

Magdalen Centre North
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford OX4 4GP

2 February 2017

Dear Colleague

Refocusing the Oxford Academic Health Science Network

At its meeting on 31 January 2017 the Board of the Oxford Academic Health Science Network agreed changes to the organisation to increase its long-term sustainability and ensure its alignment to future national expectations of AHSNs and to local priorities.

AHSNs will be relicensed from 2018. We do not yet know the details of the relicensing process but NHS England have indicated that core funding will be further reduced to 40% of the funding received at the AHSN's inception in 2013. Core priorities of AHSNs in the next licence will be delivering the Accelerated Access Review, supporting system transformation and developing partnership working with industry to support economic growth in the life science sector.

Engagement with clinical communities remains at the heart of what we do. Our Best Care Clinical Networks have made an invaluable key contribution to improving patient care and outcomes over the last 3-4 years. However, we do not have the resources to fund eight Best Care Clinical Networks moving forward.

We will develop alternative approaches and models to support clinical engagement, to deliver innovation adoption and support system transformation across a broader range of clinical specialties. Funding for employment of network managers and relevant staff will continue until the end of June 2017. Funding for network clinical leadership PAs will continue until the end of March 2017 and future support for clinical leadership discussed with relevant employers. Beyond this date some funding will be available to each network if they can identify other sources of funding to sustain their network.

Our clinical network managers and some other staff are affected and some are at risk. Staff at risk will be invited to a meeting next week which will mark the start of a 30-day consultation process in line with the appropriate HR policies. We will do everything we can to find new roles for these people within the AHSN core team and our partner organisations.

These changes are necessary to ensure the Oxford AHSN partnership aligns future work programmes to national priorities and expectations, and proposes and delivers a strong five-year programme for the next licence period. I look forward to your support in developing our future plans and work programmes for our relicensing bid.

Best wishes



Professor Gary A Ford, CBE, FMedSci

Chief Executive Officer, Oxford Academic Health Science Network