

8 July 2021

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

Britta Klinck  
Deputy Chief Nurse  
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

By e-mail, copied to Jane Kershaw, Head of Quality Governance

Dear Ms Klinck,

**Oxford Health NHS FT Draft Quality Account 2020/21**

Thank you for sharing the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's (OHFT) draft Quality Account 20/21 with the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) on 24 June.

I and the committee fully recognise the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on OHFT's work over the past year. We are acutely aware of the escalation in pressures on mental health and the importance of resilience in the system. In what has clearly been an exceptional year for the Trust I and the committee give our thanks to all staff at Oxford Health for the work they do, in particular over the past year.

The Quality Account is a valuable tool in helping the public to understand the Trust's performance and priorities for improving the quality of services. The committee is supportive of OHFT's vision – outstanding care delivered by outstanding teams – and also of how you seek both to empower staff to work towards this vision, and to collaborate with patients and carers on services, whether consultatively or using co-production.

The committee recognises and fully understands why many of OHFT's quality objectives from 20-21 are not fully complete and have been rolled over into the new business year.

We welcomed your assurance that you continue to work towards these objectives, and that you have continued to make progress in a number of domains despite the pressures of the pandemic.

As the new Chair of our Committee I and the committee look forward to working with Oxfordshire Health NHS Foundation Trust. Thank you for your appreciation of our very full agenda for the first meeting of the new JHOSC committee. This letter I hope gives my fuller appreciation of the 50-page report. We will be taking the opportunity as a committee to finalise our work programme for 2021/2022 and look forward to working with you.

I and the committee were particularly pleased to hear how OHFT has maintained a focus on staff wellbeing and mental health while pursuing its priority objectives. Many committee members, including myself, have experience of working in fields concerning mental health and trauma. Your description of how OHFT staff are being given support, and space to reflect and recover was reassuring, and no doubt welcome to you and your colleagues.

With that in mind it was also especially welcome to hear that OHFT has managed to launch, during the pandemic, new services to support mental health – your new 111 service, for example, which provides direct access to mental health professionals, and your expanded mental health crisis centres which are both helping individuals in need and reducing the demand for acute admissions. This also includes the work to improve the experience of patients and families during end of Life Care: we note your collaborations and the launch of end of life care plans during Dying Matters week 2021.

We were pleased to hear all your key achievements and awards. Although we only had time in the committee to hear about the Vaughan Thomas award (interior design supporting the needs of psychiatric patients suffering from sleep deprivation) you are congratulated for all your awards across your team during a most challenging of years. Your global achievement of your Clinical Research Faculty working in support of the COVID-19 vaccination trials has benefited the public in Oxfordshire and around the world and locally including your work which has been recognised in the Community Hospital's Association Award.

As the new Chair of our Committee I look forward to working with you. The committee programme at our last meeting was full and we will be taking the opportunity as a committee to finalise our work programme for 2021/2022.

Committee members are keenly interested in the development of services across Oxfordshire. We recognise where progress has been made and the commitment to working to meet the target sets that are rolled over to 2021/2022.

It is helpful for me and the committee to have the red-flag areas highlighted by OHFT such as inappropriate placements of adults mental health patients; preventing future death reports action plans and also in relation to the physical health care of patients with severe mental health illness. So too the developing plans for mental health services of the young during the pandemic. Cllr Hicks raised the services for the 18-25 year olds. Across all services you describe we look forward to learning more about support and supervision of staff.

I and the committee look forward to working with OHFT and the wider health and care system in the coming year. I look forward to further details of how work towards your priorities develops through the 2021-22 business year and would welcome further discussion at a future HOSC meeting in due course.

I and the committee look forward to building strong working relationship taking into consideration the transformation of health and social care systems and strengthening of wider partnerships as these evolve. I and my committee will be finalising our work programme for 2021/2022 taking this into consideration. If there are matters or proposals

on which OHFT would like the committee's engagement please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr Jane Hanna

Chair, Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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