

# Oxfordshire NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing: COVID-19

23 June 2020

Oxfordshire health and local authority partners continue to work together to provide an effective and sustained response to COVID-19. This week's stakeholder briefing includes updates on the following:

- [Change of Chief Executive at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [Addressing health inequalities in the wake of COVID](#)
- [Supporting Oxfordshire's business community](#)
- [Plasma Clinical Trial](#)
- [Learning Disabilities Week](#)
- [Helping families cope with COVID: Co-SPACE and Co-SPYCE key findings](#)
- [Shape Oxford Health's digital future](#)
- [RECOVERY trial breakthrough](#)
- [F1 technology helps create aerosol shield to protect COVID-19 clinicians](#)
- [Patients and visitors to hospitals must now wear face coverings](#)
- [Saying thank you to the children of OUH staff](#)

## Change of Chief Executive at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT) saw one era ending and new one starting as Stuart Bell CBE retired and Dr Nick Broughton started as chief executive of Oxford Health, formally taking on the role on 15 June. Nick brings a wealth of experience to Oxford Health, having joined the Trust from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, where he led the organisation from a CQC rating of 'Requires Improvement' in 2017 to 'Good' in January 2020.

Prior to that Nick was chief executive of Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. As a consultant psychiatrist for more than 20 years, specialising in forensic psychiatry, he has held medical and clinical director roles, and a variety of other managerial positions, including as a director of Imperial College Healthcare Partners. He obtained his medical degree from Cambridge and completed his training at St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

Stuart's 38-year NHS career came to a close on June 12 with a [special ceremony](#) led by Trust chair David Walker.

## Addressing health inequalities in the wake of COVID

Organisations across Oxfordshire are being asked to come together by the County Council's Director of Public Health to intensify efforts to help the most deprived areas of the county in the wake of COVID-19. Oxfordshire may be one of the most affluent counties in the UK, but it includes 10 of the most deprived wards in the whole of England. The inequalities that exist in the county, the impact they have on the health and wellbeing of residents and the need for action, are the focus of the Director of Public Health's [annual report](#). Watch Ansa Azhar introduce his report in this [short video](#).

## Raising awareness of scams

Residents have been warned to be on their guard against criminals and scammers exploiting the coronavirus situation. As part of **Scams Awareness Fortnight (15-28 June)**, Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards have been [advising residents](#) how to avoid falling victim to scams targeting people via emails, text messages and on the doorstep. Scams which Trading Standards are aware of include:

- People offering miracle cures or vaccines for coronavirus.
- People impersonating healthcare workers, claiming to be offering 'home testing' for coronavirus
- Mobile phone applications that claim to give updates on the virus, but instead lock your phone and demand a ransom.

Anyone who thinks they have may have been scammed should report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

### **Supporting Oxfordshire's business community**

Over 900 applications have been received for the COVID-19 Business Resilience Fund, set up by Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). The scheme, which closed on 5 June, provides small businesses and sole traders, including charities and social enterprises, with revenue grants of up to £5,000 or capital grants of up to £10,000. In total, £250,000 has been made available for revenue grants and £500,000 for capital grants.

### **Plasma Clinical Trial**

The NHS is collecting blood plasma from patients who have recovered from COVID-19 to help with [national clinical trials](#). People are being encouraged to donate plasma (convalescent plasma) if you have recovered from a confirmed case of coronavirus or had symptoms. One of the sites where you are able to do this is at the Oxford Blood Donor Centre at John Radcliffe Hospital. In most cases they also collect blood and platelets at these venues so there are limited appointments for plasma donors each day. This means you cannot give plasma without an appointment. Those who have recovered from COVID-19 and are interested in donating plasma are able to complete this [online form](#).

### **Learning Disabilities Week**

Oxford Health led on systems communications to support Learning Disabilities Week (15-21 June). A [story](#) shared with partners and stakeholders showcases some of the key support available for people with LD, including a variety of easy read material which is available for GPs and all health professionals to share.

### **Helping families cope with COVID: Co-SPACE and Co-SPYCE key findings**

The Co-SPACE and Co-SPYCE studies led by Professor Cathy Creswell are tracking how families are coping during the COVID-19 crisis. The research is being shared with organisations who can use it to provide families with the support they need. Both [CO-SPACE](#) and [CO-SPYCE](#) have recently published updates on their key findings. [Previous updates](#) and a [webinar series](#) on supporting families during lockdown are also available. CO-SPACE is still recruiting families to [take part here](#).

### **Shape Oxford Health's digital future**

Oxford Health is calling all patients, carers and service users to help shape the Trust's digital strategy. By taking part in a short [survey](#) everyone can have their say in the future digital options for local healthcare. The survey is published online and also distributed to all public and patient Foundation Trust members.

### **RECOVERY trial breakthrough**

The scale and scope of COVID-19 related research activity taking place in Oxford demonstrates not only the University of Oxford's status as a global centre for research but also the benefits to patients of the strategic partnership between the NHS and the university.

Oxfordshire patients with COVID-19 were among the first to be recruited to a major [new clinical trial](#) to test potential drug treatments. The [Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy \(RECOVERY\) trial](#), led by researchers from the University of Oxford, is the largest of its kind in the world.

Data is regularly reviewed so that any effective treatment can be identified quickly and made available to all patients. Last week the researchers announced that dexamethasone (a steroid treatment which was among the drugs being tested) reduces death by up to one third in hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19. Dexamethasone is the first drug to reduce mortality from COVID-19 and is a ground breaking development in the fight against the disease. The drug is also inexpensive and widely available.

### **F1 technology helps create aerosol shield to protect COVID-19 clinicians**

A new type of aerosol shield designed by motor racing engineers to improve the treatment of COVID-19 patients and the safety of frontline clinical staff has been approved for use at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Foundation Trust.

The new '[Oxford Box](#)' is designed to keep frontline staff safe during intubation procedures when a tube is inserted into a patient's body, for example when an artificial ventilation tube is inserted into the trachea to help a patient breathe.

The Renault DP World Formula 1 Team and the University of Oxford's Oxford Simulation, Teaching & Research (OxSTaR) Centre played significant roles in its development. After extensive trials at OxSTaR and the training of key clinical staff, OUH has approved the use of the Oxford Box across its four hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

The Oxford Box is unique because it is completely collapsible, easy to stow away and is much easier to clean than other similar devices being developed, which helps enormously with infection control. It is believed that the Oxford Box is the best aerosol shield available; it is expected to be used beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Patients and visitors to hospitals must now wear face coverings**

In line with new Government guidance, [all patients and visitors](#) to NHS hospitals in Oxfordshire must now wear face coverings; this rule came into effect on 15 June. Patients and visitors may wear a face mask if they choose, but a face covering is sufficient.

Also from 15 June, all staff working in NHS hospitals must wear face masks (not face coverings) unless they are in 'COVID secure' areas where the infection risk is low.

This is an additional measure to help keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most important thing everyone can do is to continue to observe social distancing and maintain good hand hygiene – as well as wearing a face covering when in a hospital.

### **Saying thank you to the children of OUH staff**

The OUH's Chief Executive Officer sent a personal message to all OUH staff in which he acknowledged how tough things have been for everyone during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact this can have on family life.

He wrote a thank you letter which staff members could print off and add in the name (s) of their child/children – it was made available to download and print off from the [Oxford Hospitals Charity website](#).

### **Frequency and further information:**

For the time being we will be sharing an update fortnightly; this may change as we review communications for the COVID-19 response and recovery phase of the pandemic.

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