



BRIEFING – October 2011

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

Merger on track for 1 November

The Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) has published its support for our proposed merger of the NOC with the ORH and our merger has received approval from the Secretary of State for Health.

Following support from the Secretary of State, the legal Orders required for the merger will be made shortly and we are on track for the merger to go ahead on 1 November, 2011, subject to the completion of the Parliamentary process. This will create an integrated Trust under a single Board and management team.

We are pleased that the CCP and Department of Health have agreed that there are significant benefits to our integration including improved service provision and benefits for our research partnerships, with a long-lasting positive impact for our patients – from Oxfordshire and beyond.

The CCP considered that the combination of benefits for patients that would come from the merger would outweigh any likely reduction in competition or choice for commissioners. You can read the Panel's decision and its full report at www.ccp-panel.org.uk

The main purpose of our merger is to deliver better patient care. By integrating our Trusts we will be better placed to improve care pathways and give patients better access to the best treatments available. We already have strong research partnerships and integration will strengthen our links between academic research, teaching and training, and clinical service delivery.

New Trust name

The new name, **Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust**, comes into effect at the point of merger on 1 November. As part of OUH, our four teaching hospitals – the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Horton General, John Radcliffe, and Churchill hospitals – will retain their current names and our patients will continue to receive a full range of services across all our sites.

The services of the NOC will form a seventh clinical division of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The joint working agreement with the University of Oxford will formally come into effect at the point of merger – a strategic alliance supporting a health sciences partnership that will integrate patient care, teaching and medical research to deliver the best in clinical treatment.

Through our continued collaboration with our local universities, our GP commissioners and social care partners, we will aim to deliver measurably better outcomes for our patients through innovation and excellence. These skills and partnerships are recognised as being even more important against a backdrop of challenging finances, both nationally and locally.

Becoming a Foundation Trust

The next stage of our journey is to become a Foundation Trust in 2013. Our merger strengthens our ability to meet the necessary standards to be authorised and to thrive as a Foundation Trust.

For further information please contact:

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