

Meeting title:	Public Trust Board	Trust Board public paper E
Date of the meeting:	11 September 2026	
Title:	CEO update	
Report presented by:	Richard Mitchell – CEO	
Report written by:	Richard Mitchell – CEO	

Action – this paper is for:	Decision/Approval		Assurance	x	Update	x
Which Trust Priorities does this link to	Transform patient care	x	Strengthen our culture	x	Deliver our financial plan	x
Where this report has been discussed previously	The items in the report have been discussed in recent meetings and committees.					

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 on the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL).

Recommendation

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

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

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.

I am delighted to welcome Dr Andy Haynes to his first University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) board meeting as Acting UHL Chair. Andy has been Vice Chair at UHL for nearly five years. Andrew Moore has returned to University Hospitals of Northamptonshire NHS Trust as Chair, and I would like to thank Andrew for his leadership over the last two years.

Organisational arrangements

Last month our board announced the decision that UHL and University Hospitals of Northamptonshire will move away from formal Group model arrangements. The decision reflects the Boards' view that dedicated leadership and stronger local focus will best support the next stage of improvement for patients, colleagues and communities. While this represents a change in leadership and governance arrangements, there are no changes to day-to-day care or services for patients. The change does not diminish the strong relationships that have been developed over recent years or our commitment to continued collaboration. We will continue to build on the benefits already achieved through closer working and maintain a relentless focus on improving quality, productivity and patient experience across UHL. The Board can be assured that patient care and operational delivery remain our primary focus throughout this period of change.

Key activities and updates

We have recently announced the finalists for the UHL Recognition Awards 2026. This year, we received a record-breaking 900 nominations, and after careful consideration from our judges, 43 individual colleagues and 19 teams have been shortlisted. Congratulations to all our finalists on this achievement. I look forward to celebrating with colleagues and recognising their outstanding contributions at the awards ceremony on Friday 2 October at Athena, Leicester, made possible thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.

I would like to congratulate our teams and colleagues who have been shortlisted for Health Service Journal (HSJ) awards:

- The rheumatology team have been shortlisted for their work to improve timelines for patients to start biologic medication.
- UHL and East Midland Ambulance Service have been shortlisted for our sustainable and reproducible improvements in ambulance handover times.
- Paediatric teams at UHL and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust have been shortlisted for their work to improve care for children and young people with functional neurological disorder (FND).
- Medical Oncology Registrar Dr Mohamed Sheeraz Mohamed Azhar and the acute oncology team, have been shortlisted for their OncsCare symptom monitoring app.
- The Optimed and pharmacy teams, have been shortlisted for their work delivering value and safety improvements through ward-based automated unit-dose medicines management.

Congratulations to the UHL radiology team who won a national award for their use of AI in interpreting chest X-rays at the National AI Awards 2026. Led by Consultant Radiologist Dr Indrajeet Das, the team have integrated AI technology to support the interpretation of chest X-rays and help prioritise around 150,000 patient scans every year.

In July, Professor Jitendra Mangwani, Consultant for Trauma and Orthopaedics, hosted the British Indian Orthopaedic Society Annual Conference with more than 400 national and international colleagues at the Mattioli Woods Welford Road Stadium. Dedicated to advancing trauma and elective orthopaedic care, the conference featured over 45 renowned speakers, hands-on workshops, and scientific sessions designed to support professional development and GMC revalidation. Well done to Jit and everyone who helped to make this possible.

Last month, we celebrated a remarkable milestone, marking [30 years of the Children's Intensive Care Unit \(CICU\)](#) at Leicester Royal Infirmary. For three decades, colleagues have provided expert, compassionate care to thousands of critically ill children and their families, often at the most difficult moments of their lives. Caring for more than 900 children each year, the CICU is a powerful example of the difference dedicated NHS teams make every day. The anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on an extraordinary legacy, recognise the colleagues who built and shaped the service, and thank everyone who has contributed to its success over the past 30 years. It is a source of immense pride for our organisation and the communities we serve.

UHL's new Health Innovation Hub launched last month, creating a single place where colleagues and partners can access support to develop and bring innovative ideas into practice. The Hub aims to make innovation easier to navigate, helping turn good ideas into improvements for patient care, colleague experience, and services. All colleagues are encouraged to share ideas, projects, or opportunities they would like to explore to help our continuous improvement,

We have launched a new public WhatsApp channel to share trusted health information, hospital updates, and key announcements. It is open to patients, families, visitors, local communities, and colleagues. Please follow the channel and share it with anyone who may find UHL updates useful. [You can find out more on the UHL website.](#)

[UHL has secured a five-year NHS England contract to take over delivery of the national Healthy Living service](#) from autumn 2026, extending Leicester-developed digital diabetes education and self-management support to adults with diabetes across England through the MyDESMOND platform. Building on more than 20 years of

internationally recognised diabetes research and innovation from the Leicester Diabetes Centre, the service will, for the first time, provide structured education for people with type 1 diabetes alongside an enhanced offer for those with type 2 diabetes. The programme will improve access to evidence-based support, helping patients build the knowledge, confidence and skills to manage their condition, improve health outcomes and quality of life, while reinforcing Leicester's reputation as a global leader in translating research into large-scale NHS patient benefit.

Our Annual Public Meeting took place in the evening of Thursday 3 September in person at the School of Nursing and Midwifery Practice, Glenfield Hospital. The meeting provided an update on the progress we made across 2025/26, the third year of delivering our strategy: [leading in healthcare, trusted in communities](#). We also shared and ratified our annual accounts and took questions from the public. Thank you to the partners and members of our local communities who attended.