

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

28 April 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 with any queries.

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care



Royal College of Nursing (RCN) members working at both Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) and Oxford Health (OH) are due to take part in strike action from 8pm on Sunday 30 April until 11.59pm on Monday 1 May.

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

Unite members working for South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) are also due to take part in industrial action on Tuesday 2 May.

At present no further dates for industrial action by British Medical Association (BMA) junior doctor members have been announced – both OUH and OH were affected by the BMA's 72-hour strike from 13-16 March and the 96-hour strike from 11-15 April.

Further industrial action by other health unions has been put on hold following the pay offer proposal announced in March – members of these unions are being balloted on the pay deal.

The BMA is not part of this of this pay offer proposal and so further industrial action by junior doctors is possible

- 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

Renewal of joint funding agreement for health and social care together in Oxfordshire

Health and social care leaders in Oxfordshire have confirmed their joint commitment to making best use of a £400m budget to provide safe, effective and

sustainable community-based care for people across the county, funding dozens of programmes for people and communities.

Oxfordshire County Council and the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) have renewed the s75 funding agreement which pools a significant amount of NHS and local authority funds under the Better Care Fund to support people aged 18 – 65 with learning disabilities and autism, mental health and eating disorders, continuing health care among many more.

The funds also support older people with dementia, carers, frail people at risk of avoidable hospital admission, other preventative services and care for those being discharged from hospital. These programmes are designed to support people to maintain as much independence and good health as possible, stay supported in their homes and communities and stay out of hospital.

The s75 agreement was first agreed between the council and the original NHS clinical commissioning group (CCG) in 2013. BOB ICB is now the NHS organisation responsible for developing plans to meet the health and care needs of local people, managing the NHS finances and arranging for the provision of health services.

Health and care partners seek public feedback on NHS Joint Forward Plan

Health and care partners in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) are asking for the public's views to support development of their NHS Joint Forward Plan.

The plan outlines how the Integrated Care Board (ICB), working with partners across health and care, will deliver services to people living in BOB over the next few years. The plan is developed by the ICB, and NHS provider Trusts across BOB, working closely with local authority colleagues.

The plan also explains how the ICB will deliver the ambitions set out in the BOB Integrated Care Strategy and includes operational plans for 2023 and 2024.

To find out more and comment on the plan please go to the [public engagement website](#)

Healthy weight, healthy communities, healthy lives

A new report by Oxfordshire's director of public health highlights the threat represented by obesity and physical inactivity in our county.



In the report, Ansaf Azhar, pictured above, underlines that social, economic and environmental factors all come into play, and the need for a partnership approach to address it as a result.

He talks about the many great initiatives in place in the county, from our new food strategy to hosting workshops about school food and much more, but underlines the need to go further.

To see real change, we want people to have access to healthy affordable food, encourage movement and active transport and the use of our green space. Please [read the report](#) and [watch a video of Ansaf](#) on the county council's website.

Spotlight on GP practice appointments

The 67 GP practices in Oxfordshire carried out 387,138 appointments in January 2023.

Of those:

- 224,357 were face-to-face
- More than eight out of 10 appointments (87.9 per cent) took place within two weeks

- More than half of appointments (53.6 per cent) were with a GP
- More than four out of 10 appointments (45.5 per cent) were for the same day

More than four million appointments were delivered by GP practices during 2022.

NHS Virtual Wards: patients get hospital level care at home

Virtual wards, which includes hospital at home services, have been introduced across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB ICB) so patients can get hospital level care in their own home – where many would rather be.

Patients receive regular visits in their homes from healthcare professionals who deliver high quality care (which is sometimes called hospital at home services). Or, they are monitored remotely via smart phones and other high-tech devices which inform doctors and nurses about a patient's condition allowing them to intervene if required.

Virtual wards support an increased number of people to remain in their own home, and allow patients to return home sooner from hospital to continue their treatment, with the aim of reducing pressure on emergency and acute services.

Currently, six providers across BOB ICB deliver virtual wards including, locally in Oxfordshire, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Principal Medical Ltd (PML). By April this year, there were 149 virtual ward beds across Oxfordshire providing care for patients with acute frailty, respiratory and cardiology conditions, palliative and end of life care needs and alcohol dependency.

In addition, the children's virtual ward in Oxfordshire primarily supports children to return home from hospital earlier or to avoid an admission from the Emergency Departments.

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust also provide virtual wards and hospital at home services for patients.

There have been more than 7,000 admissions into virtual wards across BOB ICB since July 2022 and emerging evidence shows that patients often have

better outcomes when treated at home, rather than hospital.

For further information about virtual wards [please see here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/virtual-wards/what-is-a-virtual-ward/) or visit: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/virtual-wards/what-is-a-virtual-ward/>

COVID safety measures updated at OUH

The guidance around wearing face masks at OUH has changed. Staff, patients, and visitors are no longer required to wear face masks in clinical areas, with some exceptions – [you can see these in full on the OUH website](#).

Everyone is welcome to continue wearing face masks if this makes them more comfortable, and if patients or visitors would prefer a member of staff to wear a mask, they only need to ask. As with all COVID-19 safety measures, these changes will be kept under review.

Landmark study tests immune responses against COVID-19

Thousands of immunosuppressed people, including patients at OUH, can now take part in a landmark study investigating who is still at the greatest risk of COVID-19 infection after vaccination.



The [STRAVINSKY study's](#) findings will provide detailed, up-to-date information on the impact of booster vaccinations. Oxford is one of four main centres for the two-year study, which has received £2.8m in funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

New surgical technique speeds up treatment for gallstones

A revolutionary keyhole surgery technique to help patients with complex gallstone disease has been introduced at the John Radcliffe Hospital, with the support of funding from Oxford Hospitals Charity.

OUH is only the second NHS trust nationally to offer this pioneering procedure – Laser Assisted Bile duct Exploration utilising Laparoendoscopy (LABEL) – which uses laparoscopic lasers to break up gallstones and remove the gallbladder.



Members of the surgical team at the John Radcliffe Hospital

Mr Giles Bond-Smith, Consultant Surgeon at OUH, said: "This new procedure has allowed us to reduce the length of hospital stay to just one day – which is so much better for our patients."

[More details are on the OUH website.](#)

Improving end of life care

In April 2022, OUH launched a project to enhance the quality of care for patients with life-limiting conditions in Oxfordshire and South Northamptonshire.



Oxfordshire Rapid Intervention for Palliative and End of Life Care (RIPEL) – a partnership between OUH, Sobell House Hospice Charity, Social Finance, and Macmillan Cancer Support – enables more people to receive personalised care, including being cared for in their own homes at the end of their life, if that is their preference.

In its first 12 months, the service – members of the team are pictured above - has cared for 466 people – saving 5,835 hospital bed days and therefore reducing the pressure on local hospitals.

Oxford Critical Care – one year on

Oxford Critical Care – the new critical care building on the John Radcliffe Hospital site – [opened to patients one year ago](#).



Benefits have included:

- An improved clinical care environment for both patients and staff
- Increased critical care capacity for both Oxfordshire and the South East
- Reduced pre-operative waits
- Improved infection prevention and control

Maternal Medicine Network designation boosts care for pregnant women

OUH is one of 17 centres of excellence that help women with pre-existing medical conditions, or conditions that arise during pregnancy, to quickly get the extra care they might need.

Maternal Medicine Networks bring together specialist multi-disciplinary teams and establish centres of excellence in every part of England to ensure that all women have timely access to expert medical advice during pregnancy.



OUH, which piloted the scheme from 2018, is one such site and is able to support people with complex needs from Oxfordshire and beyond, [such as Gill who was diagnosed with a heart problem while pregnant](#).

Making hospitals more welcoming for older patients

Oxford Hospitals Charity has worked with the Therapy team at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury to support older patients, including those living with dementia.

Charity funding has enabled the creation of a new Reminiscence Room which encourages older patients to share memories and take part in activities in a comfortable and welcoming space.



The room has historical images of Banbury on the walls, as well as items and activities suitable for older patients. These include music systems and life-like pets which move and make sounds, as well as a large interactive screen which can be adjusted to different heights and angles.

Security devices rolled out for lone workers

[Personal safety devices have been rolled out to lone workers at OUH](#) to provide a physical and psychological environment that enhances staff wellbeing.

Forming part of the [People Plan 2022-25](#), the initiative will benefit more than 500 lone workers at OUH across a variety of teams, including community nurses, occupational therapists, and estates colleagues.



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

OUH Quality Priorities approved for coming year

Staff, partners and stakeholders of OUH gathered at the John Radcliffe Hospital in January for the annual Quality Conversation event to contribute to the development of the trust's Quality Priorities for 2023-24.

Following this engagement event, the proposed Quality Priorities for the year ahead were approved at the OUH Trust Board meeting in March.

The OUH Quality Priorities 2023-24 are available on the OH website.

Introducing NHS Oxfordshire Talking Therapies - the new name for TalkingSpace Plus

Talking therapy service TalkingSpace Plus is changing its name to NHS Oxfordshire Talking Therapies.

The tagline 'for anxiety and depression' will accompany the name change to provide further clarity and ensure people know exactly how a

referral to the services can benefit their mental health.

[Find out more on the Oxford Health website.](#)

Have a say on patient safety

Oxford Health is changing how the Trust responds to and learns from patient safety incidents.

The aim is to be more supportive, compassionate and engaging to patients, their families and staff – and to improve how the Trust learns from such incidents. This is in line with NHS England's Patient Safety Incident Response Framework, the new national policy. Find out more [here](#).

New Alzheimer's study recruiting volunteers

A new study is recruiting volunteers aged 50-75 with early-stage Alzheimer's disease. [Ninety percent of people with Downs Syndrome](#), also known as trisomy 21, will develop Alzheimer's, yet this population has never been included in the clinical research that has underpinned regulatory approvals for the medicines to help treat it.



Part 1 of the ABATE study is recruiting volunteers aged 50-75 with early-stage Alzheimer's disease and opened last week at the [CRF](#). Part 2 of the study will be recruiting people with Downs Syndrome. Read more [here](#).

Study looks at effects of viewing self-harm images online

Researchers from Oxford Health and [Oxford University's Department of Psychiatry](#) have reviewed international research evidence regarding the impact of viewing images of self-harm on the internet and in social media.



The team reviewed 15 research studies and the findings have been published in a paper, in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry. Find out more [here](#).

New research programme into online arts and culture for young people's mental health

Young people will help create an 'online museum' as a way of improving their mental health, as part of a new and ground-breaking £2.61m research project.

The project, known as ORIGIN (Optimising cultural expeRiences for mental health in underrepresented younG people onlINe), is hosted by Oxford Health, led by researchers from Oxford University and funded by the [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) (NIHR). Read more [here](#)

Research open day

Community resilience

Affordable homes for refugees

Oxford City Council is set to deliver a £2.3m programme providing affordable homes as part of a government scheme supporting Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

The council's cabinet will be asked to join the Local Authority Housing Fund, a move that will unlock up to £1,108,620 in grant funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

There will be a research-focused Open Day at Oxford's Westgate Centre between **10am and 3.30pm on Wednesday 10 May**.

The event – held jointly with [Oxford Biomedical Research Centre](#) – will showcase some of the amazing research that takes place in Oxford for the benefit of NHS patients. Find out more [here](#).



Awards round-up

- Congratulations to Jess Tout – Oxford Health's latest BEE Awards winner. The BEE Awards were set up by Oxford Health in 2022 to acknowledge and reward the excellent work of the Trust's Allied Health Professionals and Social workers. Find out more [here](#).
- Get up to date with the latest winners of Oxford Health's Exceptional People Awards [here](#).

Together with £1,221,700 in match funding from the housing revenue account, this will allow the council to buy five two-bed or three-bed homes for Ukrainian families and one home with four or more bedrooms for an Afghan family from a bridging hotel. All six will be council homes let at social rent.

Drug and alcohol service provides vital support to young people

Young people in Oxfordshire affected by drug and alcohol issues can find valuable help and support through the county council's revamped service Here 4 YOUth.

The service, provided by Cranstoun on behalf of the council, offers advice, support and therapeutic interventions for those aged between 8 and 19 affected by their own substance use or that of a family member. Individuals can be referred by a professional or can self-refer for help.

MBE for Oxfordshire's head of school improvement and learning

Kim James, head of school improvement and learning at the county council, has been presented with an MBE for services to education.



Kim, pictured above with the Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace, has spent most of her 36 year 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 Oxfordshire County Council in 2018, where she leads school improvement and governor services, early years and the virtual school.

Large majority offered first choice primary for 2023/24

A total of 93.55 per cent (6,729) of applicants have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or

primary school in Oxfordshire – an increase on last year's figure of 91.49 per cent.



A total of 99.01 per cent (number 7,120) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.

This year there are 7,189 Oxfordshire children who need school places for September 2023. This is 129 more than last year when 7,060 Oxfordshire children needed school places.

Place, Transport and Infrastructure

Electric car club pilot scheme puts hire vehicles in car parks across Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's local authorities have partnered with car club providers Co Wheels, Enterprise CarClub, and Thame EV Car Hire to offer pay-per-use EVs on a 12-month trial basis.



The scheme gives people the chance to access an electric vehicle when they need one, without the expense of owning or leasing one outright. Car clubs can make it more affordable for people who do not drive every day and they provide real-world experience of driving electric without a long-term commitment.

It is estimated that a successful car club vehicle can take on average 20 individually owned cars – often petrol or diesel vehicles – off the road.

Oxfordshire at top of national recycling table for ninth year

For the ninth year in a row, residents in Oxfordshire have topped the table nationally when it comes to recycling, reusing and composting.



Oxfordshire County Council has again been named the best performing county council waste disposal

authority in England. In 2021-22, residents recycled, reused or composted 58.2 per cent of their household waste, according to the latest Government figures.

The total amount of household waste produced in Oxfordshire was 301,902 tonnes, with 150,086 tonnes reused, recycled and composted. This created a carbon benefit equivalent to 121,308 tonnes of carbon dioxide compared to disposing of it through landfill.

Oxfordshire's district and city councils, which operate the kerbside collections, also achieved excellent results in their national category. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse came second and fourth respectively with recycling rates of 62.7 per cent and 61.9 per cent, while West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and Oxford City councils were all in the top-performing 22 per cent.

Shared cycle path coming to King George's Playing Field

Work is underway to create a new shared path for cyclists and pedestrians on King George's Playing Field in Oxford. The path will link the existing cycle network to Oxford city centre from the west of the city.

The Oxford City Council project will see the creation of a new shared path as well as the widening and improving of the existing cycle path to ensure there is enough space for both cyclists and pedestrians.

The pathway, which is being installed by ODS, will be three metres wide and will include bat-friendly solar reflectors to provide lighting along the path while also reducing the environmental impact.

Money for the project has come from the county council on behalf of the Oxfordshire Growth Deal.

A40 Improvement Scheme phase one project completed

The A40 Improvement Scheme Phase One project, which aims to back more sustainable approaches to transport movement in and around the north of Oxford, has been completed.

The project has seen a stretch of the A40 – situated between the A34 overbridge and the Wolvercote Roundabout – updated and transformed. The work

has been enabled by £8.4m of Government funding secured by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

The project promotes and supports sustainable travel, including a new eastbound bus lane and additional bus stops with modern bus shelters. In addition, cyclists and pedestrians are set to benefit from the introduction of new, dedicated cycle lanes, widened footpaths and safer crossing points.

Investments to make a big splash for Oxfordshire residents

Children who want to crank up their swimming will benefit from significant investments. Cherwell District Council is making in leisure facilities.

Plans for a new learner swimming pool at Bicester leisure centre have reached the design stage; while the outdoor pool at Woodgreen leisure centre in Banbury will soon benefit from a £58,000 investment in new pool covers to make swimming more environmentally friendly.



In Oxford, work is taking place to reline the Hinksey Outdoor Pool, thanks to a £132,000 investment from the city council. The pool is due to reopen in May.

Meanwhile Riverside Park and Pools in Wallingford has received a huge funding boost this year, with nearly £400,000 of refurbishment to the site, paid for

by Community Infrastructure Levy funding from developer contributions to the local area.

Work is due to begin in May to replace the old surface of the splash pad site with new brightly coloured pads, and there will be multiple new water features added. The splash pad will be ready for use from July. The campsite will open to visitors on 1 May after £150,000 refurbishment of the washroom area.

The Better UK team, which manages the site on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council, will be using a new cover for the pool overnight to enable the water temperature to stay warmer and reduce energy use from the pool heaters.

New sports pavilion comes to Kingston Bagpuize

A brand new £657,000 pavilion has opened in Kingston Bagpuize to provide a home for local sports clubs.

Vale of White Horse District Council approved £596,757 of funding from developer contributions for the pavilion, with Southmoor Parish Council overseeing delivery of the building.



The new facility, which opened in March, features a function room, a catering kitchen, and changing and shower rooms.

Economy

County's marketing campaign reaches 11 million potential visitors

A marketing campaign – run by the county's destination management organisation **Experience Oxfordshire** and backed by funding secured by OxLEP – has had huge success in raising the profile of the county to visitors.

Only in Oxfordshire showcased the county's hospitality, attractions and retail opportunities and positioned Oxfordshire as the perfect destination for a short break during the autumn and winter months.

Running across multiple channels and featuring specially commissioned photography and video, the three-month campaign engaged 10.9 million individuals, while the videos generated 440,000

views and there were 104,000 visits to the campaign web pages.



Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards showcase top talent across the county

Thirty six finalists have been shortlisted for this year's [Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards](#), including apprentices, businesses and representatives from education providers. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 18 May.

The event, organised by OxLEP, is designed to highlight outstanding apprenticeship talent and commitment within the county.

Oxfordshire saw a total of 3,730 people start apprenticeships and 1,440 achieve the qualification during 2021/2022, underlining the fact that apprenticeships remain a key ingredient within the county's labour force.

And finally.....

Next month we hope to bring you a new look stakeholder briefing with easier to navigate pages

Please watch this space!

