



Welcome!



Hi I'm Oke, Chair of the Trust. I live in Wokingham with my wife and two children, and I've been a regular visitor to the Royal Berkshire Hospital for more than a decade with my son who is under the care of the fantastic Paediatric Diabetes Team.

I grew up in South London, the oldest of four, after my mum and dad came to the UK from Nigeria in the mid-1960s, which I've got such admiration for – I can't imagine the courage it takes to pack your life up and move halfway around the world. Outside of

work, I'm a huge music lover, Crystal Palace FC are my team of choice, and I'm also a self-confessed fan of reality TV.

My background is in finance and customer experience, and I've also created and run a social enterprise – Elevate Colour – to get more people of colour into senior positions in UK companies.

I'm excited to see where I can use my skills to support the Trust, our patients, and our colleagues now and into the future.

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I have several areas I'm determined for us to hone in on which are: customer and colleague experience; diversity; technology; collaboration; and young people. And I come to the role with an open mind around the sort of Chair I want to be. However, what I've always believed, and I continue to believe now, is that the people working on the frontline know better than anyone the challenges they face, how to rise to those challenges, and how to fix them.

I'm very comfortable with change and embracing it, and I'm confident the Trust can become what it wants to be in the future, and that I can play a part in making that happen.

In this month's edition of Pulse there's information about our positive NHS staff survey results, our newly-introduced HIV and Hepatitis testing in ED and how you can help shape our goals by contributing to our Trust strategy.

Oke Eleazu,
Chair of the Trust

A special royal visitor

Last month we were honoured to welcome the Prince of Wales to our staff health and wellbeing centre across the road from the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

In his role as Joint Patron of NHS Charities Together, Prince William came to mark the fifth anniversary of the Covid pandemic and to see how funding from NHS Charities Together and Royal Berks Charity is being used to support staff health and wellbeing.

Accompanied by our then Chair, Graham Sims, Prince William toured the staff health and wellbeing centre and gardens to see the gym we provide for our staff members' health and wellbeing. He was interested in the connection in wellbeing and mental health, and spoke with staff about the difference that our health and wellbeing support makes to them, and what it means to have the centre and gardens as a place to come and decompress.

Later Prince William spoke to members of staff about their work during and since the Covid pandemic, including our Staff Covid Vaccination Programme and setting up our Long Covid service.



We've received top scores in the NHS Staff Survey!

We're proud to announce that we've been ranked as the top acute Trust in England across multiple areas of staff experience in the latest NHS Staff Survey.

The NHS Staff Survey is one of the largest workforce surveys in the world – collecting feedback on staff experience on a variety of key metrics including inclusivity, recognition and reward, staff safety, engagement, and morale.

More than 3,700 members of our staff took part in the survey and from their feedback, we've received some of its highest ever scores and have been ranked as the top acute Trust in England in 13 areas, including:

- Taking positive action on health and wellbeing.
- Staff being able to make improvements in their area of work.
- Staff feeling their work is valued by the organisation.
- Learning from and preventing errors or near misses.
- Staff feeling that their role makes a difference to patients.

Investing in our staff is one of our key strategic aims and the results of this year's NHS Staff Survey are the culmination of increased investment in staff experience since the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past several years, we have:

- opened a multi-million pound health and wellbeing centre and gardens for staff
- built upon our reward and recognition offering
- expanded transport options
- provided greater leadership and development training
- provided a variety of new benefits including free health checks, out-of-hours food, in-house psychological support, and a staff GP service

Steve McManus, Chief Executive of Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We couldn't be prouder of the results from this year's NHS Staff Survey. Our staff and volunteers are our greatest assets and it's fantastic to see that despite a challenging environment we've been able to make real, measurable improvements to staff experience.

"It is brilliant to be ranked as the top acute Trust in England across so many areas, but we know there's always more we can do. This year's results are a fantastic foundation for us to build on and make Royal Berkshire an even more fantastic place to work for."



HIV and Hepatitis testing offered in our ED



More patients in Berkshire will benefit from access to HIV and Hepatitis treatment now that our Emergency Department has started to routinely test adults.

All patients aged 16 or older who receive a blood test at our Emergency Department (ED), will now also be tested for HIV as well as Hepatitis B and C.

We will follow up with any patients who test positive within fourteen days, and refer them

directly to our sexual health service – the Florey Clinic – for information, support and treatment. Patients can opt-out of testing by informing a member of ED staff.

Royal Berkshire Hospital is one of 47 emergency departments in England which is providing opt-out testing for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Reading is in a high-prevalence area for blood-borne viruses such as HIV. In 2023, the number of HIV diagnoses in England increased 15% from 2,451 to 2,810.

Janet Lippett, Chief Medical Officer for Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Huge strides have been made over the last decades for both HIV and Hepatitis treatment, so we're really proud to now be offering routine testing in our Emergency Department. It will make sure less people go undiagnosed, and more patients can access the care and treatment they need."

Meet Molly, our new pet therapy dog!

Molly, is our new pet therapy dog who started visiting our intensive care patients at the beginning of this year.

Her owner started training Molly in 2021 with the [Pets As Therapy charity](#), and as a result she now has all her certificates.

Watch our short video:

[Meet pet therapy dog Molly](#)



Celebrating our long serving staff members



A few weeks ago, members of our Executive Team attended our annual long service event to share memories and a cup of tea with long serving colleagues from across the Trust.

We're privileged that our long serving members of staff have chosen to spend so much of their careers with us, and this was our chance to thank them.

With more than 700 years' service between them, these experienced and valued members of staff were able to spend some well-earned downtime, sharing tea and highlights from years past with old friends.

We benefit hugely from their experience, both in their day-to-day work, and the knowledge that they pass on. Our long service event gave us an opportunity to recognise the dedication, care and loyalty that our colleagues bring and to thank them for the skills, expertise and experience that they're now sharing with the next generation.

Help us refresh our Trust Strategy!

Our Trust Strategy outlines our vision and is our plan of action to achieve our goals and objectives. We want to hear from you to help shape our strategy and make our future decisions.

Tell us what you think

Our Trust Strategy will be created together with our patients and community, our staff and volunteers, and our partner organisations. Together, we can make sure our strategy reflects the voices and needs of our local communities.

Get involved:

- online - [You can fill out our survey online to share your ideas.](#)
- by post - If you would prefer to write to us, please send all post to: RBFT Strategy Team, Princes House, 73A London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5UZ

Governor Article

Sarah Lupai, Staff Governor: Nursing & Midwifery



Hello, Salaam and Hola. My name is Sarah and I am a Staff Governor at the Trust representing Nursing and Midwifery.

I was born in Juba, South Sudan and came to England when I was 5 years old. My heritage is South Sudanese and Ethiopian. I speak Arabic and English, and am also currently learning Spanish.

I have been a registered Adult Nurse coming up 17 years this October. My journey started at Reading's old Battle hospital as a Health Care Assistant prior to attending the University of West London to complete my Nursing degree. I graduated in 2008 and returned to Neuro Rehab, and although I've since left the team, we still meet up regularly. In a previous role I had the pleasure of working within Gastroenterology leading the Enteral Nutrition service for 8 years.

I'm currently the Ethnically Diverse Patient Experience Liaison Nurse (I know it's a bit of a mouth full) which is by far my most rewarding position. Improving health inequalities is a critical goal for achieving a fair and just healthcare system and something I am very passionate about.

This role works within the Meet PEET team (Patient Experience and Engagement Team) delivering full health checks in community settings to under-represented populations. We aim to help those who are most at risk of serious health issues such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes by identifying ways to reduce their risks and providing advice and guidance so people can start to address other issues impacting their health and wellbeing.

As part of this role, I build rapport with community leaders so we can help support and empower our underrepresented communities with healthcare access and education that is relevant to their ethnicity, gender, culture, age, sexuality and any other characteristics. I work closely with services and departments in the hospital to showcase and promote them.

I also collaborate with local health, voluntary and community sector services to support people's wellbeing, enabling them to live fulfilling lives, make healthy choices and address health inequalities that impact them.

In addition to my main role, I wear a number of other hats at the Trust including being a 'Freedom to Speak Up' ambassador, Royal Berks Charity champion, Ethnic Minority champion as well as being a Staff Governor.

Being a Governor has been really rewarding, not only do we play a vital part in representing the voices of our constituents (in my case Nursing & Midwifery staff group), but as a Council we were instrumental in the recent recruitment of the new Chair of the Trust Oke Eleazu. (See page 2)

I would encourage our patients and community, our staff and volunteers, and our partner organisations to check out the article on the [Trust refreshing its Strategy](#) and provide feedback and input to help ensure our Strategy reflects the voices and needs of our local communities. In addition, please feel free to join us at the Public Board or Council of Governors on Wednesday 28 May 2025. Details on venue, times and agendas can be found on our [Open Meetings page](#) on the Trust website. For further enquiries please email foundation.trust@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Keep an eye out for our Governor Elections and vacant positions opening up this summer and how to join us.

Sarah Lupai, Staff Governor: Nursing & Midwifery

Single Point of Access team celebrates first birthday!

Happy birthday to our Single Point of Access team, which recently celebrated its first birthday!

The team was created to work with GPs, ambulance, community hospitals and other referring partners to divert patients straight to one of our other hospital services, rather than using our Emergency Department (ED) as the gateway to the rest of the Trust.

This helps us to ensure patients are seen in the clinical department most appropriate to them more quickly and help reduce overcrowding in ED.



Help Royal Berks Charity make a difference



Are you looking for a meaningful way to make a difference while challenging yourself and having fun? Taking on an event for Royal Berks Charity is your chance to transform lives in our community.

In the last year, the Royal Berks Charity funded a wide range of projects across the Trust to enhance patient care, advance staff development, and support both patient and staff wellbeing. This included investing in cutting-edge medical equipment such as ultrasound machines, laser devices, AI-enabled cardiac monitors to prevent serious strokes, and a suite of paediatric patient monitors.

The charity has also supported refurbishment projects, including within the Berkshire Cancer Centre and Stroke Unit, as well as equipping clinical areas with specialist examination chairs and technology. Additionally, the charity has also funded projects that improve patient comfort and experience, such as the purchase of a fleet of new reclining chairs in maternity that allow birthing partners to stay comfortably overnight.

These projects were made possible through a range of fundraising activities, grants, and the generosity of our community. Whether you're a seasoned athlete, a weekend walker, or someone looking to try something new, check out the [Royal Berks Charity website](#).

There's an event for everyone!

Are you interested in work experience & placements?

Work experience gives those interested in a career in the NHS the opportunity to gain hands-on experience observing what happens in hospitals, the day-to-day work of NHS multi-disciplinary teams and an understanding of the attitudes, the behaviours and values that are expected in a healthcare setting. Shadowing our teams, you will have the opportunity to see first-hand what is involved in the job role you are considering.

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is committed to supporting young people and adults looking to pursue a career in healthcare. Our placements are open to students and adults resident in the Berkshire or surrounding South Oxfordshire area. Students from outside these areas and outside the UK will not be accepted for a placement.

The trust offers clinical placements and non-clinical placements at set times across the academic year.

For more information and to check out the eligibility criteria please visit:

[Work Experience and Placements - Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust website](#)



Sturti, Getty Images

Thinking about a career in the NHS?

If you would like to join our team we are always looking for talented staff with a commitment to providing the best patient care.

View our live job vacancies on our website: [RBFT work with us](#)

Discounts? Did you know?

As a member of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust you are eligible to amazing Health Service Discounts to save money on holidays, electrical goods, meals, days out and much more!

To register:

- contact us at: Foundation.trust@royalberkshire.nhs.uk for a letter of eligibility
- follow this link: [Register | NHS Discounts | Health Service Discounts](#) and select 'Foundation Trust Member'
- upload your letter!

Don't forget to let us know what amazing discounts you get so we can share them!

Get involved and have your say

Open Meetings

Why not come along to one of our upcoming open meetings? You can find the details and agendas on our Trust website page: [Open meetings | Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust](#)

- **Board of Directors - 9am, Wednesday 28 May 2025**
Seminar Room, Trust Education Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital
- **Council of Governors - 5pm, Wednesday 28 May 2025**
Seminar Room, Trust Education Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital

Become a member

Sign up family and friends to become a member via our [online form](#) to receive our latest updates, shape how hospital services are delivered and be eligible to receive our NHS discounts.

Get in touch with the team at: Foundation.trust@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Meet your Council of Governors

Find a full list of your Council of Governors on the trust website:

[Council of Governors | Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust](#).



Pulse Magazine is written and produced by the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Communications Team.

If you would like to have an item included, or have any feedback, email us at:

Communications@royalberkshire.nhs.uk