

# Oxfordshire

## NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

28 October 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

### 'Team Oxfordshire' ready to tackle winter pressures

Health and social care professionals and volunteer organisations from across the Oxfordshire system are continuing to work together to provide safe, effective and sustainable care for people this winter.



Winter is a high-pressure season for services, with colder temperatures and harsher weather conditions leading to increased demands on GPs and Emergency Departments.

This, paired with the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and seasonal flu, means that health and social care staff working as 'Team Oxfordshire' is especially important.

For more information about Team Oxfordshire's work please see the Oxford University Hospitals [website](#)

### Urgent and emergency care update

In Oxfordshire, there continues to be a high number of people in beds across the county's hospitals, which has resulted in delays at Emergency Departments and in ambulance handover of patients.

The Oxfordshire system is developing a Transfer of Care HUB (ToC) to improve patient service and outcomes. It will play a core role in helping people to leave hospital with the right support to make the most of their independence so they can live in their home and community.

The ToC aims to achieve:

- reduction in length of stay for those who do not need to remain in hospital
- improved staff and patient experience
- improved quality of care
- lessons for further system improvement initiatives

The Oxfordshire system has requested PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to support this work, to develop and build on our strong relationships at all levels, to address operational and capacity challenges and grow sustainable ways of working for the future.

The PWC team will be working with Oxfordshire colleagues until February. If you have any queries, please contact [Lily.OConnor@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:Lily.OConnor@ouh.nhs.uk) [matthew.s.jones@pwc.com](mailto:matthew.s.jones@pwc.com) or [mari-louise.woulfe@pwc.com](mailto:mari-louise.woulfe@pwc.com)

### Seasonal vaccinations programme underway

The seasonal COVID vaccination programme is now fully underway for those people eligible, as advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation [here](#)

There are 33 vaccination sites across Oxfordshire, as well as the large vaccination centre at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford. Appointments are available to book online through the [National Booking Service](#), or by calling 119, with new appointments being added regularly. Some GP practices will contact their registered patients directly to invite them to a local vaccination site where it might be possible to have the flu vaccine at the same time if they are eligible.

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

- Getting both vaccines is important because: more people are likely to get flu this winter
- You are more likely to be seriously ill if you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

## Residents urged to take up their free NHS health check



People aged 40 to 74 are being encouraged to take up an invitation for a [free NHS health check](#).

The free health check can lower a person's risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and (certain types of) dementia.

Since April 2018, a total of 51,965 Oxfordshire residents have taken up an invitation to have an NHS health check.

Everyone aged 40 to 74 years old in England will be invited for a free NHS health check once every five years (apart from those already seeing their GP for certain conditions). Anyone who has previously received an invite, but did not respond, can contact their GP surgery to make an appointment.

### Oxfordshire welcomes Place Director

Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board has welcomed Dan Leveson (pictured below) as Place Director for Oxfordshire. This is a new senior role introduced to coordinate the health and social care system in Oxfordshire and integrate services, reduce health inequalities and find new ways of delivering sustainable care.



Dan began his NHS career in 2009 as a commissioner in Oxfordshire.

He joined Oxford Health NHS FT in 2011 to lead strategy and organisational development, which included equality, diversity and inclusion work and establishing the first new care model for mental health in Thames Valley and Wessex.

In 2018, Dan began working for Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust as Director of Strategy. During that time, he developed good relationships across the system, led the development and publication of the corporate and clinical strategy and a large hospitals redevelopment business case.

### Online access to GP records

The NHS is offering people better ways to see their personal health information online. From 1 November 2022, people aged over 16 who have an online account, such as through the [NHS App](#), [NHS website](#), or another online primary care service, will be able to see all **future** notes and health records from their GP.

This means that patients will be able to see notes from appointments, as well as test results and any letters that are saved on their records. For most people, access will be automatic, and there will be no need to take any action.

These changes only apply to people with online accounts. For people without online access or who do not want online access, they can see their records by asking the GP practice directly. The changes also only apply to personal information about the patient. Carers who want to see information about someone they look after, should speak to reception staff.

For more information about these changes please go to the [NHS website](#)

### Good news for Oxfordshire GP practices

Following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission, Botley Medical Centre in Oxford has been awarded a 'Good' rating. The full report can be found on the [CQC website](#). All of Oxfordshire's 67 GP practices are rated as either Good or Outstanding.

## Enhanced access to primary care

From **1 October 2022**, Primary Care Networks (PCN) in Oxfordshire have been operating extra hours so patients have more access to a variety of primary care services. This is in line with all PCNs across England.

Among the services available during these extra hours are vaccinations, cervical screening, health checks and medicine reviews. Patients can see or speak to clinicians, including nurses, pharmacists and social prescribers. They may be offered one of these enhanced access appointments when they contact their practice.

Primary care services in Oxfordshire have sought the views of local patients about how enhanced access could best provide the services they need, and they will continue to listen to feedback to make sure they are getting things right.

## £122 million boost for healthcare research

Health and care research in Oxford is to receive £122 million in government funding over the next five years to improve diagnosis, treatment and care for NHS patients.

The funding has been awarded to the city's two National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres (BRC).

The [NIHR Oxford BRC](#), a partnership between the University of Oxford and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will receive £86.6m to fund 15 research themes.

The [NIHR Oxford Health BRC](#), a partnership between the University and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, will receive £35.4m to support research across 11 themes including depression therapeutics, mental health in development with a focus on children and young people, psychological treatments and brain technologies. Read more [here](#).

## Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre officially opened

[Patients joined OUH staff on 5 October for the official opening of the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre on the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre site.](#)

The centre, relocated from the nearby Churchill Hospital, opened to patients in March earlier this year and brings together a research area,

laboratories, treatment rooms, and a patient gym under one roof.



Patients Martin Beard and Sandy Jeffery cut the ribbon and Dr Susie Shapiro, head of department for the centre, cut the cake. Dr David Keeling, a retired OUH Consultant Haematologist and leading expert in Haemostasis and Thrombosis, cut the ribbon to the laboratories named after him: the Keeling Laboratories.

## OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon opens its doors to cancer patients

Staff at the state-of-the-art OUH [Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon](#) are welcoming their first patients after opening the doors on 11 October.



This expansion of OUH cancer services will enable staff to provide high quality care closer to home for cancer patients, saving around 13,000 journeys to Oxford every year and reducing the additional stress and anxiety caused by needing to travel long distances for treatment.

## National figures help launch Oxford Health Nursing Strategy

Nurses from across Oxford Health gathered for the launch of the Trust's new three-year Nursing Strategy this month.

A special conference in Oxford was led by Chief Nurse Marie Crofts who was joined by Acosia Nyanin, South East Regional Chief Nurse for the NHS (both pictured below)



NHS England's Deputy Director of Mental Health nursing Dr Emma Wadey spoke about the Professional Nursing Advocate (PNA) programme which has helped nurses feel listened to, valued and invested in themselves. In a three-year campaign the aim is to have 1 in 60 NHS nurses trained as a PNA.

## Ofsted rates apprenticeship scheme as 'Good' in all areas

Ofsted has rated Oxford Health's apprenticeship scheme as 'Good' across all five categories: quality of education; behaviour and attitudes; personal development; leadership and management; and safeguarding. The report acknowledges the support the Trust's apprentices receive in their workplace and the vision of senior managers in integrating apprenticeships into their workforce plans. Read more [here](#).

## National recognition for Horton General's Hip Fracture Team

The Horton General Hip Fracture Team have been named as one of the best in the country – for the 10th year running.

Patients attending the Banbury hospital for hip fracture treatment can rest assured they are getting the best care as the Hip Fracture Team met best practice criteria in their treatment of nearly 92% of patients – compared with the national average of just under 54%.



The latest figures were published in the annual National Hip Fracture Audit, which compared the performance of 164 trauma units in England and Wales in 2021.

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

## Mental Health Awareness Month supports OUH staff

[Here for Health](#), [Occupational Health](#) and the Wellbeing Team OUH have joined to deliver a series of in-person and virtual mental health awareness events, sessions and workshops for staff.

These events have been taking place between [World Mental Health Day](#) on 10 October and [Stress Awareness Day](#) on 2 November, which has been designated as Staff Mental Health Awareness Month at OUH.

It forms part of OUH's award-winning [Growing Stronger Together – Rest, Reflect, Recover programme](#) to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of staff both as individuals and in their teams.

Hear from Ashley Lodge (Head of Wellbeing) and Becky Menon (Health Promotion Practitioner [in this video](#)).

## Celebrating Speak Up Month at OUH

Dr Jayne Chidgey-Clark, the National Guardian for Speaking Up, visited the John Radcliffe Hospital on 14 October to meet with OUH staff.

As part of a programme of events, Dr Chidgey-Clark gave a talk to senior staff and Board members on the theme of 'supporting patient safety, inclusion, and worker wellbeing' before meeting informally with maternity staff to discuss the importance of growing a culture where everyone feels able to speak up safely and everyone's voice is heard.

Almost 1,000 OUH staff attended five Speak Up Month roadshows from 17-21 October.

[OUH is shortlisted for the Freedom to Speak Up Award at the prestigious Health Service Journal \(HSJ\) Awards on 17 November.](#)

## Marking Menopause Day at OUH

On World Menopause Day (18 October), the Women's Network at OUH joined forces with clinical colleagues to host a pop-up stand at the John Radcliffe Hospital to talk to staff and the public about the support available.



Chief Operating Officer, Sara Randall (middle) and Chief Nursing Officer, Sam Foster (2<sup>nd</sup> right) at the World Menopause Day pop-up stand

Chief Nursing Officer Sam Foster and Chief Operating Officer Sara Randall visited the stand to demonstrate the Board's commitment to this important women's health issue.

In a personal message to all staff, Chief Executive Officer Professor Meghana Pandit said menopause had been a subject shrouded in stigma and shame, but OUH wanted to normalise discussions about menopause in the workplace and to assure women they did not have to go through menopause alone.

## Oxford Health holds first Quality Improvement conference

Colleagues from across Oxford Health gathered recently at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford for the Trust's first ever Quality Improvement conference.



Trust CEO Dr Nick Broughton and Chair David Walker gave opening addresses along with Chief Medical Officer, Dr Karl Marlowe.

They were followed by a packed programme of presentations and activities delivered by teams from across the Trust who have worked closely with the Quality Improvement team to turn their ideas into reality. Find out more about Quality Improvement at Oxford Health [here](#).

## Oxford Health AHPs celebrate their achievements

More than 100 Oxford Health Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) came together recently to connect, inspire and hear about the brilliant work being done by this diverse and skilled workforce.



There are 14 disciplines in the AHP family and Oxford Health has eight of them embedded in its mental and community health settings across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire Wiltshire, Bath & North East Somerset.

These include podiatrists, dietitians, occupational therapists, paramedics, physiotherapists, art therapists, music therapists and speech and language therapists. More [here](#).

## Awards round-up

- [Jo Buxton, a member of the Colorectal Cancer Nursing Team at Oxford University Hospitals \(OUH\), has been awarded the prestigious Philip Salt Award for Stoma Care Nurse of the Year 2022.](#)
- [Hospital supporters and staff were honoured on 30 September at BBC Radio Oxford's Make a Difference Awards,](#) which showcased people who go the extra mile for their communities.
- [Jackie Love \(Head of Design\) and Caroline Green \(Clinical Photographer\) were recognised at the Institute of Medical Illustrators Awards on 8 October for their graphic design and photography skills respectively.](#)
- Oxford Health's Forensic Recovery College has received national attention at the finals of this year's HSJ Patient Safety Awards. Petr Neckar, Head of the Forensic Recovery College, and his team were shortlisted in the Service User Engagement and Co-production award category. The ground-breaking college, based at the Littlemore Mental Health Centre, Oxford, is one of only a handful of services in England working in forensic mental health services.
- Oxford Health has awarded its first ever 'BEE award to recognise and celebrate the valuable work done by Allied Health Professionals). Community dietitian Jayne Lewis was picked from dozens of nominations for the inaugural award. Find out more [here](#).

## Community resilience

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### Countywide response to the cost-of-living crisis

Support for the most vulnerable and keeping communities strong and resilient was the core focus for Oxfordshire leaders when they met on 6 October for a [cost-of-living online roundtable event](#).



Community organisations which work closely with residents were among those attending to share information, identify gaps in current support, and build on the collaboration over recent years, particularly during the pandemic.

Oxfordshire's councils have introduced a range of additional measures to support residents during the cost-of-living crisis. For example, Cherwell District Council is making at least £250,000 available to issue food vouchers to at least 2,500 households which are currently experiencing significant hardship.

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched a grants scheme for local organisations to apply for up to £1,000 to support their work helping residents. And South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are currently working with local partners and will be issuing their third round of Household Support Funding shortly.

The county council is continuing to support free school meal equivalent payments to eligible children and young people during the school holidays. It is also providing support to pensionable households, with a one-off payment of £85 being sent to 11,000 lower income pensionable households over the next few weeks to help them with their increased energy bills this winter.

The county council is offering warm places through its network of libraries. The city council is in discussions with community groups and organisations that can offer regular warm spaces and one-off events, with the aim of providing an online map of warm spaces and a diary of events.

Cherwell District Council is working with local partners to provide a warm space offer across the district with drop-in venues available. While South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils are actively connecting with local

organisations to collect local insight and will be signposting residents to what is available in their communities.

## Children, Education and Families

### Love, that's what you need

A campaign aimed at encouraging Oxfordshire residents to become foster parents has launched this month.



Focusing on the close bond between a child and their foster parent, the campaign is running through social media films, digital advertisements and posters in libraries.

Oxfordshire County Council foster carers receive:

- A welcome payment of £1,500, to help make the transition to foster carer.
- Generous fees, paid in addition to the child's allowance, based on experience and skills.
- Dedicated social worker support.
- Access to professionals involved with the child/children.
- Links with support groups, specialised training and therapeutic advice.

## Place, Transport, Infrastructure

### Work begins on new park and ride site in Eynsham



Site preparation work has started for a new 850 space park and ride, located on the A40 eastbound in Eynsham.

Key excavation and earthworks begin in December.

The development is part of a wider programme to improve travel options between Witney and Oxford. The park and ride will help reduce congestion on

the A40 and provide regular and reliable public transport services in and out of Oxford.

### Opening of Broad Street project

Located in the heart of Oxford's historic city centre, the [Broad Street project](#) has transformed the historic highway into an accessible and welcoming space.

A wider pedestrian area with seating and planting creates an environment where people can socialise or just take a break when working, sightseeing or shopping.

The project is expected to stay open until spring 2024 and will host a range of events and activities.

It forms part of the county council's commitment to prioritise health and wellbeing, preserve and improve access to nature and green spaces, and work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.



More than 150 people from a range of groups, organisations and businesses have helped shape the Broad Street project, with insights, advice and recommendations on designing, planning, building, engineering and installation.

### **Combined tickets introduced at Oxford's park and rides**

A new combined parking and bus ticket is now in place at all park and ride sites in and around Oxford.



Passengers can buy a combined ticket for parking and return bus travel at a reduced rate of £4 for a car with one adult, and £5 for a car and two adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. The promotional fare is part of a six-month trial, which runs until 31 March 2023.

Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach have made the changes to help reduce traffic congestion in the city, while supporting economic recovery.

### **Taxi fare limits introduced in South and Vale**

Councillors in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse have approved limits on taxi fares. The

measure is designed to help ensure passengers are not priced out of using taxis as the cost of living continues to rise. At the same time, it is hoped the fares agreed will allow taxi drivers to continue to run viable businesses, recognising their overheads are also rising.

The new maximum fare for a two-mile journey on Tariff 1 will be £8.10, rising to £11.25 for Tariff 3.

### **Turning empty garages into sustainable homes**

Work has started on an Oxford City Council project to build new low carbon council homes by redeveloping a disused garage site in Blackbird Leys.

The council's direct services and housing companies ODS and OX Place have teamed up to deliver the project, which will involve the demolition of two vacant garage blocks and the construction of three two-bed houses in Tucker Road.



Once completed, the new homes will be let to people on the housing waiting list. Two will be let at social rent, with the third let at affordable rent. Completion is scheduled for August 2023.

### **Consultation on housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategy**

Oxford City Council has launched a public consultation on a five-year plan to tackle the city's housing and homelessness crisis. It is running on [the council's consultation portal](#) and closes at midnight on 7 December.

As part of the consultation process, the council will engage with key stakeholders to seek their views on the proposed strategy.

## Economy

### Experience Oxfordshire launches 'Only in Oxfordshire' autumn short-breaks campaign



Experience Oxfordshire – the county’s destination marketing organisation – is encouraging domestic visitors to explore the breadth and depth of Oxfordshire this autumn.

The campaign, which was commissioned by OxLEP, highlights accommodation, attractions, food and drink and shopping opportunities across the county.

Experience Oxfordshire will deliver a digital campaign featuring inspirational content aimed at encouraging the 'over-25, empty-nester' market to consider taking a short break in the county this autumn.

### Supporting Oxfordshire’s businesses

OxLEP’s business support arm (OxLEP Business) is urging the county’s businesses to use its free [‘Business Support Tool’](#) to find out if they could be eligible for grants – including the innovative ‘Go-Create’ funding available through the Innovation Support for Business programme.

The range of support available to Oxfordshire’s businesses will also be a focus of OxLEP’s 2022 annual event. Taking place at the Curzon in Westgate on 1 November, the event will bring together dozens of Oxfordshire business leaders.

To book a place, visit the [online registration](#) page.

### Helping support local people into employment

Two Oxfordshire charities, SOFEA Didcot and Aspire Oxfordshire, have joined forces to support OxLEP’s Skills Social Contract Programme.



OxLEP Skills Hub Manager Sally Andreou with Neil Holman of SOFEA Didcot and Paul Roberts of Aspire Oxfordshire (right).

The £400,000 [‘No Limits’ Project](#) will enable SOFEA and Aspire to introduce a comprehensive programme of support over the next 15 months to help address the legacy impacts of the pandemic.

The support on offer will range from access to digital devices to employment development.

The 'No Limits' Project is an integral part of OxLEP Skills wider Social Contract Programme, a £1.7m suite of targeted interventions benefiting Oxfordshire businesses and communities, ranging from an Apprenticeship Grant Scheme to a virtual mentoring platform.

### Funding for rural businesses in West Oxfordshire

Businesses in West Oxfordshire are being encouraged to apply for funding to implement innovative ideas for business developments that add value to the community and offer economic and environmental benefits.

These could range from setting up village shops to converting farm buildings for other business use.

West Oxfordshire District Council has been allocated more than £716,000 from the **Rural England Prosperity Fund** to be spent over two financial years - 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Project ideas must be deliverable by the end of March 2025, be based within West Oxfordshire, and comply with the [REPF guidelines](#). Applications should be [submitted online](#) by 7 November.

**We hope you find this information useful.**

Please email [bobicb.media-team@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb.media-team@nhs.net) with any queries and we will get back to you as possible.