



Membership Matters February 2025 - Council of Governors Election Special

Welcome to your first Membership Matters newsletter of 2025 - a newsletter for members of the Trust with recent news and forthcoming events. This month we include the opening of Oxford Health's Council of Governor elections 2025, the announcement of the Trust's new Director of Corporate Affairs, our staff awards, the new Interim Chief Operating Officer for Community Health Services, Dentistry & Primary Care announcement, plus much more happening around the Trust.

As a [member](#) you decide how much, or how little you want to get involved. We'd love you to attend our events, share your thoughts, or even stand to become the governor in your area (there are governor elections taking place this Spring, more details below). If you're a [social media](#) user, feel free to like and share posts so that your friends, family and colleagues can get to know more about us and the work that we do. Or you may simply want to be kept informed. However you choose to show your support and make a difference, we are happy to have you on board.

If you would like to contact the governors of the Trust, please use this link [local governor](#).

News from around the Trust

Oxford Health's Council of Governors 2025 Elections

Today, 28 February, our election nominations have opened for our Governor positions at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and will close on Friday 28 March. Governors are elected by the Trust's members. Governors represent specific constituencies covering the geographic areas we work in, and the groups of people we care for.



We have 22 vacancies this year, of those 15 are for public, patient and carers constituencies.

Constituency	Class	Seat/s
Public	Buckinghamshire	3
Public	Oxfordshire	3
Public	Rest of England & Wales	1
Patient	Carers	2
Patient Service Users	Buckinghamshire & Other Counties	3
Patient Service Users	Oxfordshire	3
Staff	Buckinghamshire Mental Health Services	1
Staff	Community Services	2
Staff	Mental Health Services Oxfordshire, Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES), Swindon & Wilts	2
Staff	Specialised Services	2

What do governors do?

Governors have an important role helping the Trust understand what people think about our services. They represent the interests of the public and the Trust members who elected them. They also work with the board of directors to monitor the progress and delivery of the Trust's plans and priorities.

How can I find out more?

We will be hosting two public online candidate information events on Tuesday 11 March and Thursday 20 March for you to hear first-hand what governors do, and how much time is involved. These are friendly, informal events where you can ask all the questions you may have.

Visit the Trust's website to find out more, invitation links to the information events and how you can nominate yourself to become an Oxford Health governor.

[Website: Oxford Health Council of Governors election nominations](#)

New Director of Corporate Affairs joins Oxford Health

Taff Gidi has joined Oxford Health as the new Executive Director of Corporate Affairs.

Taff has worked in the NHS since 2015 and has joined us from Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust where he was their Executive Director of Governance and Risk.



He was appointed following a competitive interview process and will take up the reigns from Georgia Denegri who has been Associate Director of Corporate Affairs who has been with the Trust in an interim capacity since the spring of last year. Georgia will remain at the Trust during a period of hand over with Taff until 28 February.

Taff said: “I am very pleased to be joining the Trust at this exciting time and I look forward to meeting colleagues across all areas of the Trust in due time.”

Nominations are open for Oxford Health’s Staff Awards

Oxford Health is calling for patients, service users, carers and families to recognise and reward exceptional support and care provided by Oxford Health staff.

This year there are two awards that staff, patients, service users and carers can vote for online. To find out more and view the categories, go to the Oxford Health website.

Nominations will close on Sunday 16 March.

[Website: Oxford Health Staff Awards](#)



Interim Chief Operating Officer for Community Health Services, Dentistry & Primary Care announced

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has announced that Emma Leaver will take on the role of interim chief operating officer for community health services, dentistry and primary care, from March 2025.



Emma, who is currently the Trust’s service director for community health services, dentistry and primary care, has 37 years of experience in the NHS having qualified as a nurse, midwife and a health visitor. She has held leadership roles for the last 24 years, working in Oxfordshire since 2003.

Trial for blood tests to diagnose dementia accepts first participants at Warneford Hospital

A country-wide trial aiming to revolutionise how dementia is diagnosed using blood tests is now underway, in a bid to improve the UK's diagnosis rate.



The READ-OUT team, led by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust's Director of Research and Development (OHFT) Professor Vanessa Raymont, Professor James Rowe and Dr Ivan Koychev with Dementias Platform UK researchers from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge has welcomed its first participants into the study, at OHFT Warneford Hospital in Oxford.

Find out more about the trial on the Trust website.

[Website: Trial for blood tests to diagnose dementia accepts first participants at Warneford Hospital](#)

Oxford Health's Research and Development 2024 Highlights

As we get settled into 2025, let's take the opportunity to reflect on the many successes, changes and developments during 2024 across the research infrastructures at Oxford Health.



Have a look at what the Research and Development team got up to in 2024.

[Website: Research and Development 2024 Highlights](#)

NHS111 service for mental health services – national patient survey

NHS England would like to hear from people who have accessed crisis mental health services through the NHS 111 'select mental health option' service.



If you have used NHS 111 and selected the mental health option, NHS England would like to know how you found this service, and the quality of support you received from the 111 handlers.

The survey closes on 15 July.

[Website: NHS111 service for mental health services - National patient survey](#)

Oxford Health Charity

Oxford Health Charity 2023/24 annual report is now published!

Oxford Health Charity would like to thank everyone for their support – whether financial, social or physical –it is truly appreciated and makes a difference every day to enable them to enhance patient care throughout the Trust.



Find out how your efforts have made a difference.

[Website: Oxford Health Charity 2023/24 annual report](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Board of Directors

Wednesday 26 March 2025, 9am to 3:30pm. Papers will be available on the Trust website. [Website: Meeting Papers](#)

Council of Governors

Thursday 6 March 2025, 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Papers will be available on the Trust website. [Website: Meeting Papers](#)

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