

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

22 October 2021

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

Table of contents

Outbreak Management	2
Health, Wellbeing and Social Care	2
Children, Education, Families	12
Community resilience	12
Place, Transport, Infrastructure.....	13
Economy	15
And finally.....	15

Outbreak Management

September and early October saw COVID-19 cases fluctuate locally and nationally as schools and universities returned and more people started going into the office.

However, over the past fortnight there has been a sustained increase, with cases across the county rising by 44 per cent to a rate of 448.6 per 100,000. This increase reflects regional and national trends.



Increases have been seen in every age group, although the highest case levels remain in young people aged 11 to 17. Significant increases are also being seen in people in their 40s.

Oxfordshire's Director of Public Health Ansaf Azhar has reiterated the importance of getting vaccinated, testing on a regular basis, and taking everyday

precautions: "Our plea is that everybody should take advantage of opportunities to boost their immunity as soon as possible. Doing so helps individuals, cuts down the risk of COVID spreading in family settings and helps the community as a whole.

"We would also like to repeat those simple and familiar messages about taking real care about socialising indoors, ventilating indoor spaces, handwashing and wearing face coverings. Every little act of caution helps contain the spread of the virus and allows the vaccine the time and space to do its good work."

People with symptoms of COVID-19 are being reminded to self-isolate and to [book a PCR test](#) as soon as possible. There are a number of PCR facilities in Oxfordshire:

- Oxford Parkway (OX2 8HA) – drive-through facility
- Oxford Brookes University (OX3 0BP)
- Osney Lane, Oxford (OX1 1NY)
- Woodford Way car park, Witney (OX28 6JS)
- Bodicote House (mobile testing unit), Banbury

A [self-isolation information pack](#) is available for advice and sources of support.

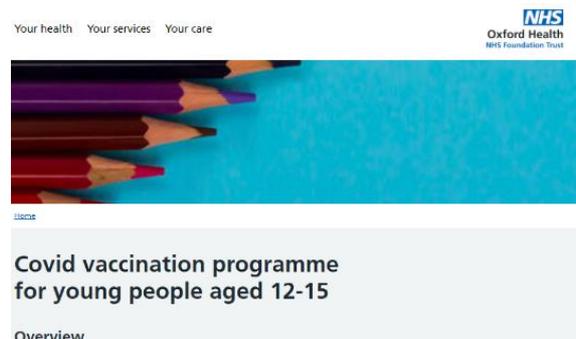
Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Delivering the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Oxfordshire continues.

Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

The [National Booking Service](#) is now open to parents wanting to book a COVID-19 vaccination for their child aged 12-15. This will provide an additional option for parents alongside the schools programme and will mean vaccinations will be available through half term.



Oxford Health has also published a new web page giving information for parents and young people about the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12-

15 year olds. You can find the page [here](#). This new page is also linked within the [regularly updated COVID-19 page](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) booster vaccinations

The number of COVID-19 infections remain high in Oxfordshire and are continuing to rise so we are working across the system to promote the importance of getting vaccinated.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine booster dose will increase the protection people have from their first two doses and give longer term protection. Like some other vaccines, levels of protection may begin to reduce over time so getting the COVID-19 booster this winter is the best way to protect individuals, their family and friends.

Those eligible for the booster are:

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and adult carers
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

Those eligible are being invited to have their booster dose 6 months (182 days) after their second dose. This booster dose will help reduce the risk of needing to go to hospital due to coronavirus this winter.

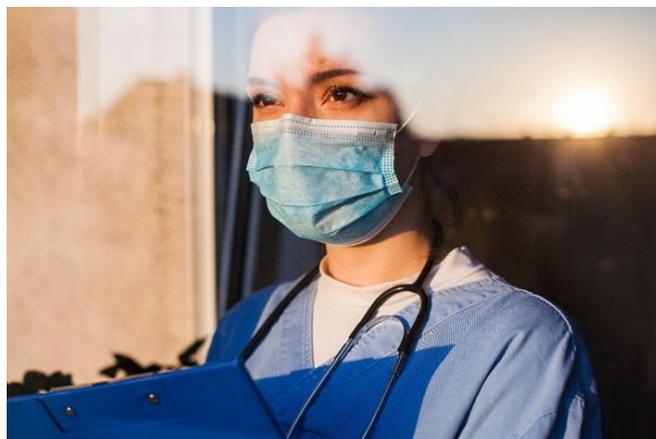
Anyone aged 16 and over who has not already had their first or second COVID-19 vaccination can still get vaccinated at a walk-in clinic or by booking through the [NHS booking service](#) (or call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week). More information [here](#).

New rules for COVID-19 vaccinations for care home work and consultation on flu

New government regulations come into force on 11 November 2021, so that anyone who enters a care home as part of their professional responsibilities will need to show proof of vaccination unless they are exempt. This includes care home staff and

anyone visiting the home for work including GPs, other clinicians and contractors.

This applies to all Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated care homes providing nursing or personal care in England and means all healthcare professionals and social care workers must be fully jabbed (dose one and two). The regulations do not include booster vaccinations.



The government, therefore, is now seeking views on whether or not to extend vaccination requirements to other health and care settings for COVID-19 and also for flu. The easiest way to participate is by completing [the survey](#)

Over a third of COVID-19 patients are diagnosed with at least one Long-COVID symptom

A new study shows that 37% of people had at least one long-COVID symptom diagnosed in the 3-6 month period after COVID-19 infection, with the most common symptoms being breathing problems, abdominal symptoms, fatigue, pain and anxiety/depression.

This new study undertaken by researchers at the Oxford Health BRC investigated long-COVID in over 270,000 people recovering from COVID-19 infection, using data from the US-based TriNetX electronic health record network. Read more [here](#).

Mini documentary highlights pioneering Long COVID service

A new mini documentary [You are not alone – the Long COVID service](#) was premiered during the Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) [Annual Public Meeting](#) on 28 September.

It shows how OUH and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust are working together to tackle Long COVID through a joint service which includes doctors, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who offer both physical and psychological assessments of patients, so they can be assessed and referred to the most appropriate treatment and rehabilitation services.



The mini documentary, produced by OUH's in-house Oxford Medical Illustration team, features specialists from OUH and Oxford Health, as well as a patient who has benefited from the service.

Professor Meghana Pandit, OUH Chief Medical Officer, says: "This new film is a useful reminder to people in Oxfordshire that the two NHS trusts that serve them have joined forces to create a comprehensive service to tackle Long COVID and give people the longer-term care, support and rehabilitation they need. Our service can manage the full range of symptoms that we are encountering in patients."

Youngest children and young people are least willing to get COVID-19 Jab

A new study has shown that only a third of 9-year-olds and half of 13-year-olds are willing to have a COVID-19 vaccination compared to more than three quarters of 17-year-olds.



In a large school-based survey of students from 9-18-years-old (Years 5 to 13), researchers supported by the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre have discovered that the younger you are, the less likely you are to want a COVID-19 vaccination. Those less willing to have a vaccination also often come from the most socioeconomically deprived backgrounds, feel less belonging to their school community and think they have probably had COVID-19 already. Read more [here](#).

Winter campaign

As we move into the busy winter months, health and social care professionals across the system will be building on their experience of working together throughout the year and in previous winters to deliver services.

Staff from hospitals, GPs, social services, community health services, ambulance services, mental health services, and third sector partners are working together to provide safe, effective, and sustainable care for people across Oxfordshire.

Winter is a high-pressure season for health and social care services, with the colder temperatures and harsher weather conditions leading to increased demands on GPs and Emergency Departments as flu season begins. This, paired with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, means that health and social care staff working as "Team Oxfordshire" is especially important.

We launched our winter campaign to the public in a press release last week and a panel of representatives from OCCG, OUH, OH and OCC were live on BBC Radio Oxford this week (21 October) discussing how to take care of yourself and others over the winter period.

<https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/news/team-oxfordshire-coming-together-again-to-tackle-winter-pressures/505903>

Appointment of Oxfordshire System Urgent Care Director

Health and social care partners in Oxfordshire have welcomed the appointment of Lily O'Connor as the Oxfordshire System Urgent Care Director. She will

take up this role as an 18-month secondment from Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT.



Lily is a talented and experienced clinician and is stepping forward to undertake this challenging role to improve urgent care delivery for our county, and with colleagues across Buckinghamshire and Berkshire West. The role is jointly funded between Oxfordshire

CCG and Oxfordshire County Council, and has the full support of all system leaders to deliver change wherever it is needed.

Lily's passion for fostering a culture of 'Home first', driving and sustaining performance improvement of all Urgent Care and ambulatory pathways - with operational teams across all providers - will continue to drive up urgent care outcomes. She will work closely with the team delivering the community services strategy and the Ageing Well urgent community response, helping to ensure a joined-up, system-focused approach.

Lily is expected to formally move into the role in December, although she has already been successfully assisting Oxfordshire in delivery of much of this work to date.

New flu clinic dates now available for Oxford Health frontline staff

Oxford Health's staff winter flu vaccination programme is under way with around 1,000 jabbed against the flu already.

The Trust has a number of clinics set up running from now

until Christmas which are currently prioritising vaccinations for frontline staff.



Animation series launched for parents and families of neurodiverse children and young people

An animation series has been launched by Oxford Heath NHS Foundation Trust for parents and families supporting neurodiverse children and young people.



The five-part series – How do I help? – is full of tips for parents and families to understand the common challenges their children experience and learn strategies to help neurodiverse young people with diagnoses such as autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to thrive in their everyday lives.

It has been produced by the Oxfordshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Oxford Neurodevelopment Conditions (NDC) team at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Watch the videos on [YouTube](#).

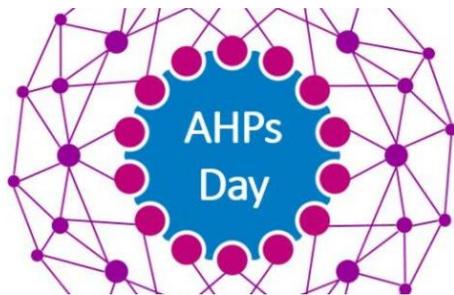
More information about Oxfordshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service's neurodiversity pathway team is available [here](#).

Future healthcare workers take centre stage

The work of hundreds of Oxford Health professionals who make a massive difference to the lives of patients was celebrated on Thursday October 14.

And this year, for national Allied Health Profession (AHP) Day, the focus was on celebrating the next generation of people training to join the second largest UK healthcare workforce and the life-changing impacts they will have on patient care and health in their careers.

Oxford Health's students took to social media, generating thousands of views, to promote their work and were also featured on BBC Radio Oxford and Jack FM. You can hear more about these students on Radio Oxford [here](#) (from 36 minutes).



There are 14 different disciplines in the AHP family and Oxford Health employs

eight of them which include podiatrists, dietitians, occupational therapists, paramedics, physiotherapists, art therapists, music therapists and speech and language therapists.

This year Oxford Health has given placements to 243 student AHPs – up 58% on the previous year.

Oxford Health highlights help on World Mental Health Day

Oxford Health took the opportunity to promote the support it offers to people in need on World Mental Health Day.



The Trust marked the event, held on Sunday October 10, with a week of coverage sharing information and news about mental health services.

You can find all the stories the Trust promoted [here](#). One of the services the Trust promoted is the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Helpline. More than 2,000 people in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire have been supported by the dedicated 24/7 service since its launch 18 months ago at the start of the pandemic. Listen to service manager Emma Hill share news of their success on [BBC Radio Oxford](#) (at 3hrs 36 mins). Find out more [here](#).

Trust appoints new executive director for mental health

Gordon Muvuti has been appointed Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's Executive Managing Director for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism.



A highly experienced mental health professional Gordon is expected to join OHFT in early 2022 from Solent NHS Trust, a community and mental health provider.

Gordon is Solent's Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships and has worked at the organisation for almost four years in operational director and executive roles.

Tehmeena Ajmal is currently Oxford Health's Interim Director of Mental Health, and Learning Disabilities following the departure of Debbie Richards, who has been appointed Chief Executive of Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Tehmeena is a dedicated NHS professional who has been COVID Operations Director at Oxford Health for the past year playing an instrumental part in the roll out and delivery of the large-scale vaccination centres across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West. While Tehmeena is in this interim role Anita Sherwood, Head of Testing, Immunisation and Risk Assessments is stepping up as Covid Operations Director.

New health minister Lord Kamall visits Oxfordshire

New health minister Lord Kamall, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences met a host of healthcare innovators on a fact-finding visit to Oxford organised by the Oxford Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) on 7 October.

Lord Kamall and Matt Whitty, Chief Executive of the NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) and

Director for Innovation, Research and Life Sciences at NHS England, met Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer of Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), and other key figures from the NHS, industry and research during their visit to the John Radcliffe Hospital.



Dr George Harston, Consultant Physician in Stroke and Acute General Medicine, led a tour of part of the stroke pathway during a briefing on a region-wide initiative to [harness AI technology to support clinical decision-making in stroke care](#).

Another innovation showcased during the visit was the widespread adoption of a [test to rule out pre-eclampsia in pregnancy](#) which began life as a research project in Oxford. A new report has highlighted the credentials of this initiative which is ensuring more women can safely stay at home during pregnancy. See [here](#) for the report.

Oxford Health also welcomed Lord Kamall for a special tour to see first-hand some of the cutting-edge brain health research taking place at the Warneford Hospital site.



His visit also provided an opportunity to learn more about the Trust's ambitions for a new £150 million state-of-the-art mental health hospital and

redevelopment of existing Grade II listed facilities to create a world class mental health research facility.

He was accompanied throughout his visit by Trust Chief Executive Dr Nick Broughton, Trust Chair David Walker and Professor John Geddes, the director of NIHR Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre, one of one two dedicated to mental health research.

Lord Kamall toured the NIHR Oxford cognitive health Clinical Research Facility where he met senior research staff and participants working on new studies. His itinerary then took him to the Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity (OHBA) where the Brain Health Centre (BHC) is based.

Oxford Health backs bid to help more to quit tobacco

Oxford Health is backing the 10th annual Stoptober – the annual health campaign to support those who want to give up smoking.

In the last decade more than two million people have quit, improving quality of life, health outcomes and personal finances.



According to the government, people with poor mental health die on average 10 to 20 years earlier than the general population, and smoking is the biggest cause of this life expectancy gap. A third of cigarettes smoked in England are smoked by people with a mental health condition.

And while Oxford Health has a smoke free policy – which applies to all Trust buildings and grounds - the Trust is focussed on doing more to support staff and patients kick the habit.

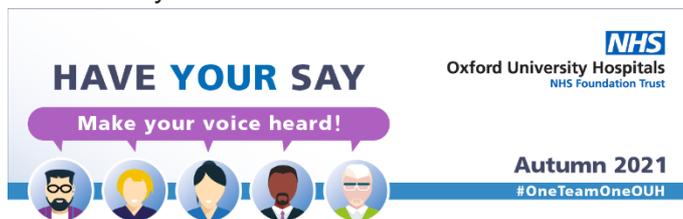
Healthcare providers have a duty of care to encourage good health and provide a setting that promotes this. Oxford Health's smoke-free policy applies to all the trust buildings and grounds and to all staff, patients and public visiting its sites.

There are three things that make the Trust smokefree:

- every frontline professional discusses smoking with their patients
- stop smoking support is offered on site as well as referrals to local services
- no smoking is allowed anywhere on any Trust site

#OneTeamOneOUH staff urged to 'Have your say – make your voice heard!'

All staff working at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) are being invited to have their say and make their voices heard by taking part in this year's NHS Staff Survey.



In a personal message to all OUH staff to launch the annual survey on 27 September, Chief People Officer Terry Roberts said: "2021 has been another hugely challenging year for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is your chance to say how it feels to work at OUH so that we can learn from what you tell us and make positive changes in response to your feedback.

"Your views really do matter and my Trust Board colleagues and I are personally committed to learning from your experiences in order to shape further improvements so that OUH is a great place to work.

"Since last year's NHS Staff Survey, we have introduced our [Growing Stronger Together - Rest, Reflect, Recover](#) programme to support your health and wellbeing both as individuals and in your teams."

"As part of *Growing Stronger Together*, in September we launched Wellbeing Check-ins for every member of our #OneTeamOneOUH. This is a one-to-one 'touch base' conversation that provides a moment to pause and check if staff have any new or ongoing wellbeing needs.

"Many teams from across OUH have taken part in R3P (Recovery, Readjustment and Reintegration) workshops for more in-depth discussions about people's experiences of working during the pandemic and, thanks to a successful bid for funding from NHS Charities Together by Oxford Hospitals Charity, a [dedicated Psychological Medicine Staff Support Service](#) has been created."

Speak Up Month and Black History Month bring #OneTeamOneOUH staff together

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) staff have been invited to have their say and make their voices heard by taking part in activities to celebrate Speak Up Month and Black History Month in October.

October is designated by the [National Guardian's Office](#) as the annual Speak Up Month and our Freedom to Speak Up (FtSU) team has run a range of activities, aimed at showing how everyone has a part to play in making speaking up business as usual at OUH.

OUH Chief Executive Officer Dr Bruno Holthof, Claire Flint (Non-Executive Director lead for FtSU) and Eileen Walsh (Executive Director lead for FtSU) hosted a virtual listening event, the FtSU team has run roadshows events on all our hospital sites, and they have also been busy on social media.

[Black History Month](#) is an annual event which takes place every October to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution that people of African and Caribbean descent have made to the UK over many generations, including in the NHS.

Our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network, working in partnership with our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team, organised two virtual events for staff, with Joy Warmington (Non-Executive Director) talking about the role of allyship in the NHS and Terry Roberts (Chief People Officer) leading a session on the career journeys of black leaders in the NHS with Karen Bonner (Chief Nurse, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust) and Thanda Mhlanga (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager - Workforce, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust).

See the highlights of [Speak Up Month](#) and [Black History Month](#) on our Twitter feed [@OUHospitals](#)

OUH palliative care doctor named as 1 of 50 most influential BAME people in health

Professor Bee Wee, a Consultant in Palliative Care at Sobell House – the hospice based on the Churchill Hospital site in Oxford – has been named by *Health Service Journal* in a prestigious list of the 50 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people who will exercise the most power and/or influence in the English NHS and health policy over the next 12 months.



Bee, who is also NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) National Clinical Director for Palliative and End of Life Care, has previously received a CBE for her contribution to palliative care. You can read more [here](#).

Frontline nurses invited to Chelsea Flower Show to see garden celebrating NHS staff

A garden at September's RHS Chelsea Flower Show celebrated the tireless work of NHS staff, as well as commemorating all key worker efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic – and two frontline nurses from Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) were invited to see it in situ at the show.

[Finding Our Way: An NHS Tribute Garden](#) was designed by Naomi Ferrett-Cohen for the University

of Oxford and OUH – it was awarded a **Silver medal** in the [Sanctuary Gardens category](#).



Katy Mimpres and Ade Adegboyega at the Finding Our Way garden at the Chelsea Flower Show

Katy Mimpres, Matron in the Emergency Department (A&E) at the John Radcliffe Hospital, and Ade Adegboyega, Ward Sister on John Warin Ward at the JR where many COVID-19 patients have been treated, were invited to visit the garden and experience it for themselves during the Show.

Katy said: "It was a really wonderful day. The garden is a beautiful, tranquil space and it was lovely to have the opportunity to take stock and reflect."

Ade added: "We had a spectacular day. The NHS garden really represents a sanctuary after what we have all been through - not just NHS staff, but all key workers and also everyone who has gone through this pandemic."

Katy and Ade also had a special guest come and say hello – renowned chef Raymond Blanc OBE who spent a month at the John Radcliffe Hospital fighting COVID-19 after being admitted in December 2020. He recently held a party for OUH staff to say thank you for the care they gave him.

He said: "It was wonderful to see the garden in bloom. It's a truly beautiful way to say thank you to all the key workers who have worked so incredibly hard throughout this pandemic. I am incredibly grateful for the NHS and am so pleased that everyone's hard work is being marked in this way."
Oxfordshire Employment celebrates 75 years

Oxfordshire Employment and its socially responsible printing service, County Print Finishers, marked its 75th anniversary with a special event on 5 October.

Founded in 1946, County Print Finishers and Oxfordshire Employment offer people with a health or disability need a hands-on introduction to the world of work, as well as ongoing support and advice once they are in a job to ensure the employment is sustainable.



Unlike many other services, individuals placed with County Print Finishers through Oxfordshire Employment are paid while they learn. This means that businesses using the printers' commercial services are also supporting Oxfordshire residents as they start a job or career.

Bringing colour and activity to north Oxfordshire streets

A range of fun interactive markings have recently appeared on the pavements of Kidlington, Bicester and Banbury as part of a series of new health walks.



Inspired by three existing 5k health routes marked in a blue line on the pathways around Bicester (known as the blue line walks), the new health walks are being installed by Cherwell District Council's healthy place shaping team, helping residents become more active and explore their local area on foot.

OUH Play Team launches national Play in Hospital Week

The Play Team at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), which supports opportunities for children and young people to play while they are being cared for in hospital, was chosen to officially launch this year's Play in Hospital Week (Monday 11 – Sunday 17 October).



Play in Hospital Week raises awareness of the benefits of play in the treatment of poorly children across the UK and this year's theme – 'Playing through the pandemic: a narrative of positive interventions' – celebrated how play teams across the NHS have been keeping play at the heart of their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jo Pinney, Senior Health Play Specialist at OUH, said: "We were thrilled to be chosen as the launch hospital for Play in Hospital Week. It gave us the opportunity to show to our colleagues here at OUH, and nationally, what brilliant services we offer here – and how important play is to young patients."

The COVID-19 pandemic and infection prevention rules closed many play rooms, meaning play has been more difficult for staff to arrange and children to engage with.

However, with the support of Oxford Hospitals Charity, staff have been able to ensure that play has taken place as much as possible, with play sessions taking place more often at patients' bedsides and the Charity providing hundreds of single use toys that could then go home with the family. In addition, they helped provide families with food when many shops were closed.

The Charity has also funded a two-year Health Play Specialist role for Radiology so young patients undergoing an MRI scan while they are awake are supported.

More information about Play in Hospital Week at OUH is available on the [OUH website](#).

Surprise, surprise for OH Exceptional winners! Oxford Health's first Exceptional People Awards of 2021 have been presented in a surprise ceremony.

Bicester District Nurses won the team of the month award for September while Kathryn Tolson, Named Nurse and Operational Manager for The Phoenix Team, the Looked After Children's service in East Oxford, was winner of the individual award.

The new monthly Exceptional People Awards for 2021 recognise care and excellence and support a culture that celebrates our people and our NHS organisation as a being a great place to work and thrive.



Pictured: CEO Dr Nick Broughton, Director of Corporate affairs Kerry Rogers, Laura Wood, Chair David Walker, Sam Longshaw, Kathryn Tolson and Lead Governor Mike Hobbs

Any Oxford Health team can be nominated for an Exceptional People team award. The nominations will be judged monthly by a panel from the Trust's executive team, led by Trust Chair David Walker and CEO Dr Nick Broughton. You can find out more [here](#).

Oxford Health team in the running for award

A team from Oxford Health was shortlisted for a prestigious BMJ award in the digital innovation category for their work on telepsychiatry during the pandemic.

The project used routinely collected real-world data to understand the use and benefits of telephone

and video consultations. The increase in remote consultations during the pandemic presented a unique opportunity to assess the efficacy of telepsychiatry which has previously not enjoyed a significant uptake in the UK.



Data drawn from two NHS mental health trusts (Oxford Health and Southern Health) was used alongside qualitative data collected from focus groups and surveys to evaluate telephone and video consultations compared to traditional face-to-face care. Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to OUH award-winning #OneTeamOneOUH staff

- OUH won the Changing Culture Award category at the *Health Service Journal (HSJ)* Patient Safety Awards on 20 September in recognition of the Trust's Quality Improvement (QI) Hub, which brings together examples of improvement across the organisation to provide a single platform to celebrate and learn from in order to establish a culture in which our staff feel supported to improve patient and staff experience. You can read more [here](#).



Jo Bunyan (Improvement team), Dr Anny Sykes (Director of Safety & Clinical Effectiveness), Professor Meghana Pandit (Chief Medical Officer) and Dr Sahana Rao (Consultant Paediatrician & QI Hub founder)

- The Early Phase Clinical Trials Team, based at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, won the Excellence in Cancer Research Nursing category at the RCN Nursing Awards on 12 October. You can read more [here](#).
- Dr Sarah Griffiths, who practises under the name Dr Sarah McKelvie as a Specialist Registrar in Geriatrics at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), won the FA & McDonald's Grassroots Bobby Moore award after establishing Summertown Warriors, which is a new opportunity for children with Cerebral Palsy to take part in football. You can read more [here](#).
- Ariel Lanada, a senior nurse who also chairs the OUH BAME Staff Network, is shortlisted in the Nurse of the Year category of the *Nursing Times Awards* – the awards ceremony will be held on 27 October. You can read more [here](#).
- Consultant Midwife Heidi Ottosen and Bereavement Midwife Support Worker Candice Noonan are both shortlisted for the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) Awards – the awards ceremony will also be held on 27 October. You can read more [here](#).
- Medical Secretary Ros Charlett is shortlisted in the Admin & Clerical category of the Unsung Hero Awards – winners will be announced on 12 November. You can read more [here](#).

Children, Education, Families

Wallingford resident receives national Childminder of the Year Award

Wallingford resident Sally Harvey has received the prestigious national Childminder of the Year Award 2021, from Nursery World magazine.



Sally has offered a caring and nurturing environment to more than 40 children for over 12 years as a childminder, and her commitment to child development and growth has played a pivotal role in her approach to care.

Community resilience

Plans to expand and improve homelessness support in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's councils and partners are working together to build significantly on existing work to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the county. The new countywide homelessness

Sally also supports other childminders through Oxfordshire County Council's early years' service, which supports teachers, practitioners and professionals in the childcare sector.

Oxford City Council donates 70 laptops to help children learn online

Oxford City Council has provided 70 pre-owned laptops to help children in the city learn online. This is in addition to 50 donated to an Oxford school earlier in the year. The council aims to donate a total of 260 pre-used council laptops to Oxford children over the next 3 months.

The Getting Oxfordshire Online project, initiated by Oxfordshire Community Foundation, provides devices to those who cannot get online. A key area of focus is children from deprived families who need help with their online studies.

As part of the project, pre-owned laptops will also be donated to Afghan refugee families who have recently arrived in Oxford after fleeing their homes.

prevention strategy, the first of its kind, was approved by the county council's Cabinet on 19 October and will bring yet more focus and co-operation across all organisations.

At the heart of the strategy is both rapid response when someone becomes at risk, and a focus on individual needs and circumstances to provide greater levels of support.



Funding of £3.8 million will contribute to the delivery of the strategy. Wherever possible, it is proposed to keep people in their local area where long-term housing solutions can be found – rather than needing to travel to Oxford for accommodation and support services. You can [read more about the strategy](#) on the county council website.

Oxford granted £426,000 to introduce enhanced measures to improve women’s and girls’ safety at night

Oxford City Council has been granted up to £426,000 to introduce measures which aim to prevent violence against women and girls travelling in and out of Oxford at night.

Place, Transport, Infrastructure

Accelerating the UK’s transition to a zero-carbon energy system

One of the most innovative clean energy projects across the UK – Local Energy Oxfordshire (Project LEO) – was showcased on 19 October, when a fully electric double-decker bus, bound for the COP26 summit in Glasgow, pulled into Oxford city centre on the first stop of its ‘Road to Renewables’ nationwide tour.

[Project LEO](#) is one of the UK’s most ambitious and innovative renewable energy trials. The project involves a wide range of partners, including Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN), social enterprise Low Carbon Hub, the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University, and commercial partners Piclo, Nuvve, EDF R&D and Origami Energy.

The funding, which comes from the Government’s Safer Streets scheme, aims to introduce new measures, including nightclub ‘Safe Zones’, Safe Walk routes, outdoor phone charging stations, and upgrades to CCTV – in order to ensure safer journeys for women travelling from their home, into the city and back again. You can read more about the measures on [Oxford City Council’s website](#).

Grant Scheme to help voluntary and community groups in South Oxfordshire

South Oxfordshire District Council is opening a new round of funding for the district’s voluntary sector through the Revenue Grant scheme to help cover the sector’s operational costs and future-proof their work.

Organisations within the voluntary sector, who are helping deliver key services for residents and maintain our natural environment for future generations, can apply for funding to help them continue to make a difference to the lives of people living in South Oxfordshire.

The Revenue Grant scheme offers funding for voluntary organisations for two years and has a total budget of £667,992 to allocate. Applications close at noon on 26 November and further details are available on South Oxfordshire District Council’s [website](#).



Oxfordshire County Councillor Pete Sudbury with the Road to Renewables bus

Critical to the success of Project LEO is the involvement of local communities in a series of Smart and Fair Neighbourhood trials. Project leaders are working with five communities to explore how

smart technology and new commercial models can create opportunities for a local energy marketplace in a fair and equitable way.

The two-year trials involve the setting up and testing of local, low carbon energy supplies using market mechanisms and smart technology, testing technical and commercial innovation. Organisers want to learn what sorts of benefits or returns – financial or otherwise – could motivate people to participate in the new energy system.

Using waste to repair Oxfordshire's roads

Oxfordshire County Council is working with its contractor Milestone and its partner OCL Regeneration to make use of the toxic tar-bound material that is removed during road and path resurfacing work.

The recycled material will be used in road maintenance projects at 11 different sites between 11 October and 3 November.

The process is an example of the 'circular economy' – where waste products are utilised, rather than disposed of – and will save money, reduce carbon emissions, and minimise the need for new materials.



All the projects are road surface inlay schemes and will take place at locations in Faringdon, Wantage, Wheatley, Kidlington, Banbury, Bodicote, Little Rollright and Witney.

Temporary traffic restrictions maintained on Witney High Street

West Oxfordshire District Council has decided to maintain temporary traffic restrictions on Witney High Street while a long-term solution is developed to help boost the town centre.

1,300 residents responded to a consultation in August, which saw a largely positive response to the restrictions, with 64 per cent of people saying they should remain.



The arrangement will remain temporary while the council works with the county council, local businesses and residents over the coming months to develop a more comprehensive strategy for improving the town centre and a more permanent solution to improving pedestrian space in the High Street.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has formally changed its name to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership. It is a joint committee of Oxfordshire's six councils, together with key strategic partners.

Following a public review in 2020, the Partnership adopted a new purpose, which is to:

- Coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing, and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits
- Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net-zero carbon by 2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world
- Seek to secure funding in the pursuit of these aims and oversee the delivery of related work programmes delegated to it by the Joint Committee's constituent local authority members.

You can [read more](#) on the Partnership's website.

Economy

Understanding business attitudes towards sustainability

In the run-up to the COP26 fortnight, the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) has been running a survey to help better understand the county's business community's attitudes towards the drive to a zero-carbon future.

OxLEP's Attitudes to Sustainability and Energy Efficiency survey is aimed at businesses of all sectors and sizes across the county and is designed to develop greater understanding of attitudes towards sustainability, the climate emergency, potential commercial opportunities, as well as

finding out the type of support businesses feel they need to become cleaner and greener.



And finally

New Leader for South Oxfordshire District Council

Cllr David Rouane has been chosen as the new Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council. He succeeds Cllr Sue Cooper, who stood down on 7 October after having led the council since the local elections in 2019.

Cllr Rouane, who is ward member for Didcot North East, has been a district councillor in South Oxfordshire since 2019. He has served on the Cabinet since his election, as Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment, and Didcot Garden Town.



We hope this update is useful. Please email occg.media-team@nhs.net with any queries and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.