



BRIEFING – July 2011

Update on proposals to integrate Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust

Proposed name to reflect benefits for patients, staff, students and the wider NHS from collaboration between the NHS and University

There has been a long history of joint working between the University of Oxford and the NHS hospitals in Oxford in pursuit of better patient care, treatments and medical breakthroughs.

This collaboration was recently strengthened by the announcement of a formal Joint Working Agreement between the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Oxford, to be finalised on completion of the integration between the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (ORH) and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust (NOC).

For local people this means the very best healthcare on their doorsteps with access to health services and treatments which benefit from the latest developments in medical research. These partnerships enhance the ability to share ideas and activities and support the best teaching and training of our clinical staff.

Existing collaborations include ambitious research programmes established with the University of Oxford through the Biomedical Research Unit (BRU) in musculoskeletal disease at the NOC and the Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at the ORH. These already set the standard in translating science and research into new and better NHS clinical care.

It has been agreed that integration of the two Trusts will be signalled by a new name for the combined organisation. The preferred name is **Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust**, to acknowledge and reflect the close working relationship with our academic partners. Discussions are underway with the intention that the new name will take effect from the date of the merger, expected to be in the autumn of 2011, subject to approval by the Secretary of State for Health.

The proposed name for the overarching Trust reflects our common mission to provide the widest range of high quality clinical services and nursing care supported by pioneering health-care related research and the greater integration of this research into clinical practice.

Each of our renowned teaching hospitals – the John Radcliffe Hospital, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, the Churchill Hospital and the Horton General Hospital – will retain their current names and identities and continue to provide the existing wide range of general and specialist services.

We will also continue to develop services in collaboration with our health colleagues, including GPs and with our other academic partners, particularly Oxford Brookes University, with its key role in the training and education of nurses and other healthcare professionals.

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