

29 June 2021

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND

Prof. Meghana Pandit  
Chief Medical Officer  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
by e-mail: [Meghana.Pandit@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:Meghana.Pandit@ouh.nhs.uk)

Dear Professor Pandit,

**OUH NHS FT progress against quality priorities 2020/21; priorities for 2021/22**

Thank you for presenting information on Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust's (OUHFT) quality priorities to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on 24 June.

I and the committee fully recognise the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on OUH's work over the past year. We are acutely aware of the pressures on you and your teams and the impacts which this has had on workloads and on physical and mental health across OUH. As such we are very grateful both for the work which OUH does and for your time in bringing details of it before the committee.

The presentation you made gave the committee a clear account of progress against OUH's priorities for 2020-21. There is much to applaud, both in what has been achieved, whether fully or partially, and the manner in which OUH has applied its values to the delivery of its priorities. Your focus on OUH growing stronger together as you collectively begin to recover from the pandemic was both evident and reassuring.

The achievements recorded in your presentation are impressive and welcome. The additional explanatory detail about how COVID and other factors led to some of your priorities being "partially achieved" or "not achieved", is appreciated, particularly given the committee's earlier discussion of closed pathways during the pandemic.

I and the committee were also reassured to understand how those 2020-21 priorities which were 'partially' or 'not' achieved remain actively pursued, tracked and reported to the OUH Board in the current business year. Your response to Cllr van Mierlo, explaining that your 2021-22 priorities do not explicitly reference mental health because you will continue to report on that among 2020-21 "partially achieved" priorities, was a helpful example of this in action.

I and the committee are very supportive of your priorities for 2021-22. In discussion of the year ahead I was very encouraged by your response to Cllr Hicks about how OUH will continue to work with partners to apply its expertise and resources to preventative activities at population health scales, which could help reduce the demand for admissions. You also gave helpful examples of how OUH collaboration with Oxford Health and the Biomedical Research Centre has already involved research into reducing admissions due to multi-morbidity, and how your existing Hospital at Home services have supported those with a COVID diagnosis at home and so avoided admissions or readmissions. I look forward to hearing more about these preventative and partnership elements of your Strategic Framework 2020-25 in the coming years.

I and the committee remain very keen to continue to support OUH and the wider health and care system in the coming year. I look forward to further details of how the priorities identified through this process develop through the 2021-22 business year and would welcome further discussion at a future HOSC meeting in due course. Equally if there are matters or proposals on which OUH would like the committee's engagement please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

[ *by e-mail* ]

Cllr Jane Hanna

Chair, Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

[Jane.Hanna@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Hanna@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Contact: Steven Fairhurst Jones, Senior Policy Officer

Email: [steven.fairhurstjones@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:steven.fairhurstjones@oxfordshire.gov.uk)