

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

20 May 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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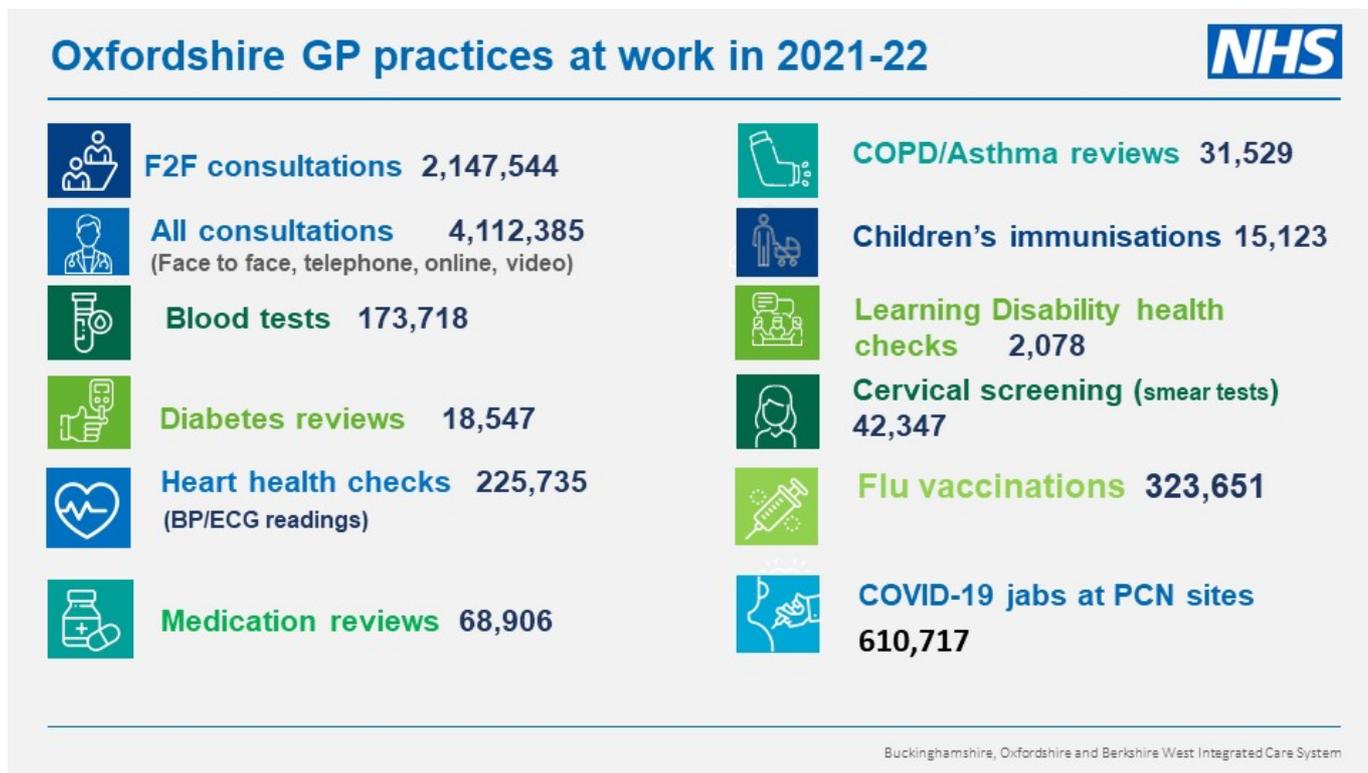
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Oxfordshire primary care – road to recovery

The last two years have been unprecedented in the delivery of all public services. The Oxfordshire system response to the pandemic and the roll-out of the vaccination programme has been a noted success and has left a legacy of partnership working across local authorities, health and care providers and commissioners

and voluntary sector partners which we continue to build on.

Oxfordshire's primary care services have played a pivotal part in this work, while at the same time delivering 'business as usual' services to their patients. The graphic below is a snapshot of their work during the past year.



More than 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccinations have been delivered across Oxfordshire since the programme began in December 2020 and 56 per cent of jabs have been given via Primary Care Network (PCN) GP-led sites.

Although the number of COVID cases in Oxfordshire is now dropping significantly, the messages continue to be:

- Getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best thing you can do to protect yourself and your families against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.
- If you're unvaccinated it is never too late to come forward for a vaccine – all vaccination

sites will welcome anyone aged 12 years and over for first, second and booster jabs

To find walk-in clinics please search on the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) [website](#) and on the NHS [search service](#).

Thanks a Million to Oxford Health COVID vaccination team

A group of hard-working Oxford Health colleagues are celebrating reaching the million-jab milestone in little over a year.

The first vaccines started being administered to the public at the Oxfordshire mass vaccination centre at

the Kassam Stadium in Oxford on 1 February 2021.

From there, the team set up new centres in Aylesbury and Reading, launched pop-up centres in Witney and Banbury and went out to visit communities in the Health on the Move bus.

Ladygrove Health Centre gets cash boost to expand

Oak Tree Health Centre in Didcot has received almost £40,000 to help expand its premises so it can accommodate new patients.

South Oxfordshire District Council has allocated funds it has raised from local developers as part of their permission to build new homes in the Ladygrove area of Didcot served by the practice.

The funds will help pay for the GP practice to build an extra consultation room, with four workstations for clinics, dressings and mass vaccination programmes. The room will also have mobile screens to maximise the usable space and help protect patients' privacy. Work is expected to begin this month.



Grants for care workers in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire County Council and The Care Workers' Charity have partnered to provide grants to care workers in need, who are living or working in the Oxfordshire area.

Care workers in the area who have encountered a sudden loss of income can [apply for a grant](#) from the charity to stabilise their finances and health so

they can continue focusing on providing high-quality care.

Grant applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and up to £500 can be awarded. Oxfordshire vaccination sites

Urgent care update

Oxfordshire's Urgent Care team has been developing work across the health and care system to help alleviate pressures and improve the situation for both patients and staff.

The 'Integrated Care Improvement Programme' focuses on the priorities of enabling people to stay safely at home, and reducing the number of people in hospital beds who are waiting to go home.

This innovative programme involves identifying those people considered to be high-risk in terms of their health and care needs, and working with the community teams, GPs, and hospital healthcare professionals to assess and develop a personalised care plan without needing to go to hospital.

For people with more complex needs, they will be identified during their discharge from hospital where there will be plans in place with the community team to ensure they have the appropriate care arranged before they leave hospital.

To achieve this, a virtual ward is being used to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. This means that assessments that normally take place in A&E can be delivered to the same standard in someone's own home by making sure the initial access is correct.

The Urgent Care team will be developing 999 clinical coordination centres as well as an NHS 111 single virtual contact centre and an enhanced directory of services. There will also be a virtual ward 'whiteboard' which will be kept up to date for those who need care.

New technology could support Oxfordshire residents with additional needs

New technology is being trialled by Oxfordshire County Council to help people with additional health needs and in need of support with tasks such as remembering to take medication at the right time.

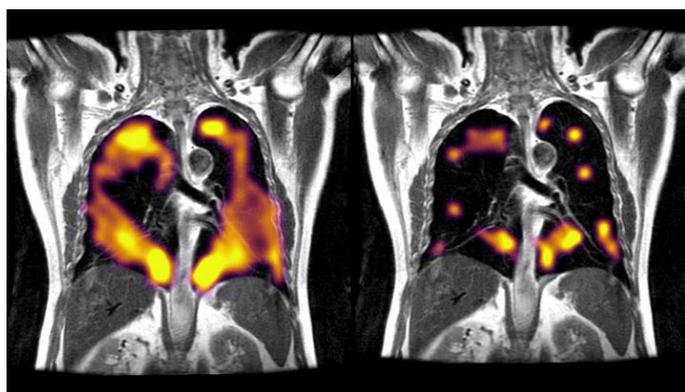
The assistive technology team at the county council is looking at how it can be used by people with differing or evolving needs, including learning disabilities, sensory impairments, dementia, Parkinson's and MS.

Technology currently undergoing trials includes:

- Buddi Connect – a wrist sensor linked to a smartphone which can alert others if the wearer has fallen and pressed a button to request help.
- TabTime timer - a watch which discreetly reminds the wearer to take medications through a vibrating alarm.
- Automatic curtain opener – this can be operated using a remote control, smart phone, timer or voice activation, and can be fitted to most types of curtains.

Boost for Long COVID research

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) and the medical imaging technology company, Polarean Imaging, have entered into a research collaboration, under the terms of which Polarean will provide its investigational xenon polariser system to OUH for research.



This state-of-the-art equipment will be used in the [EXPLAIN study](#), which is using hyperpolarised xenon gas MRI scans to detect possible lung damage in Long COVID patients who are experiencing persistent breathlessness months after infection. This damage cannot be observed in traditional lung imaging, such as CT scans.

Professor Fergus Gleeson, the OUH Consultant Radiologist who is leading the study, said the study will be able to image more patients more efficiently to see if it can uncover the underlying causes driving long COVID.

Oxford's health research recognised in national assessment

Oxford's reputation for medical, health and life sciences research has been highlighted in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, a UK-wide assessment of university research which was published on 12 May.

The REF 2021 exercise results demonstrate that the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University continue to deliver research which makes a real difference to people's lives.

Together with OUH and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, both universities are integral to the delivery of Oxford Academic Health Partners' (OAHP) vision of a city, and a region, that can rapidly address local and global health and care challenges.

More information about the REF 2021 results in Oxford is available from the [University of Oxford's Medical Sciences Division](#) and [Oxford Brookes University](#) websites.

Spine Awake Surgery is UK first

[OUH is the first NHS trust in the UK to use Spine Awake Surgery, an innovative way of operating on patients who require lumbar spine surgery.](#)

This new technique uses a combination of spinal anaesthetic and local analgesia to numb the patient from the belly button down so they can stay awake during the operation and go home the same day.

Developed by Dr Helen Hann, Consultant Anaesthetist, and Mr Murtuza Sikander, Consultant Neurosurgeon and Spinal Surgeon, Spine Awake Surgery has many potential benefits including quicker recovery for patients.

Professor Meghana Pandit, Chief Medical Officer at OUH, said Spine Awake Surgery reflects the high level of innovation ongoing within the Trust. It will help reduce waiting times, ensuring patients receive the best care possible. Members of the surgical team are pictured below.



OUH Stroke Unit scores high marks in national audit

[The Hyper Acute Stroke Unit team \(pictured below\) at OUH have performed well in the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme.](#)



This programme measures the processes of care provided to stroke patients, as well as the structure of stroke services, against evidence-based standards.

The latest results show that the OUH Hyper Acute Stroke Unit admitted 78% of patients within four hours of arrival, compared to the national average of 47%, and scanned 84% of patients within an hour of admission, compared to the national average of 54%. Congratulations to all staff involved.

OUH accredited as an NHS Global Digital Exemplar

OUH has been celebrated as a leading digital NHS trust after receiving accreditation from NHS England and Improvement as part of its [Global Digital Exemplar \(GDE\) programme](#).

The accreditation means that OUH is now an internationally recognised NHS provider which delivers improvements in the quality of care by providing staff, patients, and partners world-class digital tools and information.

The Trust started its journey to GDE certification in 2017, and since then has introduced a host of clinical-led digital improvements through more than 30 projects and thousands of individual service-led optimisations that enhance patient care and support staff.

The adoption and development of an Electronic Patient Record has been key to this milestone by providing more accessible information to staff and enabling them to deliver safer and quicker care.

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

COVID-19 safety measures and visiting rules at OUH

Following careful consideration, OUH has relaxed some of its COVID safety measures and visiting restrictions in its hospitals.

Safe distancing is now **at least 1m**, increasing wherever feasible to 1m, in clinical and public areas in the hospital – however, it remains at 2m where patients with COVID or respiratory infections are being cared for.

Rules around face masks in our hospitals remain unchanged – staff and visitors must continue to wear them.

Patients in Emergency Departments and Emergency Assessment areas can now bring **one person** with them.

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

No Excuses campaign gathers pace as body cameras launched at the Horton General

[Body cameras are now being worn by Emergency Department \(A&E\) staff at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury following a successful trial at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.](#)

Originally worn just by security staff, designated frontline clinical staff will also wear body cameras to keep themselves and patients safe. The cameras, introduced at the Horton from 16 May, are smaller than a smartphone and are worn to help deter hospital visitors from being aggressive, creating a safer environment for everyone, and helping to identify and prosecute offenders.



The cameras are only switched on when an individual is being violent or abusive, and only after they have been told that they are to be recorded.

Use of body cameras by frontline clinical staff is part of OUH's ['No Excuses' campaign](#), which launched earlier this year following a sharp rise in reported incidents around violence and aggression towards staff.

Call Me campaign launched at OUH

A new initiative to improve the hospital experience for patients who do not necessarily go by their birth name was launched at OUH on International Nurses Day on 12 May.

'Call Me', originally conceived by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, is a simple initiative where patients are given the opportunity to go by their preferred name.

This can include elderly people, who may wish to be addressed more formally as Mr or Mrs for example, people who use a middle name instead of their given birth name, people who use an abbreviated version of their name, or people who use a separate name which is not necessarily a part of their formal identification data.

More information, including a powerful video demonstrating the impact of 'Call Me', [is available on the OUH website.](#)

New partnership between OUH and Helen & Douglas House for young people with chronic conditions and Long COVID

A partnership between [Helen & Douglas House](#) and OUH is set to help young people living with chronic conditions and Long COVID.



Helen & Douglas House Chief Executive Officer, Clare Periton with OUH staff Claire Anne Marie Van Es, Libby Lamb, and Kaylee Moran

The Children's Rehabilitation Service is run by OUH and will offer an outpatient service, as well as accommodation for up to three inpatients, in a new, purpose-built location.

The service was previously based in the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre but has now moved to the ground floor of Douglas House, which was formerly the young adults' hospice, in Magdalen Road.

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

OUH Staff Recognition Awards finalists revealed

Almost 1,400 nominations were received for the OUH Staff Recognition Awards in December 2021.

[The finalists in each category have now been revealed in advance of the Staff Recognition Awards ceremony, which will be held at Oxford Town Hall on Thursday 9 June.](#)

Oxford Hospitals Charity generously supports the Staff Recognition Awards - both the Trust-wide awards ceremony and divisional events - and OUH is grateful for the support which makes important celebrations of staff achievements possible.



Douglas Graham, CEO of Oxford Hospitals Charity, said it was a privilege to support the Staff Recognition Awards to celebrate and thank teams and individuals.

Celebrating nurses, midwives and operating department practitioners

Midwives working across Oxfordshire were honoured on 5 May to mark International Day of the Midwife. Oxford Hospitals Charity distributed fruit boxes and cakes to all midwives in appreciation of their commitment and hard work to support the women and families in their care.

International Nurses Day on 12 May was also celebrated at OUH with a special conference which nurses and midwives were invited to attend face-to-face or online.

Oxford Health also celebrated the contribution made by its fantastic nurses across local and social media on International Nurses' Day.]

Read more [here](#)



Operating Department Practitioners' Day on 14 May was an opportunity for OUH to celebrate and recognise this important staff group whose role is not as widely known by the general public but who play a key part in the effective running of operating theatres.

Oxford Health Chair says 'Let's think about preventing poor mental health'

David Walker, chair of Oxford Health, used Mental Health Awareness Week as an opportunity to call for more to be done to prevent poor mental health.

Mental Health Awareness Week is hosted each year by the Mental Health Foundation and is now in its 22nd year. This year, the theme for the week was loneliness.

Watch David Walker's video blog and hear what he has to say about mental health and loneliness [here](#).



Live better, live longer – learning disability health event

A special event has been organised to help promote the positive steps people with a learning disability can take to live well and be healthier.



Organised by Oxford Health and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, 'Live better, live longer' is a free drop-in event for people with a learning disability and their carers on Tuesday, June 28 between 10am and 4pm at the Unipart Conference Suite, Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2PG

Helping carers to connect

Caring is one of the most important things one can do, but it can also be challenging and lonely. Oxford Health runs popular workshops for carers of people who are currently receiving support from the Trust's mental health teams.

The next online workshop, *Understanding and supporting someone with bipolar*, is on Thursday 26 May 26 from 10am to 12.30pm.

To find out more, and how to book, visit [this page](#)

New Chief Finance Officer announced

Senior civil servant Heather Smith will be joining Oxford Health this summer from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs where she has been Chief Financial Officer for the past four years.

Heather is expected to take up her new role as Chief Finance Officer in July as current Director of Finance Mike McEnaney retires after 11 years' service at the Trust. Read more [here](#)

Colleagues spring a DAISY surprise on nurse Kate

Colleagues surprised Oxford Health nurse Kate Warrington to present her with a DAISY award - an international recognition programme that honours and celebrates the skilful and compassionate care provided by nurses and midwives each day.



Kate is a charge nurse at Cotswold House and is also training as CBT therapist in eating disorders. She has worked in mental health since 2008 and been qualified nurse since 2013 working at Cotswold House for six years. To find out more and to nominate an Oxford Health nurse yourself, visit [this page](#).

Oxford Health employs more than 1,700 nurses who are eligible to be nominated.

Oxford Health colleagues are exceptional in the face of pressure

Oxford Health's Deputy Head of Spiritual and Pastoral Care, Rev Sally Horner, and Leys District Nurse Team were recently crowned winners of the Trust's Exceptional People Awards.

Sally had been nominated by Modern Matron Carol Gee, who praised how she has created a place of safety where patients, their families and staff can speak openly and without fear, and receive authentic, compassionate care.



Oxford Health supports Heart Failure Awareness Week



The Leys team had received two nominations: Service Director Emma Leaver and Service Manager Shafik Nassar both commented on the immense pressures the team is under and then relayed messages of fabulous feedback from a care company and from a student nurse who specifically wanted the team to be recognised. Read more [here](#).

Oxford Health supported this year's British Society for Heart Failure campaign with a series of posts on social media. The [Freedom from Failure – The F Word](#) campaign has been developed to inform and educate while inspiring a sense of hope and encouraging people to learn more about this condition, recognise symptoms and to seek timely medical help. Read more [here](#)

Community resilience

Homes for Ukraine



Partners across the Oxfordshire system are working together to support Ukrainian families and individuals arriving under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Support includes initial checks and visits to sponsor homes, benefits advice and payment, finding school

and early years placements, and registering with local GPs.

Accommodation and safeguarding visits are working well. £200 payments are being made to guests to help them with immediate costs while they settle in. This payment is usually made as a pre-loaded card, which can be used online, in shops or at a cashpoint, just like a normal debit card.

Proof of residency letters are also beginning to be issued to guests, which enables them to open bank accounts and relieves pressure from GPs being the only route for providing this confirmation.

Applications for school places are being progressed, with additional resource helping to process these quickly. The process is in line with government guidance and is the same for all children requiring a school place. A reminder has been sent to schools who manage their own admissions to inform the

county council if they have accepted, or plan to accept, any Ukrainian children onto their school roll.

We are also working to identify activities, and accompanying funding support, for those waiting for a school place. Children who are eligible to receive free school meals will be able to access any activities funded through the government's Holiday Activity Fund. This will include children in hosted families.

There is a dedicated website with further information about the support available:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine. There is also an Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline: 01865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays).

Heroic firefighters honoured for their service to Oxfordshire communities

Twenty-two firefighters who have served Oxfordshire residents for a combined total of more than 500 years have been awarded medals on behalf of The Queen in a special ceremony at Blenheim Palace.

A highlight of the prestigious event involved Oxfordshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Marjorie Glasgow BEM, presenting 'Her Majesty, The Queen's Long Service and Good Conduct' medals to 11 firefighters, each of whom have provided 20 years' service.

[Read more](#) about the winners on the county council's website.

Nightsafe Network launched to improve safety of women at night in Oxford

A new network of organisations has been established to help prevent violence against women and girls in Oxford at night.

The network brings together Oxford City Council, the universities, the police and a partnership of businesses involved in the night-time economy, including taxi drivers, fast food outlets and licensed premises. Members of the network will be trained in spotting and assisting people in need, communicate with each other through a radio system, have direct contact with the police CCTV control room and receive briefings from the police on what to expect during the weekend.

The Nightsafe Oxford Network has developed a [website](#) for advice and information on how they work together to improve safety in the evening economy. This includes campaign materials, assessment of smart phone apps to help people stay connected and alert contacts, and an overview of the interventions in place to keep people safe.



Competition to design flag for Stage 6 of the Women's Tour

Children aged 5-11 years are being invited to design the starting flag for stage 6 of the Women's Tour. The winner and their family will be given VIP access to the start of the cycling race, a signed tour shirt and will also have the honour of waving the flag to start the stage at Chipping Norton on Saturday 11 June.

Entries can be submitted up until the closing date of midday on 27 May, after which a winning design will be picked and produced. [Details about how to enter the competition](#) are available on West Oxfordshire District Council's website.



Place, Transport, Infrastructure

Improving road safety for cyclists

Oxfordshire County Council has committed to doing everything in its power to make Oxford's roads safer for cyclists, following the deaths of three women in the space of six months.

A working group including councillors from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council, senior council officers, and figures from membership organisations in the cycling and active travel fields, are discussing short-term and long-term changes and improvements, focusing on specific sites. These include Headley Way/London Road in Oxford; Oxford Road/Oxford Parkway Station in Water Eaton; and The Plain in Oxford.

County commits to enabling more trees to be planted

A change in approach will help increase the number of trees in Oxfordshire after a new policy was approved by the county council's Cabinet last month.

The new policy will put the emphasis on a 'presumption in favour of trees' because of the host of benefits they provide to the climate, the



environment and the places where people live.

One requirement of the policy is to plant two new trees for every tree that has to be removed from

county council land. It also promises to explore new tree planting opportunities and extra investment to carry it out, stricter guidelines for those wanting to remove existing trees and implement proactive care to prolong the lives of established trees.

East Oxford Community Centre redevelopment ready to begin

Oxford City Council is preparing to start the £5.4m redevelopment of East Oxford's community spaces, including East Oxford Community Centre. This major investment in the area will **redevelop three ageing community sites** into one modern, accessible, purpose-built centre with a lower carbon footprint. The project will also provide a mix of social, affordable and market-priced housing in East Oxford.

The community centre is now closed, and site surveys will start the next stage of development.

Nearly £600,000 allocated towards new sports pavilion in Kingston Bagpuize

A purpose-built sports pavilion is being built for villagers and local sports groups in Kingston Bagpuize.

Vale of White Horse District Council approved £596,757 for Kingston Bagpuize, with Southmoor Parish Council, using funds made up of developer contributions, which have been collected by the district council as part of an agreement to build new homes in the area.

The construction of the new building has started and is expected to be finished this summer. Once complete, it will have a new function room, catering kitchen, and changing and shower rooms for the sports groups using the building.

Economy

Support for Cherwell businesses

A new fund has launched to support Cherwell-based companies to move into an effective renewal phase following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Cherwell Business Adaptation Fund](#) is being delivered and led by the OxLEP business team on behalf of Cherwell District Council and is designed to help Cherwell businesses run as efficiently as possible and remain productive.



Grants are available between £5,000 and £20,000 per business for capital and/or revenue-based projects. Applicants need to complete a pre-qualifying process, which will close on or before 27 May (subject to the level of interest) before applying. The closing date for applications is 7 June.

Sixth annual apprenticeship awards announced

The winners of the 2022 Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards were announced on 19 May. More than 20 apprentices, businesses and education providers

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

from across the county were shortlisted, and 10 went on to win awards across a range of categories.

Organised by OxLEP, the annual awards recognise work-based learning excellence across a breadth of sectors. A list of winners and finalists can be found at www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2022

