The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

GPConnect

April 2018

Keeping GP Practices up-to-date with news from The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

New state-of-the-art MRI scanner unveiled at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy, recently unveiled a new state-of-the-art MRI scanner which has been purchased by the League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The League of Friends launched a £1 million appeal to fund the new scanner to mark their 50th anniversary. At a special ceremony on 22 March, the scanner was unveiled to invited guests and members of the team who will be using it.

Sir Algernon told guests: **"This is a great achievement. I greatly admire the League of Friends and all the work they have done over the years. It is a great tribute to the hospital that so many individuals want to spend their free time and many efforts to support their own hospital. You, and the staff who work here, are the Guardian Angels of the hospital."**

Simon Wright, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: "**When we started this journey, we had two of the oldest MRI scanners in the NHS, now we have three of the most modern."** He told representatives of the League of Friends: **"We are in your debt, so thank you."** Simon, who aided the fundraising effort by climbing four volcanoes in Sicily in six days, added: **"We are very fortunate to have such dedicated staff and what they need is the best equipment."**



Ray Smith, Chair of the League of Friends, said: "**There is one group of people who need to be thanked above all others, and they are the donors and contributors. The response has been quite outstanding. We have had legacy donations. I have been to functions where I have received cheques for £3,000 and £10,000. And then there have been the five pounds, the one pounds and the 50 pences and they all add up to enable us to purchase this wonderful piece of equipment."**

The Trust has replaced its two existing MRI scanners at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and at the Princess Royal Hospital as part of a £1.7million investment. The fundraising efforts of the League of Friends meant that the Trust could invest in a third scanner, allowing even more patients to be seen.

The new scanner will improve care for our current patients as well as allowing the Trust to carry out some scans for which patients have previously had to travel out of the area to receive.

NHSI praises staff at SaTH for reducing E. coli infections

The Executive Director of Nursing at NHS Improvement (NHSI) has congratulated staff at the Trust for its **"excellent contribution"** towards reducing E. coli bloodstream infections. SaTH has reduced these infections by more than 10 per cent.

Ruth May, Executive Director of Nursing, said: **"I am really pleased to see the excellent contribution SaTH has made to reducing E. coli bloodstream infections. Although this has been a difficult ambition to achieve, your Trust is one of 59 who have achieved a 10 per cent or greater reduction. These are not just numbers: these are people, so this directly contributes to better outcomes."**

Deirdre Fowler, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Quality at the Trust, echoed Ruth May's testament. She said: "**We have been able to achieve this thanks to our exceptionally hard working and compassionate workforce. Infection rates can be cut with better hygiene and improved patient care. I would like to thank each and every member of staff, whose commitment enables us to provide first class care to our local communities."**

New Trust Consultant appointment

We would like to welcome to the Trust **Dr Habib Khan**, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, who joined the Trust in April.

Contact details of substantive Trust Consultants are in the Consultant Directories.

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The Trust is investing in more Junior Doctors

The Trust is investing in more junior doctors to support the demands on its medical wards and improve 24-hour cover at both hospitals' Emergency Departments.

On 3 April Simon Wright, Chief Executive at the Trust confirmed funding for an additional 30 junior doctors over the next two years to improve staffing levels at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital. The announcement followed discussions between senior members of staff, including doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, reflecting upon the demands of this winter and to try to ensure that contingency plans for the overnight closure of the Princess Royal Hospital's Emergency Department do not have to be actioned.

Simon said: "**This commitment further enhances our ambition to build new services and ensure our existing ones remain in our county. This will also improve the health outcomes for our population and introduce more jobs and training opportunities through extending our apprentice schemes. By increasing our workforce we expect to see improved patient outcomes, better patient flow, two sustainable Emergency Departments and a better environment for our patients, their families and our staff.**

"The junior doctors will work on the rota so we can have approximately six per medical ward over 24 hours."

Dr Kevin Eardley, Medical Director for Unscheduled Care at the Trust, agrees: **"Increasing our workforce will improve quality and safety, reduce length of stay, create empty beds and allow for more effective weekend working.**

"At the moment, demand is exceeding our capacity, both in terms of physical space to care for patients and in terms of workforce capacity to manage the demand, and as a result we experience internal inefficiencies, and quality, safety and flow becomes compromised.

"This is reflected in high bed occupancy rates, high length of stay, and poor access to emergency services, and workforce costs are also associated as we have to employ more agency staff and open escalation wards.

"Although difficult to quantify the impact of increasing the workforce, we know that a lack of medical staffing is a significant barrier when trying to successfully implement initiatives to improve patient flow.

"By allowing these initiatives to flourish we should expect reductions in length of stay, the freeing up of hospital beds and improvements in our Emergency Department performance figures."

League of Friends of RSH donates over £70,000

The League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital has gifted £70,700 for the purchase of 14 ECG Recorder Machines and Patient Monitors, and for which the Trust is extremely grateful.

Nigel Watkinson, Medical Engineering Service Manager at the Trust, said: **"Monitors purchased for RSH through the League of Friends will allow our frontline nursing staff to be carry out swift, reliable and accurate measurement of patient vital signs.**



Nigel *(pictured far right with representatives from the League of Friends of RSH)* added: **"These high quality devices have boosted the hospital's fleet of monitors, supporting standardisation of devices throughout the Trust, including the medical device library where the monitors can be immediately deployed to wherever they are needed within the hospital."**

Diary date: lecture on End of Life Care, 15 May

A Health Lecture on End of Life Care will take place at the Shropshire Conference Centre, the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site, at **6pm on 15 May.**

"Dying matters and we only get one chance to get it right." These are the words of Jules Lewis, the Trust's End of Life Care Facilitator, who along with a band of volunteers has transformed the way our hospitals care for people who are dying.

In recent years the Trust has significantly improved facilities for people during their final days, as well as the care and support it offers for loved ones during this difficult time.

The Health Lecture, which will be led by Jules Lewis and the Trust's Clinical Lead for End of Life Care Dr Elin Roddy, will focus on the importance of ensuring patients have a good death and the improvements implemented at the Trust in recent years.

The health lecture is free to attend but booking is essential please, to ensure your place.

GP practice team colleagues are most welcome to attend, and to book your place please contact SaTH's membership office by emailing members@sath.nhs.uk or call (01743) 261473.

Clinical Decisions Unit opens at the Princess Royal Hospital

A Clinical Decisions Unit (CDU) opened at the Princess Royal Hospital earlier this month, to help ease pressure on the Emergency Department and reduce unnecessary admissions. Patients will be able to use the CDU to await test results, wait for an investigation to be completed or if they need a period of observation. A CDU already exists at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Nigel Lee, Chief Operating Officer at the Trust, said: "**The unit will help us to free up capacity in A&E and means patients are not taking up a bed in the hospital further on if they don't need to. It's all about making sure we have the best pathway of care and take the best actions for patients."**