

GPConnect

April 2019

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

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

League of Friends donation helps buy new patient monitors

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital took delivery of new patient monitors at the end of March, thanks to the fantastic fundraising efforts of the League of Friends of RSH. More than £6,000 has been donated to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital by members of the Berrington and Whitchurch branches of the League of Friends to buy three new monitors. Nigel Watkinson, Medical Engineering Services Manager at the Trust said: **"Monitors purchased for the hospital by the Berrington and Whitchurch branches of the League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital allow the hospital's frontline nursing staff to carry out swift, reliable and accurate measurement of patient vital signs. These high quality monitors have boosted the hospital's fleet. They also have the facility to monitor ECG, so nurses can do this critical measurement from the one device without searching for additional devices. Nursing staff have welcomed these new monitors and describe them as helping with early identification and management of patient conditions. The monitors have also helped the standardisation of equipment, replacing out of date and limited function machines, which is a huge benefit to ward staff with familiarity of equipment."**



"We are incredibly grateful to the League of Friends for their very kind donation."

The Medical Engineering Services department at the Trust has just been certified for achieving an internationally agreed standard that sets out the requirements for a quality management system specific to medical devices. It gives assurances to hospital colleagues and patients of the team's commitment to quality and continual improvement.

Medical Engineering is an exciting and varied role where the team at SaTH use their expertise in electronic or mechanical engineering to ensure the Trust's medical equipment is working properly and is safe to use. Medical Engineering is proudly part of the Healthcare Science sector of the NHS, which underpins 80% of all diagnoses.

Did you know that:

- ◆ The Medical Engineering Department is responsible for the management of over 30,000 medical devices.
- ◆ The team at SaTH completed over 25,000 device maintenance tasks in 2018.
- ◆ The department has a combined total of 400 years of medical engineering experience and over 80 years of technical training.
- ◆ They provide equipment management services to 13,000 devices for external NHS and private healthcare providers.

Team shortlisted for national award after making nearly £2m savings

The Trust's Procurement team has been shortlisted for a national award after making financial savings of nearly £2million. The team is a finalist in the Financial or Procurement Initiative of the Year category of the Health Service Journal's Value Awards 2019, which recognise excellent use of resources and highlight examples of demonstrable improvement in outcomes. The team's savings were achieved by using 'lean methodology' from the Trust's Transforming Care Production System, and introduced new and improved methods of working, which has helped them to remove unnecessary jobs and reduce the value of stock held in store rooms, all of which has significantly cut down on wastage and transport costs. Paula Davies, Head of Procurement at SaTH, said: **"To be recognised in this way for the work we have done is absolutely fantastic. As a result of this improvement journey we have saved a significant amount of money which can be put into improving patient care instead. That was an incredible achievement in itself; to be shortlisted for a national award is the icing on the cake."**

Simon Wright, Chief Executive, said: **"Paula and her team have made a considerable difference to our organisation and I am very proud of all their hard work. They have been able to use new, lean methods to completely transform the way their team operates – and as a result they have delivered huge savings, which will be of enormous benefit to our patients and staff. They thoroughly deserve this national recognition."** The overall winner will be announced in May.

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SaTH among first in country to have new Nursing Associates

5 Health Care Assistants (HCAs) at SaTH have just qualified as Nursing Associates, making them some of the very first registered Nursing Associates in England.

The Trust has been involved in a national pilot project to develop the role of the Nursing Associate, which began in January 2017 in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton.

The Nursing Associate is a new standalone generic nursing role in England which bridges the gap between healthcare support workers and registered nurses to deliver hands-on, person-centred care. They are members of the nursing "family" who gain a Nursing Associate Foundation Degree awarded by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The role has been introduced to help build the capacity of the nursing workforce and the delivery of high-quality care, while supporting nurses and wider multidisciplinary teams to focus on more complex clinical duties.

During a two-year programme, SaTH's Nursing Associates gained experience in a number of different clinical areas and settings, both inside and external to the Trust, which provided them with a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience to support them in their roles as qualified registrants.

Helen Jenkinson, Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality at the Trust, said **"We are proud to be one of the first Trusts in the country to have qualified Nursing Associates. All of our new Nursing Associates were employed as HCAs in the Trust before they started the programme, and this has provided them with an excellent opportunity to progress their careers."**

"We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our Nursing Associates. We are immensely proud of their achievements and success. They have worked tirelessly to achieve their qualification and are a credit to themselves and to their profession. We know that they are going to make a significant impact on the care of our patients and are pioneers in taking forward this new and exciting role. We wish them all the best in the future and look forward to following their career progression."

The Trust has subsequently recruited an additional 43 of its own HCAs to undertake the Nursing Associate programme in three further cohorts – two of which are in partnership with Staffordshire University.



The Trust's new Nursing Associates (front row)

Sister Helen to champion research at SaTH to enhance patient care

A senior nurse is to champion research at Shropshire's two acute hospitals by inspiring and supporting nurses and midwives to be part of future healthcare innovation. Sister Helen Moore has gained a coveted place on a national programme aimed at developing and growing research at the Princess Royal Hospital and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Helen, Lead Research Nurse and Clinical Trials Manager, (pictured right) will be part of the National Institute for Health Research national nurse and midwife research leadership programme. She secured one of only 70 places nationwide on the programme.



It means that Helen will be given two days a week over the next three years to develop and build opportunities for nurses and midwives to be involved in research - as well as to develop their own research - to enhance patient care and experience.

Helen has been involved in clinical research, which includes clinical trials, for the last 24 years, with 18 of those spent at SaTH. She said: **"Clinical research is just so fascinating and, for me, it is wonderful to be involved in the forefront of medicine. It is great to see the treatments that are being given to our patients today have been successfully trialled here in the past."**

"This programme will allow me to ignite an interest in research amongst our nursing and midwifery staff and really embed a research culture here at SaTH, which is something that I have always wanted to do. It will also allow me to build a research-led care environment for our patients, as we know that patients who are part of studies do better than those who are not."

Helen Jenkinson, Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality at the Trust, said: **"This is a really exciting role for Helen, and it is also a fantastic opportunity to really make research a key part of life here at SaTH which can only be great news for our patients and the future of healthcare."**

Functional Disorders Day: 14 June 2019

Places are still available for this event, organised by SaTH's Dr John Bowen, which will offer insights into the recognition, diagnosis and management of these common conditions that affect a significant proportion of patients seen in both primary and secondary care. The conference will be held at the Shropshire Conference Centre on **Friday 14 June**. Please click [here](#) to see the programme. To register an interest in attending please email Dr John Bowen, Consultant Neurologist, at john.bowen2@nhs.net

Colleagues from primary care are most welcome to attend.