

Meeting title:	Public Trust Board					
Date of the meeting:	14 August 2025					
Title:	CEO update					
Report presented by:	Richard Mitchell – Group CEO					
Report written by:	Richard Mitchell – Group CEO					
Action – this paper is for:	Decision/Approval		Assurance	x	Update	x
Where this report has been discussed previously	The items in the report have been discussed in meetings and committees during the month of July 2025.					

To your knowledge, does the report provide assurance or mitigate any significant risks? If yes, please detail which
The report covers a wide range of risks in the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Impact assessment
There are no specific impacts because of this report.

Purpose of the Report

The report is an update for the month of July 2025 on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) and University of Northamptonshire NHS Group (UHN)

Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive an update on the below items.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2025

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT **PRESENTED BY RICHARD MITCHELL**

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Report Preparation

This report includes content and analysis generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, used to support drafting, summarising, and formatting. All outputs have been reviewed, validated, and finalised by the report author to ensure accuracy, appropriateness, and alignment with our organisational standards and values. The use of AI is intended to enhance productivity and efficiency, not to replace human oversight or judgement.

Introduction

The report is an update for the months of June and July 2025 on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group (UHN).

Leadership changes

After three years at UHL, Michelle Smith, Director of Communications and Engagement, joins Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust in September as their DCE. Michelle has been a phenomenal colleague and has been integral to many important improvements, including our UHL strategy, engagement with local communities, and new intranet and website. I wish Michelle all the best and am grateful for her significant contribution. Emma Casteleijn has been appointed as Acting Director of Communications and Engagement.

After four years at UHL, Jon Melbourne, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer, joins Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as their Chief Executive in October. Jon has been an outstanding colleague and whilst he will be another great loss, I am excited for him. We have another opportunity to thank Jon in October. Julie Hogg has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive and Helen Hendley Acting Chief Operating Officer.

Digital transformation

UHL and UHN have reached significant milestones in their digital transformation journey. The new Patient Administration System (PAS) went live at UHL in June, replacing a 35-year-old legacy system. The implementation was completed ahead of schedule, with no data loss across more than 50 million records. Similarly, the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system was successfully launched at Northampton General Hospital in July. These advancements represent a pivotal step forwards in clinical efficiency and data integration. Further to this, UHL transitioned to NHS.net in early August 2025. This will reduce costs, improve cybersecurity and improve connectivity with other Trusts.

We are proud to announce UHL and UHN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to formalise a partnership to develop AI healthcare solutions. The agreement builds on existing relationships

and successes to benefit patient care and includes incorporating AI into how we deliver clinical care, administer care and transform support services across our organisations. It also opens the way to integrate AI into our Electronic Patient Record and other core services, supporting colleagues with the information they need, making their working lives easier and improving patient care.

Paediatric Super week

Surgical teams joined forces over the course of four days to tirelessly perform nearly 90 surgeries in what has been called a Paediatric 'Super Week'. In one week in July, 89 children received surgery as part of the initiative, which focused on treating children requiring low-complexity procedures across ears, nose and throat (ENT), general surgery, and maxillofacial specialties. Over the week, the children received surgery as day cases or with a single overnight stay, all within a specially designated child-friendly environment. The initiative aims to reduce waiting times and increase surgical capacity ahead of winter, when cancellations tend to rise due to emergency pressures.

Preston Lodge

On Friday 11 July we opened Preston Lodge, a 25-bed community rehabilitation unit in a former care home in Leicester. This facility will facilitate timely discharge from acute care for appropriate patients and enable them to recover outside of the acute hospital setting and further enhances UHL's community offer. The new development is aligned with the NHS 10 Year Health Plan's focus on moving care from hospital to community settings.

St Mary's Birth Centre

Births and inpatient postnatal care were paused in St Mary's in July 2025. We are actively working with colleagues at the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board to determine next steps for the St Mary's Birth Centre. No decision has been made and we anticipate this will happen before January 2026. We will keep people informed and appropriately involved during this time.

Pausing births and inpatient care was a difficult but necessary step. We did this to ensure the safety of mums and babies - nothing is more important. The safety of the service is directly affected by staffing levels. The low number of births at the Centre also makes it harder for staff to maintain clinical experience and for the centre to operate safely. This temporary pause does not reflect the quality of care delivered by the team, whose dedication has made a real difference to many families. I visited the Centre three times in July and we will communicate any updates as soon as we are able to.

Partnerships for Impact

The Tony Blair Institute visited UHL and University of Leicester on the 9 July. They recognised the talent and dedication of colleagues along with the quality of research. I look forward to being involved in future joint discussions about how universities play a role in enhancing the future of the NHS.

I attended the University of Leicester College of Life Sciences' graduation on the 17 July and watched 290 new doctors graduate. The guest of honour was Professor Sir Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, the UK government's Chief Medical Adviser and head of the public health profession.

Industrial action

The British Medical Association (BMA) announced five days of industrial action for resident doctors between 7am on Friday 25 July until 7am on Wednesday 30 July. Our Clinical Management Group (CMG) leadership teams proactively implemented robust contingency plans to minimise the disruption to patient care