

newslink

December 2020

Governors' Newsletter

Issue 38

Preparing for winter

Salisbury District Hospital has taken steps to ensure we are fully prepared to deal with the expected surge in COVID-19 positive patients this year.

Since the first peak of COVID-19, we have kept our state of preparedness high and are constantly reviewing and improving the way we work in order to maintain normal services and cope with any additional numbers.

We are also undertaking some building work to improve how we safely manage minor injuries in A&E and a new modular building is planned to increase outpatient capacity. This new building is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Our remote consultation capacity has increased, meaning that more appointments can take place over the phone or by video.

Every year the NHS undertakes a huge flu vaccination programme to protect staff, this year that work is even more important to reduce any further pressure on the hospital.

The hospital has put in place a number of measures to maintain a safe environment for patients and staff including:

- All hospital staff are wearing facemasks and other Personal Protective Equipment
- We have reduced the number of visitors to site to help with social distancing
- There is clear signage in place and areas are regularly cleaned.
- Waiting rooms have been changed to help with social distancing.

As a result of the restrictions imposed by social distancing hospital services are now running at a new reduced capacity. All planned routine procedures and GP referrals have been individually clinically assessed and

prioritised according to need. This means that some procedures and appointments have been delayed and people are experiencing increased waiting times. It is hoped that patients will understand that we must see those most in need first and will bear with us as we work through the waiting lists as quickly as possible.

We would like to thank the community for their support over the last six months. The outpouring of generosity we received during the height of the first peak lifted the spirits of our staff.

We would like to thank the public for their continued efforts in helping to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, by adhering to the Hands, Face and Space guidance.



The hospital is ready and still here for you if you need us this winter. Call NHS111 first if you have an urgent medical problem to get the right advice or treatment you need.



Lisa Thomas, Director of Finance receives her flu vaccination

Lunchtime food audit

In February, before the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, Governor Jenny Lisle a member of Salisbury Hospital Food Forum and the Food & Nutrition Steering Group accompanied Head Chef Paul Norbury and catering trainee Gregory Owiti on an unannounced ward audit of the lunch service on the Acute Medical Unit (AMU).

When the team arrived on AMU at 12 noon the ward was full with 7 additional beds being used. The late morning addition of beds meant that come lunchtime there was a shortage of plates and cutlery. This appears to be a frequent occurrence and in later discussion with staff we advised that this needs to be addressed. The catering team have now increased the number of plates and sets of cutlery provided to the ward.

Towards the end of lunch, Gregory and I asked a number of patients about their lunch experience. Overall, feedback was very positive. There were no complaints from any patients interviewed – **spontaneous comments included**

‘the food is fantastic!’

‘stunning! much better than school dinners’

‘very nice and fresh’ a patient who had ordered a plate of sandwiches

‘very good, better than in most places’

A patient on a drip said staff were ‘very helpful, brought food he asked for’ and he was ‘very satisfied with the service’.

Dr Jennifer Lisle
Public Governor
South Wiltshire Rural



Paul Norbury, Head Chef

Stroke Care at Salisbury District Hospital

A stroke is a serious life threatening medical condition and a leading cause of disability in the UK. It occurs when the blood supply to the brain is interrupted. Stroke mortality has halved in the last 20 years due to better prevention, improvements in stroke services and earlier and more advanced treatment. Patients treated in a specialist stroke unit are more likely to survive, have fewer complications and regain their independence.

The National Stroke Strategy was established in 2007 to drive improvements in stroke services. A Stroke National Audit Programme measures the quality of care patients receive throughout the whole stroke care pathway including after discharge.

Salisbury District Hospital has a specialist stroke service provided by Farley Stroke Unit (SU). The policy is for all new stroke patients to be admitted directly to the SU within 4 hours, to have a CT scan, access to a

stroke specialist and if indicated, 24/7 thrombolysis. The SU is staffed by a multidisciplinary team with special knowledge in stroke care.

Some stroke patients such as those admitted with a Transient Ischaemic Attack (mini stroke) are very short stay whilst others may require a longer stay for a programme of rehabilitation. Patients are encouraged to regain independence as early as possible, but those needing ongoing care and rehabilitation are supported by a community ‘early supported discharge’

team providing continuity of care in the patient’s own home.

Jenny Lisle is a governor member of SDH Stroke Strategy Steering Group, a multidisciplinary forum with responsibility for development of integrated local policies and services, also for monitoring service improvements in line with the National Stroke Strategy.

Dr Jennifer R Lisle
Public Governor, South Wiltshire Rural

Dementia and Delirium Training

The photograph shows Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust Dementia Lead, Sandy Woodbridge, wearing a Virtual Reality (VR) Headset purchased to help with staff training.

The VR simulation software supplied by the Alzheimer's Society shows the lived experience that patients are typically having every day of their lives.

Training for all staff is conducted throughout the year. Staff who are willing to become dementia and delirium links undertake specific training by the team. They are then able to support other members of the team as well as family members as identified or requested.

For more information about the dementia and delirium team please



contact Sandy Woodbridge. If you have any questions about managing with Alzheimer's or dementia help and advice is available from the Citizens Advice Bureau on

0344 411 1444 and AgeUK literature is very informative and is available from their website - www.ageuk.org.uk
William Holmes
Public Governor, South Wiltshire Rural

Public Election Results:

Salisbury City:

Kevin Arnold and Joanna Bennett

Kennet:

Peter Kosminsky

Uncontested:

South Wiltshire Rural – Anthony Pryor-Jones and John Wigglesworth (stood down a month later so one vacancy)

Staff Governor – Clerical, Administrative & Managerial – Paul Russell

Nominated Governors:

BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) CCG – Dr Edward Rendell

New Staff Governor

Paul Russell, Primary Care Liaison Manager at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, commenced the role as Staff Governor with responsibility for Clerical, Administrative and Managerial on the 1st September 2020. Paul has said "As a staff Governor I would like to encourage Trust staff to get in touch with me to discuss any matters which they feel should be brought to the attention of the Governors, or where they have an idea to improve administrative processes. I can be contacted on Ext 2420 or paul.russell4@nhs.net."

Helping to promote Organ Donation

Right now across the UK, there are around 6,000 people in need of an organ transplant, including around 150 children and teenagers. On average three people die every day in need of an organ transplant because there just aren't enough organ donors. One donor can make a life-saving or life-changing gift to up to 9 people.

We need more people to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register now at www.organdonation.nhs.uk. It only takes a few minutes to register.

In May 2020 the law on organ donation in England changed to make organ donation an 'opt out' system rather than an 'opt in' system. Families still have a say in the final decision. However, it is still very important for you to sign up. Please tell your family that you want them to support your decision to donate and save lives. Ask them whether they want to be donors too.

Salisbury Hospital's Organ Donation Committee, chaired by one of the hospital governors, is helping to promote awareness of this change in the law. You can view a video on the hospital website www.salisbury.nhs.uk. The following website www.organdonation.nhs.uk also has more information including answers to

frequently asked questions, personal stories and the views of most religious faiths.

Lucinda Herklots

Public Governor, Salisbury City



Stars Appeal Update

Thank you to everyone for the continued support of our hospital charity, the Stars Appeal, especially to all those who responded so generously to the letter from Dr Duncan Murray enclosed with the last edition of Newslink.



During the hospital response to the coronavirus pandemic your donations have made a difference to both staff and patients. Funds have supported the important staff counsellor and mental health nurse and the specialist simulation training for staff. The simulation training was a vital part of training staff being redeployed to different teams as part of the hospital response to the pandemic. During the hot days of summer the Stars Appeal funded water coolers provided much needed hydration to staff, many of whom were enduring long shifts wearing additional protective equipment. In addition the hospital Chaplains, who are supported by the Charity, have been providing an essential service to staff and patients during what has been a very stressful and emotional period.

We're delighted to report that work has begun on the new Stars Appeal funded MRI Scanning Suite and it is anticipated the second long awaited MRI scanner will be operational in Spring next year. In the year ahead we are also targeting £200,000 to help



create and enhance a new birthing centre where mums, babies and their families will benefit from an enhanced environment and outside space.

All of this work is made possible by people who so generously support the Stars Appeal, including those

who so kindly remember the charity in their Wills. If you'd like to support our Hospital charity, find out about their free Will service or learn more about their life-changing work, please contact the Stars Appeal office on 01722 429005 or visit www.starsappeal.org

On Line Annual General Meeting

Because of the impact of coronavirus this years Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on-line. A number of presentations were pre-recorded and made publicly available.

A virtual meeting was then held for members to ask questions. The presentations included information about the Trust's financial performance and the management of the early response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentations can be viewed here <https://www.salisbury.nhs.uk/about-us/governors/annual-general-meeting/>

Even though the number of people attending the on-line question and answer session was lower than previous years, the Governors felt it was a positive experience. Governors will now be considering how to combine live and on-line events in the future with the ambition to extend the reach of our Governor events to new audiences.

John Mangan
Lead Governor

Getting in touch...

Get in touch with your Governor by going onto our website: www.salisbury.nhs.uk, click on About Us, then Governors and then Constituencies and Governors. Once there, choose the Governor who represents your constituency, or contact us by post at the following address, Salisbury District Hospital, Trust Offices, Odstock Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8BJ.

To help with our costs, where possible we would like to send this newsletter by email. If you are happy to receive it this way, please contact Isabel Cardoso at: Isabel.cardoso@nhs.net, or on tel: 01722 336262 ext 5479.

This document is available in large print, audio tape or another language on request.