

# Report to the Meeting of the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

BOD 79/2022

(Agenda item: 15(a))

**30 November 2022**

**Health, Safety and Security Annual Report.**

**For Information**

**Executive Summary**

Health, safety and security considerations are legal, regulatory and moral obligations that apply across every conceivable Trust work-related activity, premises, and staff member’s undertakings at the Trust, in order to ensure and reflect, as far as practicably possible best practice and safe working.

The past annual reporting period has heralded significant changes and substantial work progressed in developing and working towards the implementation of a best-in-class Safety Management System (SMS), allied to the development of a fully engaged, positive and proactive safety culture throughout the Trust, to ensure that:

* Every staff member understands and is empowered in their legal and moral responsibilities to ensure their safety and that of their colleagues, contractors, patients, and visitors when at work;
* All work-related activities at the Trust are undertaken in as safe a manner as practicably possible.

The benefits of a positive safety culture are many, the most salient being the prevention and reduction of incidents, accidents and injuries, their associated direct and indirect costs to the Trust, and reducing the likelihood of civil claims and criminal prosecutions. It is to this end that work has been progressed.

The Health, Safety and Security function is managed by the Associate Head of Health, Safety and Security - ably assisted, and supported by senior management within the Estates and Facilities Management team. In order to support the delivery of the ambitions set out above it was idnetified that additional resources were required (2 posts) and we are pleased to report that we have now successfully appointed to these posts.

During the past year substantial progress towards the development of 100 + health, safety, and security champions across all Directorates. This set-up, once fully resourced and active, will enable a far more proactive as well as reactive work remit in the health & safety function, thereby enabling best practice, as well as legal and regulatory assurance and compliance.

Despite the above, our level of reported accidents / incidents, including RIDDOR reports, have been relatively low, not having varied greatly from last year’s reports. We should not, however, negate the very real possibility of there being a degree of under or misreporting in this regard, which perhaps serves to distort the reality at operational level.

To summarise, significant progress has been made in the development and implementation of an all-embracing SMS. Afforded the right level of resourcing, allied to proper planning, application and an enabling mindset and will, we can now work towards achieving significant progress, and a best in-class SMS.

**Governance Route/Approval Process**

This report has not been submitted to any other group or committee.

**Statutory or Regulatory responsibilities**

* Health and Safety Policy, Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977
* Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996.
* Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
* Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
* Workplace Health and Safety standards devised by NHS Staff Council’s Health, Safety and Wellbeing Partnership Group,
* Health and Safety Guidance (HSG 65) ‘Managing for Health and Safety’ published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in 2013.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report and the work done to date.

**Author and title:** Roger Perez, Associate Head of Health, Safety and Security

**Lead Executive Director: Martyn Ward, Executive Director for Digital & Transformation**

1. *A* ***risk assessment has not been undertaken around the legal issues*** *that this report presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors.*
2. ***Strategic Objectives/Priorities*** *- this report relates to, or provides assurance and evidence against, the following Strategic Objective(s)/Priority(ies) of the Trust*

*1) Quality - Deliver the best possible clinical care and health outcomes*

*2) People - Be a great place to work*