Our Future Health

Appointment of

Chief Data Officer

Saxton Bampfylde

Our Future Health

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Letter from our CEO

Dr Raghib Ali
CEO, Our Future Health

My journey to leading Our Future Health began long before I ever imagined heading up a national research programme. My father developed glaucoma in his 40s, which meant he began to lose his eyesight and so was unable to work. Times were hard but my mother took on a job as an administrative assistant in the NHS and worked tirelessly to ensure that we could focus on our studies.

As a child on free school meals and attending one of the worst-performing schools in the country, my chances of going to Cambridge and becoming a doctor were almost zero. But against very long odds, I was able to get into medical school and fulfil my ambition to serve as an NHS doctor.

I quickly encountered the fundamental struggle that every doctor in our healthcare system experiences. We don't see our patients until symptoms start showing.

Too many patients were arriving in hospital with diseases that were preventable, or at least delayable, if we had intervened earlier. I treated people with cancer, diabetes, heart attacks and strokes – all with risk factors that could have been identified and acted upon sooner. It became clear to me that the system was not really working and so alongside my clinical work, I began my research career – with a focus on understanding the causes of the major non-communicable diseases – and how they can be prevented.

While I did complete my clinical training in Acute Medicine, I was always more interested in how we could reduce deaths and disability from the diseases my patients were suffering from, improve population health and reduce inequalities. In March 2020, I decided to return to frontline clinical duties in Oxford and those early Covid waves were like nothing I had ever seen before. Alongside my hospital work, I also advised the Government on Covid and later worked on the vaccine programme, focusing on increasing uptake among ethnic minority groups. In 2022, I was honoured to receive an OBE for this work, though what mattered most to me was contributing to the national effort at a time of crisis.
These experiences have reinforced a conviction I have held throughout my career: modern healthcare systems, including the NHS, deal with sickness rather than health. Too many people live with disease for too many years, when earlier intervention could have changed the outcome. That is why Our Future Health matters so deeply.

By bringing together up to five million volunteers from across the UK, linked health records, genomic data and blood samples, we are creating the largest health research programme of its kind in the world. This resource will allow researchers to discover new ways to prevent, detect and treat common diseases – and it will allow individuals to benefit too, by understanding their own risk of conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and glaucoma.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the whole paradigm of healthcare. In the future, the first interaction most people will have with the health system will be to understand their risk of disease, rather than to seek treatment when they are already unwell. Genetic profiles and population-scale data will allow doctors to intervene earlier, offer screening, and prevent conditions from taking hold. It is an exciting future, one that we in the UK have a chance to lead. We are already making a national impact, with Government describing Our Future Health as a "unique UK asset" and committing significant investment to our work. But our ambition goes further. To achieve it, we need leaders who are motivated by the scale of this challenge and inspired by its potential.

That is why now is such a compelling moment to join us. We are still young enough as an organisation for new leaders to shape how we work, how we grow, and how we deliver for our participants, our partners and for society – but established enough to have the resources, credibility and momentum to make change happen at scale. The decisions we make together over the next few years will determine whether Our Future Health fulfils its potential to transform healthcare for generations.

This is why I am excited to open up an opportunity to join us. You will be joining at a pivotal moment, helping to shape how our organisation grows, ensuring we continue to build and deepen the value and connection we offer to our volunteers, partner groups, and wider stakeholders, playing a vital role in how we deliver success.

If you share our vision of helping people live healthier lives for longer, I warmly invite you to consider joining us.

Dr Raghib Ali OBE
Chief Executive, Our Future Health

Our Future Health

About us

Despite advances in healthcare and medicine, large numbers of people in the UK still spend many years of their later life in poor health because of common diseases and health conditions such as cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes and stroke.
Our Future Health helps health researchers to tackle this growing burden of disease. With our data, they can develop new ways to detect diseases at an earlier stage, and even prevent them from occurring in the first place.

From the very start of Our Future Health, we've had a big target in mind. We want up to 5 million adults in the UK to take part in our programme, so that people can live longer and healthier lives. The target is hugely ambitious. No other health research programme has come close to recruiting so many people, anywhere in the world. It is these achievements that led to the equally unprecedented announcement in July that we had been awarded up to £354 million in the 2026-2030 spending review, which is the highest government grant ever given for a single research programme.

Today, we're proud to say we're over half the way to our volunteer recruitment goal thanks to our volunteers and over 300 staff. As of July 2025, more than 2.5 million people have consented to take part in our programme. That means their health records can be analysed by researchers, to discover new ways to prevent, detect and treat diseases.

We're now the world's biggest health research programme of its kind and our volunteer group is also more diverse than other, similar health research programmes. We're building a community of volunteers to create a detailed picture of the nation's health. Thanks to the phenomenal support of the public, registered health researchers are already studying an incredibly detailed picture of the UK's health. We currently have around 50 approved studies that are actively analysing our data, including studies on cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and kidney disease.

We're building a community of volunteers to create a detailed picture of the nation's health.

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Our values as an organisation

Our values guide how we behave in all our work, our engagement with others and in our communications.

They complement and support our overarching aim, which is to help people live longer and healthier lives through better prevention, earlier detection, and improved treatment of diseases.

United by Purpose, Evolving Together

"We are a team united in our mission, committed to evolving together through collaborative decision-making, continuous learning, support for change, and transparent communication. Our shared purpose drives us to engage in meaningful discussions, adapt to new challenges, and maintain open and honest communication, ensuring we grow and evolve together."

Empowered Expertise, Enabling Innovation

"We empower individual and collective expertise as the foundation for enabling innovation. We encourage specialisation and creative problem-solving, fostering an environment where innovation is welcomed, and knowledge is shared freely. This approach allows us to leverage our deep expertise to drive forward-thinking solutions and advancements."

Diverse Contribution, Inclusive Collaboration

"We embrace diverse contributions and exercise inclusive collaboration, recognising the strength that comes from different perspectives. We are committed to creating an environment where individuals are heard, participation is equitable, and differences are celebrated. This inclusive approach enriches our organisation and enhances our collective effectiveness."

Measurable Impact, Lasting Legacy

"Our focus is on creating measurable impact and building a lasting legacy. We align our actions with clear, achievable goals and hold ourselves and each other accountable for our contributions. Our commitment to sustainable and reflective practice ensures that our work not only meets immediate needs but also contributes positively to our organisation and our stakeholders over the long term."

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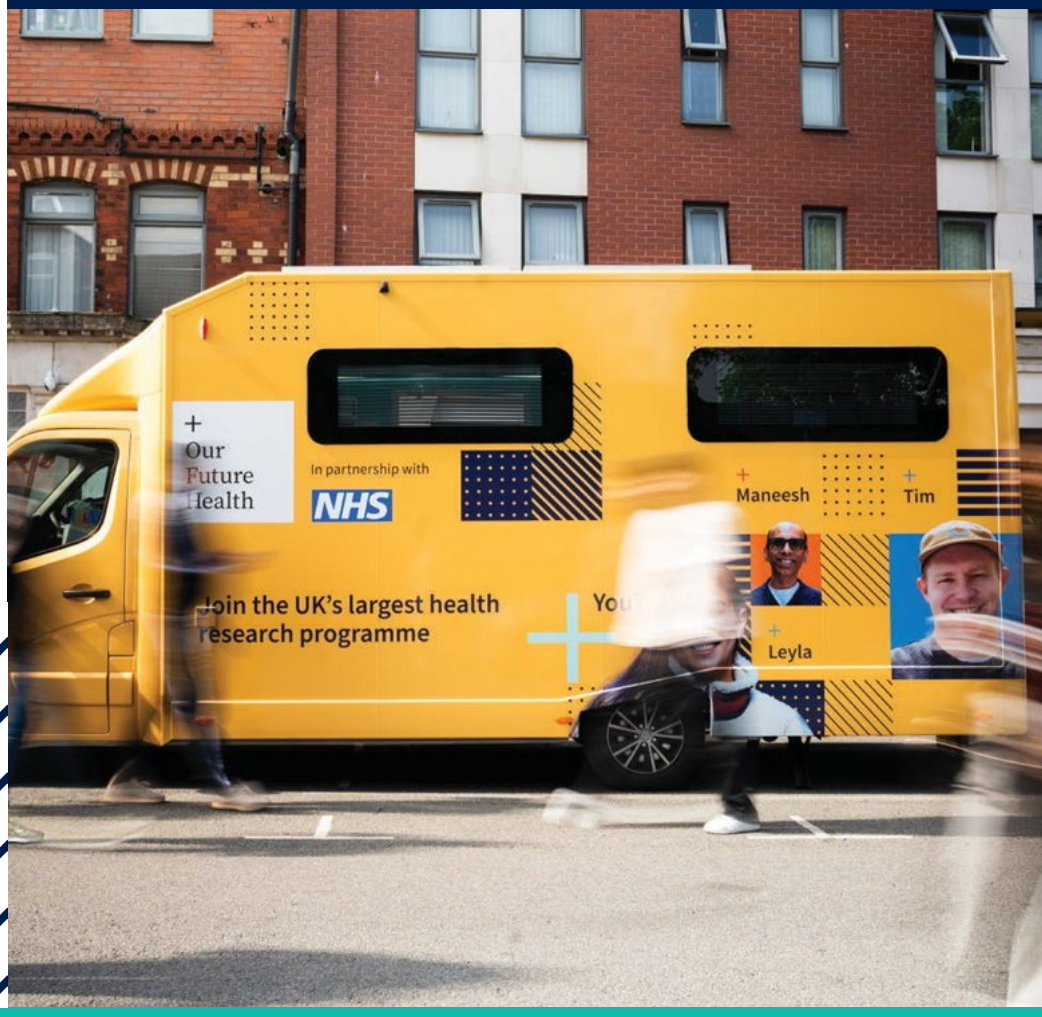

To read more, go to :
www.ourfuturehealth.org.uk

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The role

We are building one of the richest, most trusted health research datasets in the world – large-scale, diverse, longitudinal, multimodal, and securely linked to health records. We set the global benchmark for data trustworthiness and usability . Our data is a stamp of credibility, enabling groundbreaking discoveries that improve lives. We are also committed to delivering a delightful, user-centric researcher experience – providing fast, intuitive access to insights, robust support, and innovative tools that accelerate translational impact.

As the Chief Data Officer, you will lead Our Future Health's data strategy to enable world-leading health innovation. You will drive the shift from being an organisation which is primarily focussed on recruitment of participants and making their data securely available for researchers, to being an organisation where data is seen as a core business asset. This means using data to inform all decisions and to power multiple different products. This includes using participant data to create health insights that engage participants in their health and to offering relevant opportunities to participate in further research, as well as enabling the use of data by researchers to power transformational research. It also means shifting the way data is used internally, enabling scientific decisions and maximising the efficiency and effectiveness of our core business operations.

You are responsible for ensuring that health and operational data is accurately received, securely managed, and curated, processed and transformed into useable data that supports the organisation, unlocks research and drives insights for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers. This responsibility would cover data operations, data management, data architecture, data science and analytics, working collaboratively with the Chief Science Officer (CSO), Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Chief Product Officer (CPO) and Chief Compliance and Integrity Officer (CCIO) on the data flows. In addition, work to ensure the external impact of data will require working with the Chief Health Officer (CHO) and CPO on participant-facing activities and working with the Chief Business Officer (CBO) and CPO to support the expansion of data-driven and research-facing products. These capabilities will be key to unlocking new scientific discoveries and sustainable revenue streams. You will also forge deep collaborations with UK-wide and internal data partners to ensure that we can maximise the value of Our Future Health for scientific discovery and health impact.

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Essential duties and responsibilities

Data Strategy & Delivery for Research Impact
Develop and execute the strategy to build and continuously enrich Our Future Health's flagship research dataset, making it the world's largest, most diverse, and highest-quality resource for health research.

- Own the timely delivery of data releases for research customers in line with organisational milestones. Work across functions to ensure we have effective plans and resources in place for successful delivery.
- Co-lead with the CSO the implementation of initiatives to expand the breadth and depth of data collected from participants (e.g. genomic data, biomarkers, digital health information, wearables, novel questionnaires) and implement the broader linkages with external data sources (e.g. primary care records, prescription data, disease registries, administrative data).
- Work with data squads to establish the data pipelines to curate, process and release data secured by the participant programme and/or science teams, overseeing the logic to translate it into the form needed by researchers, as well as the ongoing management and delivery of those pipelines.
- Champion data quality by establishing standards that maintain public trust and meet all regulatory requirements, and drive streamlining and efficiency so that these data pipelines are accurate, effective and reliable at scale. Own the organisational risk relating to data quality.
- Build a strategy to ensure data products are AI ready including standardised machine-readable metadata that facilitate automation.
- Ensure analytic data platforms have desirable and secure AI and ML tools to facilitate frontier analyses in health.
- Implement data standards, models and vocabularies where they offer researchers value and assist in delivering FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-useable) principles.

Tools
Work closely with the CPO and CSO to drive innovation in the suite of data products, tools, and services offered to researchers, expanding how customers can utilize Our Future Health data to accelerate scientific discovery.

- Support the CSO and CPO to articulate high-level data requirements for target research areas to have impact on health outcomes. Support teams across the organisation to engage with researcher users to distil and interpret data requirements and learning and to help solve data-related problems.
- Support the CPO and CSO to identify and develop new data products or services (e.g. curated datasets, advanced analytics pipelines, data visualization dashboards) that provide additional value to researchers and industry partners. Prioritise data opportunities based on scientific impact and commercial return on investment, ensuring efficient use of development resources.
- Continuously improve existing data access processes and tools to delight users – simplifying workflows and incorporating user feedback. Foster an ecosystem or marketplace approach where external innovators can also contribute tools or methodologies to augment Our Future Health's platform.
- Provide support to the CBO in demonstrating products, services and capabilities that help promote the unique value of Our Future Health's data to the research community and industry – demonstrating its impact to grow the user base and solidify our reputation as an essential enabler of health innovation.

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Ecosystem and partnerships
Provide thought leadership around the use of health data to increase the profile of the organisation and awareness of the resource.

- Engage and influence stakeholders across the UK and internally, including other biobanks, NHS organisations and other data custodians to foster collaborations, innovation and shared endeavours.
- Identify where Our Future Health can uniquely add value in the data ecosystem and where we should adopt common approaches to enable our data to be exploited alongside other resources.
- Develop positions on external developments in data policy that have an impact on the organisation.
- Contribute to efforts to raise funding from government, charity, philanthropic and industry sources.

Organisational operations, insights and impact
Help to maximise the use and impact of data internally for decision-making and operational excellence.

- Engage with the CHO and CPO on the use of data participant-facing activities, supporting recruitment, engagement, the provision of health insights and the involvement in follow-up research studies, enabling those teams to leverage data to drive insight and evolve their approach.
- Develop our internal analytics and business intelligence tools and capabilities to ensure staff at all levels have the right information at the right time to make evidence-based decisions, working closely with the Technology team for live operations and engineering and the COO on decision-making culture.
- Implement tools, processes and training to foster a data-driven culture across the organisation – improving data literacy and enabling teams to easily access and analyse internal datasets, whilst also empowering them to use judgement to make decisions where the full data is not available.
- Work to improve the efficiency and reliability of internal reporting, ensure that internal data assets are well-governed and fully leveraged for organisational learning and improvement.

Enable us to set the global benchmark for data usability and trustworthiness across all products and services:

- Drive the relevance and trustworthiness of data for users, by owning data standards and models, the definitions of data concepts and metrics, data provenance and lineage, metadata catalogues, and the systems that make metadata available to support findability.
- Work closely with the CCIO to by identify governance considerations at an early stage when designing new data flows and developing clear proposals to help data governance become a strategic enabler.
- Own technical aspects of data privacy and privacy architecture, working with the CCIO and DPO to help bring together internal experts around security, transparency, ethics, privacy and safety.
- Oversee data management policies and practices that determine how data is managed across the lifecycle, including standards for data flows with suppliers, data retention rules, processes and policies such as de-identification, the subject matter expertise for our TRE accreditation process, understanding of and adherence to our commitments to providers of data such as NHS organisations.
- Oversee the operational elements of data flows, including data related incidents (e.g. inaccurate or missing data) and our researcher data import and export processes (currently via an airlock).

Leadership and Executive Collaboration
Serve as a key member of Our Future Health's executive leadership team, driving cross-functional collaboration and contributing to the organisation's overall strategy and success.

- Provide overall leadership to the Data team, mentoring and develop the leaders and their teams, building a high-performance culture of innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- Work closely with fellow executives (especially the CTO, CPO, CBO, CCIO and CSO) to ensure alignment of data initiatives with broader programme goals. Champion the role of data services in cross-cutting initiatives and maintain effective communication and cooperation across departments.
- As a member of the executive team, proactively contribute to the organisation's purpose, vision, mission and long-term strategic planning. Provide thought leadership on how data and data products can drive Our Future Health's mission and ensure the programme's growth and sustainability.

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Position specifications

Qualifications

- Educational Background: Degree in a relevant field such as data science, mathematics, computer science, information systems, life sciences, or a related discipline is desirable.
- Professional Training: Evidence of CPD in areas related to data management, or leadership.
- Industry Recognition: Membership or involvement in professional networks or bodies (e.g. data science, IT leadership, product management communities) is a plus.

Experience

- Functional Expertise: Significant experience in senior leadership roles within data, technology, or product domains, with significant experience at Director, VP, or C-suite level. The ideal candidate has a track record of steering data teams in an organisation of comparable scale and complexity.
- Sector Expertise: Demonstrable experience in healthcare, life sciences, or research-intensive environments, and where data security is critical. Familiarity with the unique challenges of health data and research ecosystems (such as working with NHS or academic partners) is expected.
- Data Platform Leadership: Proven success in leading large-scale data initiatives or platforms including overseeing data analytics teams, and implementing robust data governance frameworks.
- Product Development Delivery: A strong background in working with product teams on data-centric or research-oriented products, including a track record of successful product launches or platform deployments – especially products serving scientists, researchers, or other specialized user groups.
- Team and People Management: Extensive experience building and managing high-performing teams, including direct leadership of senior leaders and cross-functional leadership in a matrix environment.
- Stakeholder Collaboration: Experience engaging with a wide array of stakeholders, such as government bodies, academic institutions, industry partners and funders. Demonstrably strong network in senior health care leaders including data controllers and stewards, and ideally, a background that includes forming partnerships or working across organisational boundaries.
- Scale-Up and Innovation: Experience in a scale-up, or fast-growing program is desirable.
- Thought leadership and communication: Experience as a thought leader, and in publicly communicating ideas at conferences, events or through publishing in high impact academic journals.

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Knowledge

- Data Management & Governance: Deep knowledge of data management principles, data analytics, and data governance best practices. Understanding how to design and enforce policies for data quality, privacy, security, and compliance – especially in the context of health data (e.g. familiarity with GDPR, HIPAA or UK data protection laws, research ethics and consent processes).
- Research Ecosystem & Domain: Good knowledge of the biomedical/health research landscape including how researchers access and use large-scale datasets, the cohort studies or biobanks that are available and the challenges in research data access. Should be familiar with TREs and the importance of secure data enclaves for analysis. Knowledge of the UK health research infrastructure (e.g. the role of the NHS, academic research ethics, funding bodies) is also required.
- Technology & Architecture: A broad understanding of modern data / product technology stacks, being conversant in areas like cloud computing, databases, big data analytics tools and software development practices, as well as how to leverage technologies (e.g. cloud data platforms, AI/ML tools, or genomic databases) in a secure and scalable way.
- Business and Strategy Knowledge: Solid understanding of how data and data products drive organisationalvalue and impact, with knowledge of business strategy principles, budgeting, and return on investment considerations for alignment with overall strategic outcomes.

Skills

- Strategic Vision and Planning: Exceptional strategic thinking skills with the ability to craft a clear vision for Our Future Health's data strategy and translate it into actionable roadmaps with long-term goals (for data platform growth, data products) that are broken down into achievable plans.
- Leadership and Team Management: Highly capable of inspiring and directing teams towards a common vision, including teams for who they are directly responsible and those working in related functions. This should include being adept at coaching and empowering others, providing guidance and support while holding them accountable and fostering a positive team culture.
- Communication and Stakeholder Engagement: Outstanding communication skills, both verbal and written. The Officer must be able to articulate complex technical or scientific concepts in clear, accessible language for different audiences (from engineers and scientists to non-technical stakeholders and the public). They should also be skilled in stakeholder management – listening to and balancing the needs of researchers, participants, partners, and funders – and in communicating at all levels of the organisation (up to the Board).
- Analytical and Problem-Solving: Strong analytical abilities to interpret data and evidence for decision-making. They should be comfortable delving into data insights (e.g. usage metrics, research findings, operational data) to inform strategy and solve problems. Equally, they should have a proven aptitude for complex problem-solving – able to address strategic and operational challenges (such as improving data uptake or resolving platform issues) with effective solutions.
- Project Leadership and Execution: Adept at overseeing multiple and highly complex projects simultaneously, ensuring they are delivered on time and within scope.
- Adaptability and Agility: Capacity to thrive in a complex, fast-paced environment and manage ambiguity, being organised and pro-active to maintain quality and efficiency across a diverse portfolio.
- Influencing: Strong negotiation and consensus-building skills, bringing together diverse viewpoints – scientists, IT specialists, ethicists, etc. – and forging agreement on data and product strategies.
- Business Acumen: A solid grasp of budgeting, resource management, and the economics of product development, ensuring data platforms and products are not only technically sound but also cost-effective and sustainable. The ability to align initiatives with the overall business model and demonstrate value is important as well as the capability of identifying opportunities for innovation or efficiencies that advance the programme's objectives within budgetary constraints.

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How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Our Future Health on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code **ZBWTC**.

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **16 February 2026**.

* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice
According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.

Due diligence
Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.

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