Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

10 November 2020

Oxfordshire health and local authority partners are working together to respond to the pandemic and help the county restart, recover and renew in the wake of COVID-19.

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In the seven days up to Friday 30 October, there has been a total of 814 confirmed new cases in Oxfordshire, which is equivalent to a weekly rate of 117.7 per 100,000 residents. The total number of cases is similar in number to the 813 new cases reported in the previous week.

These figures are based on the nationally reported dataset. From work with Public Health England and the University of Oxford, we are aware of under-reporting in Oxford due to University cases not being attributed to a specific geography on the national surveillance system. Taking the University data into account – who reported 212 cases for the week up to 30 October – the figure for Oxford City is 418 cases. This is similar to the previous week, when the University reported 208 cases. Public Health England and the University are working together closely to ensure University data is provided in a way that can automatically be included in the national surveillance system in the future.

The trend of wider community transmission across all age groups continues. The evidence shows that the virus has spread beyond younger people in urban areas to older and more vulnerable age groups in all parts of the county. Hospital admissions are increasing as a result.

Further information about COVID cases in Oxfordshire is at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stopthespread.

#StopTheSpread

Partners across the Oxfordshire system are continuing to work closely to issue communications. The focus is currently on urging residents to follow the new restrictions, raising awareness about COVID-19 symptoms, and reminding children and young people that they must wear face coverings on school transport.

Test and trace

As the virus continues to spread across the county, residents are being urged to get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Director of Public Health Ansaf Azhar said: “Testing protects residents and provides the opportunity to create a full picture of how the virus is spreading within communities.”

A new testing site opened in Oxford (Oxpens) on 6 November, and an additional site is due to open in Banbury (Woodgreen Leisure Centre) on 17 November. Work is also ongoing to bring further sites to West Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire’s local contact tracing system is a collaboration across Oxfordshire’s six councils, who are working collectively to contact people whom the NHS test and trace national system is unable to reach. Launched on 13 October, it is designed to provide another layer of support to help control the virus.

Since the service began a month ago, it has averaged around 30 referrals per day, and in the past week it has achieved a 65% successful contact and completion rate.

Lockdown measures and their impact

In the wake of the second national lockdown, the leaders of Oxfordshire’s six councils, the CEO of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

came together to urge residents to play their part to stem the spread of the virus and save lives.

What are the new restrictions?

- People must stay at home unless they have a specific reason to leave, such as education and work which cannot be done from home.
- Pubs, restaurants and non-essential shops and businesses must close, although hospitality venues can continue to provide takeaway and delivery services.
- Schools, colleges, universities and early years settings can remain open.
- People must not meet socially indoors or in a private garden with family or friends who are not part of their household or support bubble.
- People should reduce the number of journeys they make and avoid all but essential travel.
- People are allowed to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place with members of their household or support bubble.
- A maximum of two people from different households – excluding children under school age – are allowed to meet outdoors for exercise or to visit an outdoor public place.

Detailed information about the new restrictions is available on the gov.uk website**.**

What public services remain open?

Under the new national restrictions, a greater number of public services can remain open than under the previous lockdown. This includes schools, colleges, and early years settings; household waste recycling centres; and registrar's offices. Public outdoor spaces including parks, gardens and playgrounds will remain open.

Outdoor markets will also be able to continue, although trade will be limited to food and other essential items; and Oxford Covered Market will continue to trade**.**

What has temporarily closed?

The government has confirmed that leisure and sports facilities, including leisure centres, gyms and swimming pools, must close, together with libraries and museums. This includes Oxfordshire County Council's libraries and the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock.

The county council's home library service will continue to operate, as will the online library service. A potential new click-and-collect service is being investigated, together with limited access to public network PCs across a small number of library branches.

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Patients reassured that safe cancer care is still available during the COVID-19 pandemic

A new study by clinicians at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) has found that more than 6,000 patients who underwent endoscopy at 18 NHS hospitals since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic have been tested and none contracted the virus as a result of the procedure, which can be crucial in detecting cancer at an early stage.

Professor James East, OUH's Clinical Lead for Endoscopy and an author on the study, said: "Our findings show that the infection control measures that have been put in place across the NHS work.

"We hope this reassures patients who are anxious about attending hospital. COVID-19 is a risk that we have taken significant steps to mitigate, and we must also address the risk of harm from delayed or missed diagnoses because people are reluctant to attend appointments in hospital.

"We'd like to remind people receiving cancer care in Oxfordshire that safe cancer care is available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Trust has

taken numerous measures to make sure our patients can still receive their care in a safe environment. These include designating the Churchill Hospital in Oxford as a 'cold' site, which means that the presence of COVID-19 is brought down to an absolute minimum."

GPs and hospital clinicians in Oxfordshire are supporting a national NHS campaign reminding people that cancer care is still available during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Nick Maynard, Trustwide Cancer Lead at OUH, said: "We can absolutely reassure our patients that we can still provide all necessary cancer treatments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and have robust measures in place to keep them safe should they need to come and see us.

"Patient safety is paramount to us – whether that is protecting them from COVID-19 or providing the care they need to treat their cancer. With many cancers, early detection is a key part of successful treatment.

"The key message is to seek medical help if you have any symptoms of cancer, and please continue to attend any appointments for investigations and treatment. We are here to help you and will do everything we can to keep you safe."

Visiting arrangements for Oxfordshire's hospitals

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) currently has a 'Rule of One' approach to inpatient visiting – one visitor per inpatient for one hour once a day. The Trust has kept this under constant review and will continue to do so after Oxford City moved into Tier 2 on 31 October and after the start of national lockdown in England on 5 November.

OUH will be reminding everyone that visitors must follow their guidance when coming to hospital – wearing face coverings, keeping to the 'Rule of One', and making sure they are not coming to visit if they are feeling unwell or have COVID symptoms.

There are also restrictions around outpatient appointments**.** Patients should attend on their own unless there are exceptional circumstances such as a patient requiring a carer or parent, having learning difficulties, experiencing mental health difficulties, or being unable to communicate.

Visitors are not allowed to accompany patients attending Emergency Departments or Emergency Assessment Units, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Visiting policies at Oxford Health's community and mental health inpatient wards remain unchanged for now as we enter a new lockdown phase.

Oxford Health is continuing to operate a bookable system, which allows one visitor for one hour for each patient. Strict COVID-19 controls are in place. Visiting will be suspended on wards where there are positive patients.

Virtual contacts are being actively encouraged to further support patients' and service users' recovery and wellbeing. Our Letters to a Loved One – friends, family and carers' letters delivered to bedsides – is continuing and extra volunteers being recruited to assist patients to use video calling technology via iPad/tablets, which are available for every patient bed.

All wards have a patient phone, which friends and family can call. More information on visiting, including booking arrangements, can be found here.

Working through a pandemic – lessons from COVID

Frontline staff at Oxford University Hospitals talk about the changes to their services and their experience of treating COVID-19 patients in a short documentary film which has been made in-house to capture the learning from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020.

The film will not only be helpful to clinical staff at OUH and elsewhere within the NHS as we prepare for the second wave of the pandemic, but also reassuring to the local community because it captures the expertise and joined-up working of clinical teams. In the film, which can be viewed on the OUH YouTube channel**,** a COVID-19 patient also talks about his treatment journey from admission to intensive care treatment and

rehabilitation before he was well enough to be discharged.

'Taking a break? Don't let down your guard!' message communicated to OUH staff

As COVID-19 cases increase both in the local community and in hospitals, staff working at Oxford University Hospitals are being reminded of the importance of protecting each other and their patients by wearing a face mask, using hand sanitiser, and adhering to safe distancing – even when meeting friends and colleagues on a break.

A new poster is now available for staff to download and print off for use in their area of the Trust so that everyone gets the message.

On site restaurant seating reserved for staff only in OUH hospitals

From 2 November, the seating in all restaurants and catering outlets on all OUH hospital sites is reserved for staff only. Patients and visitors will continue to be offered a takeaway service.

These new safety measures have been put in place to ensure that staff can take their breaks safely and to minimise risk for everyone. All staff have been reminded of the importance of taking breaks for their health and wellbeing.

Staff have also been reminded to wear a new mask to and from tables in restaurants and catering outlets, keep to the safe distancing rules, not to rearrange the seating which has been set out to keep them safe, and not to share a table with anyone unless they are from the same household.

Supporting patients with COVID-19 in the community

Three centres have been identified to provide support for patients with COVID-19 and symptoms of the infection. This additional face-to-face capacity for primary care will see the most infectious COVID-19 patients in a dedicated clinic or via a home visit. It comprises three clinics: in Wallingford, Banbury and Oxford City, supported by a visiting service for those people unable to travel safely.

These are not walk-in clinics. Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID who are finding it difficult to manage their symptoms at home, or who may need extra assessment and care, will be referred to the service by their GP or NHS111 as appropriate. Each clinic and the visiting service follows strict infection prevention protocols to ensure the safety of the clinicians and patients.

Currently the clinics and visiting service all have good capacity and are prepared for an increase in demand.

Supporting vulnerable residents

Those residents considered to be Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) to the effects of COVID-19 have been advised to protect themselves during lockdown.

However, the restrictions are less onerous than in the first period of shielding in order to help maintain people's wellbeing and as the environment is considered safer.

CEV individuals have been told that they should not go to work or into shops, but outdoor exercise outside is encouraged: they may meet one individual in the same way as other residents,

although they are advised to take great care to remain socially distanced. Non-CEV household members do not need to shield.

Further evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even those with existing health conditions. Therefore most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow the advice that applies to adults; the expectation is the majority will be able to attend school during the current lockdown. Parents and carers of CEV children are advised to consult their child's GP or specialist clinician, if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

CEV residents are being sent a letter from the Department of Health and Social Care, which advises them of the new shielding restrictions and invites them to sign up to a new national registration service. This service went live in Oxfordshire on 4 November.

Through this system, residents are able to secure priority supermarket delivery slots and request support from their local council. The expectation is that most Oxfordshire residents will be able to find the help they need through self-help, community support and commercial providers. For urgent need that cannot be met elsewhere, local authorities have put in place provision to ensure that everyone's basic needs are met. The city and district councils are proactively contacting those residents most likely to require support, while all councils can help people register on the national system. The county council's Children's and Adults' Social Care teams are continuing to engage with those CEV residents with whom they are already in contact to ensure that their ongoing needs are met.

Support for vulnerable residents is part of a broader Oxfordshire system framework to help those who need to stay at home for whatever reason, and to support the economically vulnerable. This includes help to access online shopping, signposting to community support groups, financial grants for community food providers and advice services, direct support to individuals - including emergency support for food, and administration of the government's Test and Trace support payment.

Further information on support arrangements for residents is available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus**.**

New urgent care service launched in the county

The NHS in Oxfordshire has launched a new service, which will assess patients with urgent care needs via the NHS 111 telephone service to determine the right service for that patient.

If clinically appropriate, a patient could be booked a timeslot at the John Radcliffe or Horton General Hospital's Emergency Departments (also known as Accident and Emergency departments). People with potentially life-threatening illnesses or injuries should still contact 999.

Oxfordshire is one of the areas in the South East region to launch the service ahead of the national launch on 1 December. The national NHS 111 First programme is being introduced to reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections during the current pandemic by preventing over-crowding in assessment areas. This should help to improve outcomes and patient experience in healthcare settings, as well as providing a long-term model of access to urgent and emergency care services within Oxfordshire.

People in Oxfordshire who need urgent care but whose condition is not serious or life-threatening are advised to contact NHS 111. If a clinical opinion is needed, experienced senior clinicians with local knowledge will offer informed advice and/or refer the patient to the most appropriate clinical setting

for assessment. If the patient needs to be seen in their local ED, they will then be issued with a timeslot for their arrival.

If patients attend ED without having gone through NHS 111, they will be assessed in a timely way by a clinical staff member and will receive emergency care and treatment if they need it.

Call NHS 111 First for minor injuries and first aid

In support of OUH and NHS 111 First, Oxford Health has also been reminding people that minor injuries and first aid units across the county have already made the switch to a triage/booking system via NHS 111 as part of our COVID response - minimising visits for injuries that can be self-treated or helped via GP/pharmacy.

People with deep cuts, eye injuries, broken bones, severe sprains, minor head injuries, minor burns and scalds are advised to call NHS111 for an appointment window at their nearest appropriate unit. People who do arrive at sites without calling NHS 111 first will not be turned away, but may have to wait to be seen if there are more urgent/priority cases.

Strict COVID-19 controls are in place. Oxford Health has widely shared social media content from other partners and also published its own story which can be found here and received coverage in the local press.

We are here for you

With new lockdown rules in place Oxford Health embarked on a renewed website and social media campaign for this latest lockdown to ensure all patients, service users, friends, family and carers are reassured that help and treatments are still available. This includes:

- Mental health support and advice in schools and colleges via mental health support teams.
- Mental health support and advice with our free 24-7 mental health helplines for adults 0800 783 0119 and for children and young people on 0800 783 0121.
- Health visitors are still offering face-to-face contacts as well as support for parents digitally and by phone, well baby clinics and nursery nurses virtual health promotion groups. More here.
- School Health Nursing. School sessions and catch up clinics are planned until December with the school flu nasal vaccination programme well underway - uptake so far has been good with over 9,000 vaccinations already given.

Staff make their voices heard during Speak Up Month

October was Speak Up Month – an opportunity to raise awareness of the Freedom to Speak Up vision for Oxford University Hospitals, approved by the Trust Board, which is to “promote and ultimately create an open and transparent culture where every member of staff can and should speak up safely, action is taken so the concern is resolved, and our patients ultimately benefit".

Trust Board members and staff from across the Trust recorded short video clips, which were publicised via the OUH Twitter feed @OUHospitals.

OUH was in the **top 10 most improved NHS trusts nationally** when the latest Freedom to Speak Up Index was published.

Oxford Health’s Freedom to Speak Up guardian engaged with 175 individuals across the Trust, held webinars, drop-in sessions and workshops. Staff at all levels were pictured with pledge cards to highlighted why speaking up is so important so that staff can raise concerns and action can be taken that ultimately impacts on improved patient care. With full board support, Speaking Up will continue to be promoted and strengthened during the coming weeks and months.

Care leaver ambassadors launched in Oxfordshire

Care leavers in Oxfordshire will have an opportunity to share their vision for improving lives of young people, thanks to the recruitment of their very own team of ambassadors**.**

Ambassadors for the Children in Care Council (CiCC) have been appointed to ensure the voices of

children and young people in care are heard and included in decision making.

They will be meeting and talking to children out of county, those with disabilities, and new arrivals to Oxfordshire's children in care scheme, and will ensure that care leavers are given a high priority and are supported through to independent living when they leave care.

Oxfordshire has 465 care leavers aged 18-25. Included in this number are 111 young adults, who joined as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Care Leavers face big challenges as they move into adulthood and it is important support is available from many sources. Within Oxfordshire County Council, key partner agencies such as CiCC help and encourage them to lead happy, successful, and independent lives.

Wallingford Community Hospital joins Golden Anniversary celebrations

The first Community Hospital in the UK – Wallingford Community Hospital – is helping to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Community Hospital Association.

The facility opened as the 'Wallingford and District Cottage Hospital' in 1880 during Queen Victoria's reign and has provided care through two world wars and is still going strong today.

Now, as one of Oxford Health's six community hospitals in the county, which have eight wards between them, Wallingford provides vital physical and mental health services for the local population. It houses 16 in-patient beds, adult mental health services, day hospital, physiotherapy, podiatry, as well as a base for the District Nursing Services covering Wallingford, Benson, Goring and community therapy services. It is also home to a maternity unit run by Oxford University Hospitals.

Service Director Emma Leaver and Dr Helen Tucker were interviewed on BBC Radio Oxford. Read the full story here.

Hospital at Home celebrates a decade of help

A community team, who provide care previously only available in hospital, are celebrating their 10th birthday this month.

Oxford Health's Hospital at Home Team was set up in November 2010 to provide healthcare for people at home as an alternative to hospital admission and also to support earlier discharges from acute beds for those who are well enough to return home.

Hospital at Home patients stay in their own homes but receive extra care and attention from the specialist team. The service is provided across Oxfordshire and, in the last five years alone, has helped 6,530 individual patients.

Sue Palmer from the team spoke to BBC Radio Oxford about the team's work and the many thousands of patients and families they have worked with since 2010. Find out more about the team here.

NHS App

A key part of the winter plan in Oxfordshire is to encourage people to know which healthcare service to use and when.

Health professionals in Oxfordshire are urging people to sign up to the NHS App as winter pressure on services increases. The App can help people get the right care they need from the most appropriate place, make a GP appointment or even avoid a visit to a hospital Emergency Department.

The all-round NHS App is different from the NHS COVID-19 App, which is specifically focused on combating the virus and the pandemic. You can use the NHS App to:

- Check your symptoms, including COVID-19
- Find out what to do when you need help urgently
- Book and manage appointments at your GP surgery
- Order repeat prescriptions
- View your GP medical record securely
- Register to be an organ donor
- Choose how the NHS uses your data

You can download the NHS App free from Google Play and Apple app stores. If you have any issues using or downloading the app, check the NHS App help and support page.

Allied Health Professions takeover

Staff from Oxford Health took to the airwaves recently to highlight their work as part of the national Allied Health Professions Day. BBC Radio Oxford ran four interviews across three shows:

- Clinical Lead Physiotherapist Emma Garrett from Oxfordshire Stroke Rehabilitation Unit talking to David Prever - from about 1:50
- Associate Director of Allied Health Professionals Sara Bolton speaks from around 1:52:50
- Louise Peart, speech therapist, talking to Kat Ormond from about 37 mins:
- Mark Whiteman, senior occupational therapist, speaks to Adam Ball from about 2:09

The Trust handed over its Twitter account for a "takeover day", with AHP themed tweets going out from the early hours.

Patients asked about their experience of digital consultations

Oxford Health has completed nearly 100,000 digital consultations and is asking its patients and service users what they think of them.

Oxford Health is a leading trust in the UK on the uptake of digital consultations – but still carries out face-to-face and other contact appropriate to patient choice and need. This approach has helped the Trust carry on providing care safely and effectively throughout the pandemic.

A webinar will take place on 17 November - anyone can join at bit.ly/HealthMatters-Digital-Consultations. If you would like to receive a reminder of the link, please sign up here.

The webinar speakers include: Marie Crofts, chief nurse, and chair of the event; four patients/service users who have recorded their thoughts on video; Natasha Browne, cognitive behavioural therapist at the TalkingSpace Plus talking therapy service; and Oliver Shipp, Global Digital Exemplar lead.

Oxford Health Charity helps more key workers to travel by cycle

Another 70 NHS key workers in and around Oxford will be getting about on two-wheels thanks to a £4,900 grant from the Oxford Health Charity. When COVID-19 hit, grants made up from money raised by the public were allocated to NHS charities across the UK like Oxford Health Charity by national organisation NHS Charities Together – an umbrella charity for all NHS charities. The successful bid was made by Active Oxfordshire. More information is available here.

Towering achievement in Didcot community hospital garden

Famous Oxfordshire landmarks which disappeared earlier this year have been reborn in an Oxford Health hospital garden.

Two murals have been created by staff and patients, with the help of local artist Becky Paton, which feature animals and wildlife to remind patients of the more rural aspects of the local environment. The design also incorporates doves and a chicken – a special tribute to Gail Castle, a former ward manager at the hospital, who passed away in December 2014. This story was picked up by the Oxford Mail and Didcot Herald.

Children, Education, Families

Support for schools

Schools across Oxfordshire are receiving COVID-related support and advice from an Oxfordshire County Council team made up of staff from the School Improvement Team and Public Health team. A dedicated service has been set up to support schools and settings during the pandemic, providing support to help leaders deal with COVID-19 cases and offering guidance regarding closures of bubbles and/or year groups.

The team meet weekly with head teachers from state schools (maintained and academies), independent schools and further education colleges, and managers of early years settings, to update them on changes in national guidance and local intelligence regarding the virus as well as sharing good practice. The team also meet with school governors and trustees on a monthly basis, with each meeting attended by over 100 delegates.

Between 1 September and 23 October only 5 schools were required to close - this was due to staff sickness and self-isolation.

New programme offers mental health boost for primary school children

Children in Cherwell are being offered a new six-week support programme to help look after their mental health. The scheme is being delivered by Cherwell District Council in partnership with Oxfordshire Mind and Resilient Young Minds, working with Year 5 and 6 students to help them understand more about stress, anxiety and self-esteem.

The initial pilot included 76 youngsters from St Mary's School and Dashwood Academy in Banbury as well as Bishop Loveday school in Bodicote. Cherwell's Youth Activators deliver the sports and physical activity element of the course, while Oxfordshire Mind host the presentations and workshops.

Community Resilience

Scam alert

Residents have been warned to be on their guard against criminals and scammers exploiting the coronavirus situation. There are many genuine community efforts to help residents and provide good quality advice and support, but unfortunately some people are taking advantage of the situation.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team have received reports of scams targeting people by email, text messages and on the doorstep.

These are some of the scams the team are aware of:

- People offering miracle cures or vaccines for coronavirus.
- People impersonating healthcare workers, claiming to offer 'home-testing' for COVID
- Emails offering a refund on council tax or utility bills
- People offering to do shopping, asking for money upfront and then disappearing.
- New mobile phone applications that claim to give updates on the virus, but instead they lock your phone and demand a ransom.

Jody Kerman, Head of Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards, said: "Remember, it is OK to 'take five', give yourself time to think about it and to decide not to give on the spot. Have the confidence to put the phone down, delete the text or email, or shut the door."

If you think you have been scammed, report it to **Action Fraud**: **0300 123 2040**.

If you need advice, call **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline**: **0808 223 1133**.

Age UK runs a telephone support service (for older people and carers): **01865 411288**.

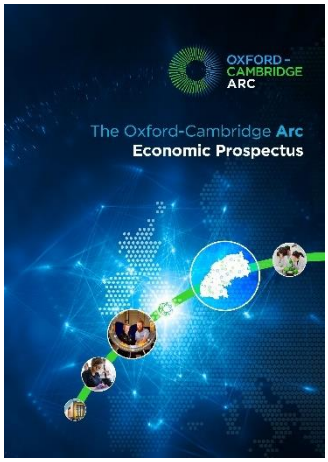
Economy

Supporting businesses during lockdown

Oxford City Council has teamed up with Independent Oxford, Experience Oxfordshire and *The Oxford Times* to support the city's businesses during lockdown. The four organisations will promote Oxford's businesses through digital and print editorial and advertising throughout November.

The City Council has also recreated its online directory of Oxford businesses that are operating online during November, especially those offering deliveries, takeaway and Click & Collect. The directory, which can be viewed at www.oxford.gov.uk/openonline**,** contains Oxford businesses selling everything from locally sourced fresh food to homeware and bicycle repair.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc event, 17 November



The Leaders Group of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc will be hosting an online event on 17 November.

The 90-minute event will outline the economic vision for the Arc, set out the big themes for innovation-led growth in the area and enable a public conversation about the recently launched economic prospectus**.**

The Arc is home to nearly four million people and two million jobs, which together generate over £111bn of economic output each year.

Through new financial backing, forecasts show that increased forecasts show that increased productivity resulting from intensifying the Arc's global strengths in science, technology and high value manufacturing, could double the area's economic output to over £200 billion by 2050.

You can register here for the online event, which takes place from 12pm to 1.30pm on 17 November.

OxLEP Annual Event 2020

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is hosting an online event for stakeholders on 25 November to review its activities over the past year and look ahead to how it can support an accelerated economic recovery across the region.

Key activities over the past 12 months include the launch of the £4.3bn Oxfordshire Investment Plan, which calls upon the UK Government and international investors to back a portfolio of programmes and projects created – not only to support the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic – but also trigger significant job openings and commercial activity, which will accelerate opportunities in the county and the rest of the UK.

You can register here for the event, which takes place from 9am to 10.30am on 25 November.

And finally...

New Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council appointed

Councillor Michele Mead has been appointed as the new Leader of West Oxfordshire District Council. Her nomination was formally approved at a meeting of the full Council on 28 October. She takes over from Cllr James Mills, who held the position for five years.

Cllr Mead said: "It is a great honour to be voted in as Leader. Under my leadership we will keep developing a strong economy, tackle climate change, promote health and fitness through our leisure centres and continue our efforts to provide affordable homes."

Next issue

In light of rising coronavirus cases and the introduction of the national lockdown on 5 November, we will aim to produce this Stakeholder Briefing on a fortnightly basis.

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