

Public Trust Board Paper D

Meeting title:	Public Trust Board					
Date of the meeting:	09 October 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 months of August and September 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 months of August and September 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 09 OCTOBER 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 August and September 2025 on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Group (UHN).

NHS Staff Survey

The NHS Staff Survey was launched at UHL in late September, with UHN following in early October. Early engagement at UHL is strong, with over 1,100 responses received in the first 24 hours and an 11.8% completion rate in the first five days. Last year we had the fourth highest response rate in the NHS, and I am keen we continue at that level.

National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation

A significant development in September was the launch of the National Maternity and Neonatal Investigation by Baroness Valerie Amos. The independent review aims to generate national recommendations to improve maternity and neonatal care across England. UHL is among fourteen NHS trusts selected for participation, chosen based on patient outcomes, feedback, and the diversity of their communities. The investigation will build on lessons from previous reviews and will focus on family experiences, service quality, safety, and the impact of inequalities. UHL is committed to full and open participation, viewing this as an opportunity to further improve safety and care.

Commercial Research Delivery Centre

UHL has been designated as the host organisation for the UK-wide Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) Network, securing £6.5 million in funding. This network will provide strategic coordination for all 21 CRDCs across the UK, enhancing the Trust's reputation as a centre of research excellence and accelerating patient access to new treatments.

NHS Oversight Framework

In September, new NHS Oversight Framework league tables were published, rating the performance of NHS trusts in England. UHL, Kettering General Hospital (KGH), and Northampton General Hospital (NGH) were all ranked in category three out of four, indicating a need for continued improvement, particularly in finance and productivity.

Digital Transformation

Digital transformation remains a priority, with the launch of the One Digital Strategy 2025–2028 in September. This strategy sets out a unified vision for digital and data transformation across UHN and UHL, including pilots of artificial intelligence to support both clinical and administrative tasks.

Annual Public Meetings

UHL and UHN held their Annual Public Meetings in September. These meetings provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements from 2024/25, share highlights from community engagement, and discuss the future of care across Leicester, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Rutland.

Quality, Safety and Regulatory Inspections

Northampton General Hospital received a Care Quality Commission (CQC) Well-Led inspection in September. Initial feedback was positive, recognising improvements and identifying areas for further development. Colleagues were encouraged to contribute to CQC focus groups, sharing both achievements and challenges.

Recognition and Awards

Recognition of colleague achievement has been prominent. In September, UHN celebrated long-serving colleagues, with 214 colleagues recognised for over 25 years of service, including some with over 50 years. UHL's Recognition Awards are scheduled for early October, celebrating excellence in research, education, leadership, digital innovation, equality, and patient care. UHN's recognition awards will follow in November.

Executive leaders

In terms of leadership, this month marks the last Board meeting for Jon Melbourne before taking up a new role as Chief Executive at Sherwood Forest. The Board extend their thanks for Jon's contributions and welcomes Emma Casteleijn as the new Director of Communications and Engagement. Dr Ruw Abeyratne, UHL's Director of Health Equality and Inclusion, has been awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University of Leicester, recognising significant contributions to health equality and inclusion across the region.