Welcome to our Spring Foundation Trust newsletter

Spring is one of my favourite times of year. As the days get lighter and brighter it's the perfect time for fresh thinking and making new plans. Since launching Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT in January this year we've focused on delivering one high quality service across our three hospitals in Andover, Basingstoke and Winchester. Now we're putting new ways of working into practice and looking at what we can achieve in the year ahead.

As we work through our first one hundred days, we are already starting to see some of the benefits of being one integrated hospital service across three sites, while the value and importance of our hospitals being run by clinicians remains clear. It means doctors and nurses are not only responsible for providing the highest level of patient care and patient experience but are also responsible for making sure we are an effective and financially sustainable organisation.

Our aim is to provide a service that is delivered locally wherever possible and centrally where it is necessary. As an example, I was pleased to host the Secretary of State for Health on his recent visit to the new Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. As a result of the integration of services, this nationally top-rated stroke service is now available to patients across Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire. Similarly, the leading cardiology service at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital will now serve the whole of the Hampshire Hospitals region. These are just two examples which show how Hampshire Hospitals combines central centres of excellence for specialities such as stroke and cardiology with local services close to people's homes.

We also have the benefit of continuity in our executive team with Mary Edwards, chief executive at the helm. This means there has been a smooth transition to the new organisation operationally and we can go from strength to strength in the months ahead.

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Finally, as a reminder, our Focus on Health events give members the chance to hear from clinicians on health topics and to meet the governors for your area. We hope you will find these events provide an enjoyable and interesting evening - the next ones are in May and July. You'll find details inside. I look forward to welcoming you at one of our events soon.

With all best wishes

Chairman
Hampshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust
VIP visit to the stroke unit at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The stroke unit at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester hosted a VIP visit in February. Rt Hon Andrew Lansley MP, Secretary of State for Health was given a tour of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit with Steve Brine, MP for Winchester and Chandlers Ford. The unit is rated in the top 25% of units in the country by the National Sentinel Stroke Audit.

All stroke patients are now being treated at the unit in Winchester, which is the best in the region in delivering nearly all of the nationally set Accelerating Stroke targets over the last 18 months.

Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley said: “Thanks to the new Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, people in Andover, Basingstoke, Winchester and the surrounding area now have access to the best possible stroke treatment.

“Swift treatment for stroke is critical for the speed and extent of a patients’ recovery. The stroke service at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of the best in the South of England region.”

Proposed Cancer Centre

Plans are in the pipeline to develop a cancer centre which will benefit the population served by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The centre, which is expected to cost up to £16 million, will offer chemotherapy, radiotherapy, palliative care, core therapies and complimentary therapies. The centre is the vision of Mr Merv Rees, director of surgical services at the trust, and Dr Lara Alloway, clinical director for cancer services. The location for the facility will be in the north of Hampshire. There has long been a need for a centre in this area as currently patients have to travel to Southampton or Guildford.

The public will have a key part to play in achieving the multi million pound target. Having charitable monies for the project, as well as NHS funds, will help speed up delivery of this new facility and help us make sure it is available by 2015.

Focus on... Andover War Memorial Hospital

Andover War Memorial Hospital (AWMH) provides a range of services to patients from both the Andover area and the wider population served by Hampshire Hospitals. March 2012 saw the second anniversary of the opening of the new outpatient department at the hospital. The new facility was the result of a £3 million investment in the hospital, moving the department from old and increasingly dilapidated buildings into a bright, new, fit for purpose location. The new entrance gives the site a whole new look and with the formation of HHFT, the unit will be developed into a thriving community facility.

Hampshire Hospitals is committed to the delivery of services locally where possible, and AWMH is ideally placed to serve the population of west Hampshire.
Clinical Leadership Fellowship Programme

Congratulations to Julie MacPherson and Lorraine Major, nurses at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, who have been chosen to take part in a new programme aimed at developing the next generation of leaders in healthcare. We asked them to tell us about the programme.

Tell us a little bit about your background with HHFT

Julie: I have worked at the hospital in Basingstoke for 15 years, in the emergency department.

Lorraine: I have been working in Basingstoke on and off for 23 years with a break travelling abroad with my husband’s job in New York, Mexico, and Chile. I have been back in the paediatric department at Basingstoke since 2004.

How did you get involved in the Leadership programme?

Julie: I put in an application to the Clinical Leadership programme, which was assessed and accepted, followed by an interview.

Lorraine: My application was also accepted. Then I had to complete some online tests and a panel interview which was held in Birmingham.

How many applicants were there?

Julie: There were more than 300 final applications from clinical professionals across the country. We were lucky enough to gain places.

Lorraine: I think there were about 1000 expressions of interest and they were whittled down to only 60!

What benefits do you hope to gain from the programme?

Julie: This programme will help me to enhance my knowledge and skills and I am really looking forward to putting into practice all the new things I will have learnt. I think it’s great that it is recognised that with the right support clinicians could go on to make great leaders in the NHS. It’s also incredibly exciting that we’re the first to take part in a programme of this kind.

Lorraine: We will be working towards a Post Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Service Improvement. One of my main aims and passions is to improve communication between staff groups. Good communication is absolutely key to ensuring that we deliver excellent patient care and function well as a team.

We wish Julie and Lorraine every success.

Council of Governors

The newly elected governors attended the first meeting of the Council of Governors of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on 17 January 2012. The meeting was held in public and attended by the Board of HHFT. For details of your governors see our website www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk

Appointed Stakeholder Governors

Hampshire County Council - Councillor Marilyn Tucker

University of Winchester - Tommy Geddes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Governor for Disabled - Ian Loynes, Chief Executive, Southampton Centre for Independent Living CIC

Governor for Younger People - Benjamin Farnes, Member of Youth Parliament for Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Winchester Young Research Advisor- National Children’s Bureau

The newly elected governors
Thank you for being a member

Membership is a great way to show your support for your local hospital services. You are one of thousands of people who have joined Hampshire Hospitals.

Please encourage family and friends to join – membership is free and open to everyone aged over 14.

To find out more about membership see our website www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk, email hampshire.hospitals@hhft.nhs.uk or call the membership office on 01256 852615

We would like to keep in touch with you as often as we can; email is the most cost-effective way we can do this. If you have an email address and are happy to be contacted this way, please let us know at hampshire.hospitals@hhft.nhs.uk

If you do not have an email address we will continue to contact you by post, however this may not be as frequently to help keep costs down.

Health Focus Events

You are warmly invited to Hampshire Hospitals first Health Focus event on Thursday 17 May, from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at the Cross Barn in Odiham.

Health Focus events will be held throughout the year across the constituencies, and will be open to all Foundation Trust members and the public.

The events give members the opportunity to meet their governors, the board of directors, and hear from clinicians on health topics. In May, the presentation will be ‘Focus on Emergency Care’, given by clinical director for unscheduled care, Dr John Kitching. This is an opportunity to hear about what happens in a busy emergency department following a major trauma, such as a motorway crash or an industrial accident.

After May, the next Health Focus event will be on Monday 2 July in Winchester, at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital education centre. The subject will be ‘Focus on Stroke’, with a presentation by Dr John Duffy, consultant physician.

For information about future meetings, please see the website www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership

New technology improves breast cancer care

A new development in the diagnosis of breast cancer at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital will benefit patients and shorten their time spent in hospital.

The One Step Nucleic acid Amplification (OSNA), which has been available at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital for the past year, can detect if cancer cells have spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit, and can be carried out at the same time as surgery to remove tumours and reconstruct the breast. This can greatly reduce the time from diagnosis to treatment if tests prove positive. If the tests are negative the patient can be told immediately.

The special machine allows samples to be tested in about 40 minutes, instead of days with the old system. The OSNA machine cost £45,000, and was kindly funded by a donation from the North Hampshire Medical Fund.

Dates for your diary

Health Focus events:

Thursday 17 May 6.30 – 7.30pm
The Cross Barn, Palace Gate Farm, Odiham RG29 1JX
Presentation: Focus on Emergency Care

Monday 2 July 6.30 – 7.30pm
Education Centre, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester SO22 5DG
Presentation: Focus on Stroke

Council of Governors meetings:

Tuesday 17 July 6.30 – 8.30pm
Andover - venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 9 October 6.30 – 8.30pm
Venue to be confirmed