday 26 March to raise funds so the Charity continues to make a difference – anyone over the age of 10 can take part and you can run on your own or create a team.

- Find out more at www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/ox5run

Community resilience

Homes for Ukraine update

In December there was a [Government announcement](#) about a package of support available to those who welcome Ukrainian guests through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

This, combined with additional support made available by all councils working in partnership in Oxfordshire, means all hosts are currently receiving a payment of £550 for the winter period. This is due to end with the March payment in April this year. Those hosting beyond the 12-month period would then be due to receive £500 a month, while all other

hosts would receive £350 in line with the Government package.

In Oxfordshire from April 2023 until the end of March 2024, all hosts will now receive a monthly payment of £550 regardless of when the 12 month period is due.

These payments will continue until March 2024, or until hosts have completed a 24-month period, whichever comes sooner. The increase will not be subject to tax and will not affect entitlement to any benefits.

A **call for new hosts** campaign was launched at the end of January targeting key towns across the county where there is a need for two to three bedrooms. It is led by the county council's communications team, working closely with the district and city teams – using social media, outdoor advertising and local community networks.

The towns identified are Abingdon, Didcot, Henley, Wallingford, Wantage, Witney, Oxford, Chipping Norton, Bicester, Banbury and Kidlington. Please help to spread the word through your networks by sharing any social media messages you see.

Over 4,000 low-income residents to benefit from cost-of-living payment

The county council is offering a £300 cost of living payment to a cohort of low-income residents across Oxfordshire.

The funding has been provided by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to support those

residents who may have missed out on the national cost of living and energy support schemes, due to their personal circumstances. This includes residents who receive Housing Benefit but **do not** receive any other qualifying benefits: Universal Credit, Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credits.

Those in receipt of the qualifying benefits should have already received two lump-sum payments directly from government. However, residents who only receive housing benefit did not receive either cost of living payment. The DWP funding is therefore being used to make an initial payment of £300 to this group. This will apply to approximately 4,250 Oxfordshire residents.

Eligible residents will be sent a letter with details about how to claim the payment.

Children, Education and Families

Parents of under-fives invited to help shape their education

Parents and carers of children aged under-five in Oxfordshire are being invited to help shape early years education as part of the county council's school readiness work.

The school readiness survey gives parents and carers the opportunity to share what school readiness means to them and to provide feedback to help the council better understand the needs of future school starters.

The survey, which runs until 12 March, [can be completed online](#). Or for a written copy call 0845

604 2346 or email Schoolreadiness@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Place, Transport and Infrastructure

Deal signed to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire



The first vehicles in a fleet of 159 new battery electric buses are set to arrive in Oxfordshire in September, after an £82.5m deal was sealed.

Last March, Oxfordshire County Council was awarded £32.8 million from the government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.

Along with £6m from the council itself and £43.7m from bus companies Stagecoach and the Go-Ahead Group, the scheme will deliver electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them.

Following the signing of contracts between the bus companies and the manufacturers, and the council's approval of [trial traffic filters](#) in Oxford to help reduce bus journey times by at least 10 per cent in the city, confirmation of Oxfordshire's ZEBRA scheme has now been finalised.

Oxford United stadium discussions

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has authorised its officers to start negotiations with Oxford United FC on outline legal and commercial terms relating to the club's proposal to lease land for the development of a new football stadium.

Discussions to secure information and undertakings that meet the county council's objectives will continue. Any final decision regarding the leasing of the land will be taken in public by a future cabinet meeting, based on whether the council's objectives have been met.

The land in question is east of Frieze Way and south of Kidlington roundabout, and is known as 'the triangle'. The site has the advantage of being close

to Oxford Parkway railway station and park and ride at Water Eaton, which would enable greater walking, cycling, bus and rail use among fans.

The council has committed to seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholders before making any final decision.

West Oxfordshire bus service secured

A vital bus service in west Oxfordshire will continue after the county council stepped in to provide financial support. As a result of rising costs and reduced passenger numbers, West Oxfordshire



Community Transport was no longer able to continue with its service between Milton-under-Wychwood and Witney.

The council has now agreed to provide funds to maintain the existing level of service until August 2024, protecting continued access to Witney for employment and education as well as retail and leisure activities.

Proposal for giant reservoir faces continued opposition

Renewed efforts by water companies to move forward with proposals for a giant reservoir near Abingdon are again facing opposition in Oxfordshire.

The Water Resources South East (WRSE) plan includes proposals for a reservoir located between Abingdon, East Hanney, Steventon and Marcham, which would hold up to 100 million cubic metres of water – known as the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) – as well as other options for securing future water supply.

In the [county council's draft response](#), the £1.24 billion reservoir is described as “a destructive scheme, both environmentally and in its impacts on local people”, with bill-payers effectively being asked to “sign a blank cheque”, with no clear cost-benefit analysis or justification.



Have your say on updated plans to improve walking and cycling in Banbury

People who live in or visit Banbury are being asked for their views on detailed plans to encourage cycling and walking in and around the town.



Oxfordshire County Council has started its second and final consultation on the Banbury Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which will set out how to improve the town's active travel network over the next 10 years.

People can take part in the consultation at letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/banbury-lcwip until 26 February.

Oxford recognised as a net zero leader

Oxford City Council has been awarded £75,000 feasibility funding by the Government to help accelerate Oxford's transition to net zero. It is one of 30 councils which have been successful in the Net Zero Living Programme fund from Innovate UK.

The [successful bid](#), led by the city council and the Low Carbon Hub, will explore the creation of a new 'one stop shop' for residents and businesses seeking retrofit services for their homes and premises, while also strengthening the local supply chain.

West Oxfordshire increases electric vehicles to cut greenhouse gas emissions

West Oxfordshire District Council has taken delivery of three battery electric Toyota Proace utility vans as the authority continues to look at opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions of its operations as part of its net-zero carbon commitments.



The council is set to further expand the number of electric powered vehicles it owns with the purchase of two zero emission street sweepers, due for delivery in late spring.

Cherwell and West Oxfordshire to receive UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding

Cherwell District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council have been allocated funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as part of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda. The grant will build communities, support local businesses and improve employment and skill-building opportunities.

West Oxfordshire is set to receive £1 million from UKSPF, while Cherwell will have a £1.25m pot to invest in the district by March 2025.

New investment for Oxford's Covered Market



Oxford City Council has approved a £6.87m package to [revitalise Oxford's historic Covered Market](#). The project will see the entrances in High Street and Market Street transformed, larger seating areas inside, and a new outdoor dwell space in a pedestrian-friendly Market Street.

The regeneration will respect the unique character and heritage of the Covered Market, while securing the long-term future of the grade II-listed council asset.

The set of proposals has come together into a masterplan, prepared over two years and involving extensive consultation with market traders, residents and other stakeholders.

Oxfordshire's visitor economy benefits from £0.66m investment

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) has directed over £660,000 into Oxfordshire businesses which operate in or support tourism and visitor experiences.

Companies across the county benefited from the latest round of investment from OxLEP's visitor economy grant scheme, which was created to help trigger a positive impact in a sector majorly affected by the pandemic.