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your HEALTH



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

AWARDS WINNERS



Together we care

People Centred

Excellence

Compassion

Positive

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Trust's new-look 'Your Health' magazine.

It has once again been an extremely busy time for the Trust and its staff with a number of achievements and developments to report on.

We have seen a number of achievements since the last issue with two of the Trust's major events – the Annual Members' and Public Meeting and the Celebrating Success Awards and Celebration Ball - proving huge successes and both are featured in this magazine. It is when you attend these awards that you see just how far our staff go on a daily basis to help people and provide the best service they possibly can in often very difficult circumstances.

We have recently seen the launch of our new Values which is one of the reasons for the new look magazine, which we hope you will agree is bigger and better than ever before.



We are now aiming to do more to promote the work of our Governors and our members and show just how you can get involved in helping shape the future of the organisation by responding to one of our surveys, offering to be a volunteer or even putting yourself forward to help our fundraising activities.

I am delighted to highlight that since the last newsletter we have been included in two prestigious lists. We were named as one of the top 100 employees by the Health Service Journal and also named as one of CHKS Top 40 hospitals, both of which are excellent achievements.

We have also seen the official opening of our fantastic new main entrance at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and the new Blenheim Child Development Centre which has moved to new, modern premises at Whitegate Drive.

We have a busy time ahead and if you want to keep up with all that's going on you can now follow the Trust on Twitter @BlackpoolHosp or on our Facebook page. You can sign up to receive our new e-newsletter, Health Matters, which is published every two weeks, via the front page of our internet site.

I am very proud of the achievements of the Trust and I look forward to meeting many of you at our Foundation Trust events over the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ian Johnson
Chairman

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Estates and Capital Development, the Non Clinical Team of the Year 2014

STAFF HONOURED A

A DOCTOR who went 'above and beyond' the call of duty to support the heartbroken family of a terminally-ill child was just one of a host of hospital staff honoured for their commitment and kindness.

Teams and individuals from the Trust were honoured at a glittering ceremony in the Winter Gardens' Empress Ballroom.

The annual Celebrating Success Awards saw Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Nigel Laycock, receive rapturous applause and a standing ovation from colleagues as he collected The Gazette's Patients' Award for his support of the family of a terminally-ill seven-year-old.

It was a "humbling" moment, he said.

"The fact this is the Patients' Award, and they've voted for you, is very special," he told The Gazette.

"They were a special family, very easy to work with and very grateful and lovely. This award is as much for them. They were amazing. It's nice to get this recognition, it's an honour.

"But there's so many other people too, my secretary Patrice Day, the team at Brian House children's hospice, the district nurses, this award is for the whole team."



Dr Nigel Laycock, The Gazette's Patients' Award winner



The Care Home Support Team of the Year 2014

Trust's freepost Address: FREEPOST: RRZB-RRAU-TGET
 Blackpool Victoria Hospital,
 Whinney Hey Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR



The Chaplaincy team celebrates winning the Chairman's Award Consultant, Mr Simon Tucker, wins the Employee of the Year Award

AT CELEBRATING SUCCESS AWARDS

Chief Executive, Gary Doherty, said: "It was an amazing event.

"I've worked in the NHS for more than 20 years and I have never been to an event as good as this one. All of the shortlisted candidates had done fantastic things and it was a pleasure to pay tribute to them and to give special praise to the winners in each category."

The fact this is the Patients' Award, and they've voted for you, is very special

Attendees were treated to a sumptuous dinner from caterers Rowleys before cheering on friends and colleagues as Radio Wave's Hayley Kay and Andy Mitchell announced the winners. The event

is fully supported by sponsors.

The runners-up for The Gazette's Patients' Award were Consultant Chest Physician, Dr Tarek Saba and the staff on Ward 15A.

A special Chairman's Award went to the Chaplaincy team, who said they were bowled over with the accolade and were delighted with their £1,000 prize money, to be spent in their department.

A further five awards were handed out;

* Clinical Team of the Year went to the Care Home Support Team in Blackpool. The runners-up were the Integrated Assessment Team and Wards 25 and 26 at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

* The winner of the Non Clinical Team of the Year category was the Estates and Capital Development team. The runners-up were the Better Care Now Pathways team and the Chaplaincy team.

* The winner of the Innovation and

I've worked in the NHS for more than 20 years and I have never been to an event as good as this one

Service Improvement Award was Paediatric Diabetes Nurse Specialist, Sandra Singleton. The Trust's Enhanced recovery in Cardiac Surgery team and the Volunteer Navigators were runners-up.

Employee of the Year was Emergency Department Consultant, Mr Simon Tucker. Runners-up were Jane Cairns and Sarah Sloan.

* The winner of Radio Wave's Unsung Hero Award was Staff Nurse, Lianne Harrison and the runners-up were the Community Special Needs Team North and Midwife, Eileen Shaw.



...n who were named the Clinical



Staff Nurse, Lianne Harrison, won the Radio Wave Unsung Hero Award



Sandra Singleton takes the Innovation and Service Improvement Award



BABY MAKES HISTORY AT BLACKPOOL BIRTH CENTRE

Weighing just 7lbs 14ozs, little baby Jebson made history when he was born at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The baby boy was the first to be born at the hospital's Fylde Coast Birth Centre.

Delighted mum, Gemma Jebson, said they had yet to name the new-born, but said she and husband James were very pleased and privileged to be the first couple to have their baby at the unit.

"Our first baby, Isla, was born in September 2013 and she was one of the first to be born at the Midwifery-led Unit, so it is wonderful that the new baby has 'christened' the new birth centre.

"It was an amazing experience, the staff were very good and it's a much better environment than a sterile ward to give birth. It really is like a home birth, but without the risks. I felt safe and secure the whole time"

Gemma, from Lytham, said she would be recommending the unit to all her friends.

James said the centre, run by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, did absolutely everything to involve dads in the birth.

"The space in the room is great and the staff involve dads from the off," James added. "Dads can feel a bit surplus to requirements at the birth, but the midwives really motivate us and let us know how we can be involved with back rubs and hand squeezing.

"The room really works because Gemma could get into a natural position for birth rather than being laid on a hospital bed and it feels really personal because everyone is around mum."

The new birth centre will take over from the former Midwifery-Led unit and gives four en-suite rooms to improve the options available to women allowing obstetrically low-risk mums-to-be to have the benefits of a home birth within the safety of a hospital setting.

Team leader for the centre, Julie Scholes, said: "We are all very excited at the

opening of this new unit. There were 300 births in the Midwifery-Led Unit in its first year and we expect that number to double with the opening of the new Birth Centre."

The £680,000 Midwifery-led Unit opened in August 2013 and has been a massive success. In March last year a further £500,000 was allocated to the Trust by the Department of Health to support women with Complex Social Needs, who may be at risk of developing problems either in pregnancy or postnatally.

The new unit runs alongside the Trust's established delivery suite which is made up of 10 consultant-led rooms.

Presenting Gemma and James with a welcome gift for mum and first born baby, midwife Jayne Brown said she was delighted to have been the first midwife to assist in the delivery of a baby at the Fylde Coast Birth Centre.

"The new rooms are really comfy and Gemma and James seemed really relaxed."

Heart attack dad saved by Trust nurses on night out

A father-of-three has praised four heroic Trust nurses who saved his life when he suffered a heart attack during a night out.

Chris Baron, 56, was at an 80s-themed Christmas party with his pub pool team at The Sands venue, in Blackpool, when he suddenly began to feel dizzy while dancing with his wife Annette.

As he left the dancefloor, Mr Baron collapsed – and then remembers nothing until he awoke the next morning in Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Four quick-thinking nurses from the hospital, who were among another group enjoying the Legends show, sprang into action and rushed to Mr Baron's aid. They said he did not appear

to be breathing and they took turns to perform chest compressions and give him the kiss of life.

A first responder arrived and used

a defibrillator to shock him. The nurses – from the hospital's Bowel Cancer Screening Programme – then continued with their efforts until an ambulance arrived.

Mr Baron was taken to A and E, where he was drifting in and out of consciousness, before being moved to the Coronary Care Unit at around 4am after he was stabilised.

He credits the nurses - Louise Newton, 45, Marie Young, 29, Charlie Cookson, 30, and Lindsey Siddall, 29 - with saving his life.

"I feel very thankful to be here," he said, speaking from his hospital bed.

"Without a doubt, I would have been a goner were it not for these four ladies."



Chris with his saviours, bowel cancer screening practitioners Marie Young, Louise Newton, Lindsey Siddall and Charlie Cookson



Caroline Howson with Stephen Hall and friend of Dottie Hall, Tracy Hyde



Joanne Collins gets her Cardiac Nurse of the Year Award from May Gandhi and Ramesh Gandhi

TRUST WORKERS PRAISED AT CELEBRATION EVENT

LOCAL NHS heroes were praised at the Trust's Annual Members' and Public Meeting ceremony.

The event sees the Trust's annual meeting followed by a celebration event recognising staff who had served more than 20 years in the NHS and those who had completed new qualifications or learning modules.

It also featured two special awards – the Cardiac Nurse of the Year and Dottie Hall Memorial Award.

Joanne Collins scooped the Cardiac Nurse of the Year award making her the first Healthcare Assistant to take the title. She was presented with flowers and a cheque for £200 by Mr Ramesh Gandhi, Wyre Public Governor and retired Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, who founded the award five years ago.

Judges sorted through a list of 35 nominations to get to two finalists before deciding on Joanne as the winner. They were impressed by her history of long service and her unparalleled caring personality. Her nomination said: "You can physically see patients faces "light up" when she enters a room. She is the kind of person other nurses aspire to be like when dealing with patients."

Joanne, who works on Ward 37 of the hospital's Lancashire Cardiac Centre, said: "This is a real honour for me. I can't believe that I have won when so many other fantastic colleagues were nominated. I try really hard to make every patient feel welcome and at ease. I believe it's the little things that make the difference and a smiling face and friendly ear can really help a patient get through their stay in hospital."

Also presented on the night was the Dottie Hall Memorial Award which goes to staff within the Surgical Unit who consistently go

that extra mile for colleagues and patients. It commemorates Dottie Hall a much loved nurse at the hospital who sadly passed away in 2011.

Caroline Howson was thrilled at winning the award and being presented with a gift from Dottie Hall's son Stephen.

Caroline was nominated for being an excellent advocate for those patients who have 'no voice or a small voice' and having the courage to speak up for them in a "deferential and effective" way. Her nomination also said: "Caroline goes the extra mile and has regularly held raffles and afternoon tea and cake sessions to raise funds to enable Ward 35 to purchase additional items to help towards caring patients who suffer from Dementia, Alzheimer's or have other cognitive impairment."

She said: "I've heard a lot about Dottie Hall and what an inspiration she was. To win this award for being like her in any way is a real honour for me.

"As nurses we don't expect recognition but it's so nice to know that patients and other colleagues appreciate what we do. I'm overwhelmed. I can't take full credit for this though, I work in a fantastic team who are so supportive and this is really for all of us."

Gary Doherty, Trust Chief Executive, said: "We have seen how the Trust faces many challenges in the forthcoming year but I think it's great that we have focused too on the way our staff go the extra mile to help overcome the day-to-day challenges of providing the best possible care to our patients.

"Everyone nominated for an award as well as all those who received an award deserve to be congratulated for their achievements."

NATIONAL AWARD FOR CONSULTANT

A TRUST consultant has won a coveted national award for the exceptionally high quality of his work and his commitment to patients.

Dr Raj Verma, a Consultant Paediatrician who has worked for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for 11 years, has been given a Bronze Clinical Excellence Award from the Department of Health.

Dr Verma trained in the North East, South West and North West of England, working in Blackpool and Lancaster.

However, he particularly enjoyed working as a Registrar in Blackpool and was delighted to return as a Consultant.

Dr Verma said he feels humbled by the honour: "We work very hard as a team.

"My role in getting this award is about 20 per cent and 80 per cent of it is down to the people working around me. The award has inspired me to do more. Receiving this kind of award looks good for the team and the organisation. It's all about providing good quality

He added: "The reason I do it all is for my patients. I worry about them and always strive to do my best for patients. There are still a lot of things that I want to do. Achieving the highest quality of patient care is my passion."



Chief Executive at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Gary Doherty, receives the CHKS Top 40 award from Jeanette Sephton, CHKS Managing Consultant



TOP 40 AWARD FOR BLACKPOOL HOSPITALS

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been named as one of the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals for 2014.

The award is presented to the 40 top-performing CHKS client trusts and the rankings are based on 22 key measures of quality, including clinical effectiveness, patient experience and quality of care.

All acute trusts are entered into the survey which is run every year by CHKS, the UK's leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

Trust Chief Executive, Gary Doherty, said: "This award is all about our staff and I hope all of the 6,500 people who work for the Trust feel justifiably proud about their contribution towards making this Trust one of the best there is.

"Being named among the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals 2014 is a recognition of the excellence of the work that our staff deliver every day and they reflect how

We are delighted that Blackpool is one of our 40 top hospitals in this special year for our awards

we are doing in the areas which matter most to patients – infection control, safety and clinical quality.

"It's great to see some national

recognition for our teams. We were judged on our performance in a wide range of areas, so thank you and well done to all our staff for the consistent hard work you have put in over the year."

Jason Harries, Managing Director, CHKS said: "This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary so it is a fitting occasion to reward excellence in the NHS. These awards recognise outstanding performance in those areas which we believe are critical to delivering good patient care.

"We are delighted that Blackpool is one of our 40 top hospitals in this special year for our awards."

Trust is officially one of the best places to work in the country

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of the top healthcare organisations in the country to work for according to the Health Service Journal and NHS Employers.

The Trust was named in the HSJ's Best Places to Work list, compiled in partnership with NHS Employers, which features the top 100 NHS workplaces across all acute, community, mental health and primary care sectors.

Trust Chief Executive, Gary Doherty, said: "We're delighted and proud to be named among the best places to work in the NHS in this top 100 list.



Gary Doherty

"Every day I see or hear of the amazing work of our staff and I hear how proud they are to work in this organisation and to give their best to our patients, their carers and families.

"It is great to see their work and pride recognised in such an influential list.

"We want to attract the most talented workforce, so we are committed to providing an environment that is welcoming and fosters innovation and

creativity and this award is testament to that and is something that all staff should celebrate."

The results are based on national NHS staff survey responses, in which NHS staff rate their organisation as a place to work and their confidence in the care provided.

Most staff would recommend the Trust as a place to work or receive treatment, with lower pressure felt by staff compared with similar trusts, according to the HSJ's top 100 list.

To get in the HSJ's Best Places to Work top 100 list, NHS staff survey results were analysed across seven key areas:

- Leadership and planning
- Corporate culture and communications
- Role satisfaction
- Work environment
- Relationship with supervisor
- Training and development
- Employee engagement and satisfaction.

The final list includes 49 acute trusts, 11 community trusts, 25 mental health trusts and 15 clinical commissioning groups.

FYLDE COAST PATIENT ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN WINS NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

A CAMPAIGN that has seen patient feedback in local hospitals increase by 40 per cent has won a prestigious national award.

The "Tell Us" campaign, developed by the Patient Experience team at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, picked up the Association for Healthcare Communications and Marketing (AHCM) award for the Best Engagement or Consultation.

The competition was stiff with almost record numbers of entries in every category of the awards, which aim to reward excellence and share best practice in NHS communications, marketing and engagement.

In the last year the team has developed a number of initiatives under the "Tell Us" Campaign to ensure the local community's voices and experiences are heard through a range of services.

They established a patient panel, which is now seen as a critical friend to the Trust. Panel members sit on recruitment panels for senior staff vacancies and regularly consider proposals offering their views on behalf of people across the Fylde coast.

The team has also conducted

mystery shopping exercises, and set up a volunteers scheme called the 'listeners' who have interviewed more than 2,000 patients at their bedside or in day clinics to capture their personal stories about local health care.

Eleanor Walsh, Lead in Patient Experience and Engagement at the Trust, said: "The Patient Experience Team is absolutely thrilled to win this award and it is so rewarding that our approach to patient and family care has been highlighted nationally.

"the Patient Experience team engage with staff regularly to provide the best possible experience for our patients and their families and in the last year have managed to achieve a 40 per cent increase in feedback from the local community.

"There is still a lot of work to do to ensure we reach our goal of co-designing services with patients and carers at every stage of their clinical journey, but I have every faith that our team will continue to implement and strengthen systems to support this achievement within the Trust."

The Trust's Head of Communications, Derek Quinn, was shortlisted in the award for the AHCM Communicator of the Year.



Eleanor Walsh, front right, with members of the Patient Experience team and volunteers from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with their national communications award



Sharon spearheads Youth Health Leaders project

MEMBERSHIP Committee members are spearheading a new, innovative youth project due to be up and running within two local schools, St Mary's Catholic College and Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College, in the near future.

The project, called Youth Health Leaders (YHL), was the brainchild of Sharon Vickers, Staff Governor (Nursing & Midwifery).

After talking to her own children it became clear to Sharon that children felt more comfortable talking about issues that affect them amongst their own peers. This gave Sharon the idea of having health leaders who would be trained to direct their peers to the appropriate information and support on topics such as, healthy eating, lifestyle, First Aid, alcohol and drugs, mental health and sexual health.

Support has also been received from other health services in the area including Blackpool Council's Public Health department, School Nurses and St John Ambulance who have agreed that this would be a beneficial project for youths in local schools and colleges.

Mr Simon Eccles, Head Teacher at St Mary's Catholic College, has backed the campaign and Sharon has visited the school on two occasions to talk to pupils and offer them the opportunity to apply to be a leader. Almost 100 applications were received from the two visits and staff will decide which pupils will be nominated as Youth Health Leaders.

Sharon is also in discussions with Lytham St Annes Technology & Performing Arts College to establish the scheme.

Sharon said: "I feel very passionate about this project. I feel that pupils will be happy to approach the Youth Health Leaders to find out further information about health issues.

"I want to stress that we will be educating the YHLs to signpost pupils to resources/ information, such as, directing them to health services, advice lines, school nurses. We will not be asking them to educate their peers or give out advice.

"I hope that this project also sends a positive message about possible career options within the NHS and strong links can be made between our Trust and local schools and colleges."

MINISTER PRAISES £16.5M HOSPITAL INVESTMENT

The Trust has been praised for its new main entrance and car park which has transformed facilities for patients, visitors and staff.

At the official opening of the £16.5m development, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Dr Dan Poulter MP, praised Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for its investment which he said supported frontline staff and improved patient experience.

Unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion, Dr Poulter said: "I was at Blackpool hospital 18 months ago and the transformation is amazing now this impressive entrance has been built.

"Thank you so much to everyone involved. This entrance and car park will make a huge difference to staff and patients. Investment like this supports frontline staff, improving their working conditions and is a welcoming face of the hospital."



Dr Dan Poulter officially opens the new main entrance at Blackpool Victoria watched by Chief Executive, Gary Doherty; Chairman, Ian Johnson and MP Paul Maynard

Work started on the main entrance and multi-storey car park in May 2013. The entrance hall was the final stage of the scheme to provide improved access to the hospital and houses retail outlets and a chemist.

The capital for the development was borrowed from the Department of Health and will be paid back from income generated through retail and parking charges.

Visitors are directed through to the facility from the Trust's new 1,200 vehicle car park. A covered walk-way takes people through to the main entrance where they can access the majority of the hospital guided, where necessary, by one of the Trust's band of volunteer Navigators.



The entrance hall includes Costa Coffee, Marks and Spencer, Lloyds Chemist and W H Smith retail outlets as well as a reception area and access to the first floor of the hospital.

At the opening ceremony, attended by Blackpool North and Cleveleys MP, Paul Maynard and Mayors from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, Trust Chairman, Ian Johnson, said: "It is fantastic to see the new entrance hall now being used. It is a wonderful area that makes a huge difference to our patients, visitors and staff."

Senior Project Manager, Craig Harris, said: "The main entrance is a magnificent space and is now a real focal point for the hospital for patients, visitors and staff."

Sporting hero officially opens new Trust child development centre

PARALYMPIAN Shelly Woods officially opened the Trust's new state-of-the-art support centre for Fylde coast children.

Wheelchair athlete Shelly, who won a silver medal in the marathon at the Paralympics in London 2012, unveiled a plaque to open the Blenheim Child Development and Family Support Centre for children which recently moved to new premises at the Whitegate Drive Health Centre in Blackpool.

The centre, which was previously based on Newton Drive in the resort, supports children across Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde who have physical or learning needs and aims to provide assessment, ongoing intervention and family support for pre-school children in a friendly and informal environment.

Consultant Community Paediatrician, Dr Megan Thomas, who oversees the work of the centre, said the children

and their families were benefiting from the new premises.

She said: "The facilities here are more modern and more joined up so that staff are closer together in one area and we benefit from the health Centre with its on-site pharmacy and other service.

"The move has enabled us to move with the times with benefits including a much larger sensory room that the children love."

Trust Chairman, Mr Ian Johnson, praised the former League of Friends group at the hospital for their financial support.

He said: "Without the financial backing of the League of Friends this move would not have been possible. They donated more than £100,000 to the facility and we are eternally grateful to them for their generosity."

A number of multidisciplinary services are provided at the centre provided by a team of experts including a Consultant Community Paediatrician, Associate Specialists, Specialist Health Visitors, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Nursery Officers and Administration staff.



Paralympian, Shelly Woods, officially opens the new Blenheim House Child Development and Family Support Centre at Whitegate Drive

FOCUS ON: THE HEART FAILURE COMMUNITY MATRON

FEELING safe at home can make a world of difference to people suffering from life-threatening heart conditions.

Thankfully a service is now available to help patients receive treatment in their own homes from a dedicated team of medical professionals.

Sara Trow, the Heart Failure Community Matron at the Trust, is leading a drive to empower patients to take control using the latest technology.

Cutting edge equipment is being used to send information via the internet to the hospital which enables patients, families and staff to monitor how the heart is functioning.

Sara and her colleagues use a system called 'Telehealth'. Patients are provided with a blood pressure machine, a heart rate monitor, weighing scales and a pulse rate oximeter (which measures oxygen levels in the blood).

Sara sets the parameters and the information is sent via the internet to the team. If there is an alert Sara and the team follow it up. The heart failure team did the pilot study for Telehealth six years ago and it was a great success. Patients were less anxious, hospital admissions were down and there was a reduction in visits to GPs.

Sara says the service and the new technology make patients feel much more secure and able to live a normal life at home. One patient even described it as their "security blanket" as it made them feel so safe.

Approximately 300 heart failure patients use the service and they are referred by cardiac consultants, GPs and other health professionals.

Ten per cent of Sara's patients currently use the new technology at home and the Trust would like it to be available to many more people.

The heart failure service is based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Cardiac Centre and there are clinics along the Fylde coast.

Sara said: "Our main job is to look at symptom control. Patients have a box at home which transmits all their information from their pacemaker to the hospital where we can then look to see

if treatment needs adjusting and that the pacemaker is working efficiently, without the patient attending."

Sara is part of a team that includes two other Matrons, a Case Manager, Heart Nurse and a Health Care Assistant and the team works closely with the Heart Specialist Nurses based in the Cardiac Centre. The service also supports District Nurses in identifying patients with heart failure in the early stages.



Sara Trow



Anita Tunstall

Anita delighted with Queen's Award accolade

A MATRON who works in the community with stroke patients has received a Queen's Nurse award at a ceremony in London.

Anita Tunstall, Community Stroke Matron for the Trust, is delighted with the award and hopes it will raise the profile of her profession.

The Queen's Nurse programme is designed for community nurses who want to develop their professional skills and promote the highest standards of patient care.

Anita said: "This gives me a chance to get stroke out there and to raise the profile of Community Stroke Nurses.

"There are not many of us, but we can make a huge difference to patients' lives. I'm happy to be a Queen's Nurse as it opens up other opportunities.

"Queen's Nurses work closely with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) and patient safety authorities. Queen's Nurses are often asked to become involved in working parties and advisory groups.

"I've already been asked to write a chapter for a book on community nursing and I have also been asked to get involved in a project that is looking at supporting carers."

Anita, who is originally from Chorley, has worked for the Trust for eight years. Initially she was a Community Matron and when the post of Community Stroke Matron was created she leapt at the chance.

She said: "Stroke was always my passion – it felt as though the job had my name on it!"

Anita's work is wide-ranging and she especially likes being able to support patients on their journey through recovery.

She explained: "For a lot of patients it's only when they are at home and living with stroke that reality sets in. I see people at home for 13 months after they have had a stroke."

GAINING BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP

"INTERESTING, informative and of great benefit" is how one woman has described membership of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Marguerite Smith has been a member of the Trust for two years and says she has gained a lot from her involvement.

"It has been so beneficial," said Mrs Smith from South Shore, Blackpool. "I have attended most of the monthly seminars and learned so much about health matters."

"Membership gives you a voice within the Trust. There is always an opportunity after the seminars to speak to the Governors about hospital issues," she added. "I can give my views based on my experience of treatment and feel my voice is being heard."

Marguerite has also benefited by being able to promote her support group to medical staff.

As a sufferer of haemochromatosis, a genetic disorder which causes the body to absorb excessive amounts of iron, Mrs Smith has been able to put a display in the Trust library to raise awareness of the condition among medical staff.

She explained: "A lot of medical people think it is a rare disorder, but in fact it affects 1 in 200 people and 1 in 8 are carriers. Being able to promote the condition within the hospital is so important to raise awareness and my Trust membership gives me access to do this."

Anyone wishing to join the 5,700 people who have already taken up Trust membership is invited to contact Jacinta Gaynor on 01253 956673 or email jacinta.gaynor@bfwh.nhs.uk

Anyone wanting more information about haemochromatosis can call 01253 311060 or email contact@haemochromatosis-merseyside-nw.org.uk



Marguerite Smith puts the finishing touch to her haemochromatosis display in the hospital library



Catherine Henshaw, centre, with Volunteer Navigators Maureen Bradshaw and Sue Sunter

COULD YOU BE A VOLUNTEER?

IF YOU have some spare time you'd like to use up by meeting like-minded people, socialising and helping others, then a group of hospital volunteers needs you.

The Navigators receive full training on getting around the hospital as well as dealing with patients including those with dementia

goals achievable. With a full complement of Navigators the public will be able to get around the hospital more easily.

"The Navigators receive full training on getting around the hospital as well as dealing with patients including those with dementia.

"They are based at either end of the hospital in the main entrance and at the Out Patients department. We only ask each volunteer to do a minimum of three hours a week, but if they can do more, and want to, we welcome it."

The 'Navigators' at Blackpool Victoria Hospital have become part of the furniture with visitors and patients alike relying on them to get around the hospital. They are now so popular that volunteer coordinators are struggling to meet demand and are looking for more volunteers to fill the gaps.

Catherine Henshaw, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, said: "We really want to be able to have Navigators on hand for patients and visitors from 8am until 8pm.

"We currently have more than 60 great Navigators, but need more to make our

It is estimated that, on an average day, a navigator walks approximately six miles around the hospital. To make up for the fantastic effort the volunteers often get together for social occasions including meals and trips.

Sue Sunter, one of the navigators, said: "I really enjoy the work. The people are all very nice and we all get on well. We are very well looked after and I feel really appreciated for my efforts."

To find out more please contact Catherine Henshaw by telephone on 01253 951977 or e-mail catherine.henshaw@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk

HEALTHWATCH LANCASHIRE

HAVE your say on health and social care in Lancashire... your voice counts!

Healthwatch Lancashire is the public voice on health and social care in the county with the role to listen and the power to significantly influence change within the health and social care system.

Healthwatch Lancashire gives children, young people and adults a powerful voice – making sure their views and experiences are heard by those who run, plan and regulate health and social care services in Lancashire.

Healthwatch Lancashire is one of 152 local Healthwatch organisations

which, together with Healthwatch England, make up the Healthwatch Network across the country.

Share your experiences with Healthwatch Lancashire by visiting www.healthwatchlancashire.co.uk or call 0300 3038811

Make a difference in 2015... become a Healthwatch Lancashire volunteer

We are looking for volunteers to help us be the public voice for health and social care in Lancashire.

Find out more by visiting www.healthwatchlancashire.co.uk/volunteers or email volunteering@healthwatchlancashire.co.uk



This new independent consumer champion for health and social care has been set up to help people who use these services in Blackpool. It offers them a powerful influence and voice in how they're planned and run - and signposts people to help them make choices about the many services available.

If you want to make your views known, would like further information about current services, or could help us give individuals and communities a stronger voice in influencing and challenging how services are provided in the area, contact us at Healthwatch Blackpool.

There are various ways for everyone to get involved, so please get in touch.

Telephone 01253 345445
 Email healthwatch.blackpool@groundwork.org.uk
 Visit www.healthwatchblackpool.co.uk
 Follow us on Twitter @HealthwatchBpl
 Like us on Facebook Healthwatch Blackpool

MEMBERSHIP SEMINARS

THERE have been three membership seminars since our last issue.

On Monday, July 21st 2014, Mr Gary Doherty, Chief Executive hosted a well attended 'Chief Executive's Question Time'.

On Friday, August 29th 2014, Mrs Jane Icton, Voluntary Services Manager hosted an informative seminar on 'The Increasing Role of Volunteers'.

On Wednesday, September 10th 2014, Mrs Liz Holt, Director of

Community Services and Long Term Conditions and Mrs Carole McCann, Associate Director of Nursing Community Health Services hosted a very detailed seminar on 'Supporting People to Remain at Home'.

The presentation given during the above seminars can be viewed on the website at www.bfwh.nhs.uk/members/events.asp

Thank you to all our members who make the time to attend.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

DO you know of any friends or family who would like to sign up and 'Join Our Community'?

Becoming a member of our community is free and gives members the opportunity to take part in surveys and consultations, elect Governors, stand for election and provide valuable feedback on services provided by the Trust.

Ask them to contact Jacinta Gaynor, Membership & Governors Officer, on 01253 956673 or email jacinta.gaynor@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk for further details or a membership application form.

Seminar Dates for 2015

Here are some important dates for your diary for this year. If you would like to attend please contact the Membership Office on 01253 956673 to book your place.

Date & Time:	Venue:	Details:
Tuesday, March 10th 2015 10.30 – 11.30 am	Cardiac Lecture Theatre, Cardiac Education Centre, BCH	Mr Jawad Islam, Consultant Urologist. Seminar on "Prostate Cancer."
Wednesday, April 15th 2015 10 – 11 am	Lecture Theatre, Education Centre, BVH	Mrs Elaine Walker, Head of Mental Health. Seminar on "Depression Awareness Week."

MEET YOUR GOVERNOR

– CLIVE BARLEY



What area do you cover?

I am the Governor for the Fylde covering areas such as Lytham, St Annes, Ansdell, Freckleton, Kirkham, Wesham and Wrea Green.

When did you become a

Governor? I joined the Trust as a Governor in 2013.

What made you want to

become a Governor? I originally joined the Trust as a member being interested in the hospital after becoming a volunteer for Cancer Research UK. I had been a patient at the hospital for treatment of bowel cancer in 2003. My dad had also been an inpatient at a similar time so these events came together and I became more interested in the hospital and NHS. I spotted in a newsletter that there was an election for Governors and I was delighted to put myself forward in the ballot and be voted in by members.

Since you have been a

Governor what have you been involved in? I have attended Board of Directors meetings and Council of Governor formal meetings. I am on the Membership Committee and passionate about helping to get more people to engage with the Trust. In addition I have been nominated by the Governors to represent them on the Finance Committee as an observer. I find this really interesting as I get a fuller

picture of the challenges the Trust has to face.

I also carry out a number of service visits to go round departments and find out what they do, what their challenges are and what we can do to help them in the future.

Has anything surprised you?

I always knew the NHS was a complex organisation, but it is actually far more complex than I ever thought. When I started as a Governor I didn't appreciate just how big the Trust was or understand fully the challenges of how things can change every day. It is clear that no matter what plans you have in place there is always something that could come along and totally change them. You get to see how a department like A & E can be staffed to cover adequately for 16/20 patients an hour but then see more than double that amount turn up. It's fascinating to see how the staff cope with such unexpected demands and how dedicated they are to their work.

What have you enjoyed

most about the role? I really enjoy meeting staff and talking to them about their roles and getting more of an understanding of what they do to help patients. I also enjoy meeting other Governors and learning from their experience. Most of us are from different backgrounds, mine was mainly human resources and Personnel, and it is interesting to see how they

use their life experiences to help the organisation. I have met Governors from other organisations and in my opinion it is clear that we are given more of a voice at this Trust than many others. It is good to know that we can help shape the services that are delivered to local people.

What skills have you brought

to the Trust? My background is in HR in the manufacturing industry and I have some knowledge of management and communications at fairly high levels in organisations. But I think the main thing is that I have been a patient myself and a carer with my dad and I have seen things from a patient's perspective. I can interact with people in the community and can discuss NHS experiences and feed back some of those community views. As Governors our role is to reflect on all the information available and if appropriate challenge the Non Executive Directors to make sure they challenge the Trust's Board about important issues.

Board Meetings held in Public

AS part of the Trust's commitment to openness and accountability, Board meetings are held in public on a regular basis.

Please note below the meeting dates for 2015:-

- Wednesday 25th February 2015
- Wednesday 29th April 2015
- Wednesday 20th May 2015
- Wednesday 29th July 2015
- Wednesday 30th September 2015
- Wednesday 28th October 2015
- Wednesday 25th November 2015

All meetings will commence at 9.30am with the exception of the meeting in

May, which will commence at 10.30am.

The agenda for each meeting, which will include details of the venue, will be posted on the Trust's website http://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/about/meetings_public.asp at least three days in advance of the meeting date.

Staff, patients, the media and the public are encouraged to observe these meetings which provide an opportunity to learn about the work of the Board.

The agenda for each meeting will be posted on the Trust's website http://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/about/meetings_public.asp at least three days in advance

of the meeting date.

Members of the public also have the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the agenda or reports and these should be submitted in writing to the Chairman at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting date.

Write to Judith Oates, Foundation Trust Secretary, Trust Headquarters, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR

For further information about Board meetings, please contact Judith Oates on 01253 956856 or judith.oates@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk.

FOOTBALL LEGEND LAUNCHES FUNDRAISING APPEAL

BLACKPOOL FC and England legend Jimmy Armfield CBE officially launched the latest appeal by Blue Skies Hospitals Fund.

The appeal aims to raise £30,000, to provide enhanced dementia care across the Fylde coast. The money will be spent on creating Memory Corridors and making getting about easier at hospital sites in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre for people with memory problems.

Funds will also go on building a new secure and interactive garden at Clifton Hospital where patients can enjoy calm surroundings outside the hospital setting.

Jimmy said: "I have had family and friends who have suffered with dementia and I know it has left loved ones around feeling uncertain and helpless.

"Of late there has been some publicity given to the subject but I believe it needs to be addressed on a national basis, particularly as the population has increased and the fact that people are living longer.

"The truth is it can affect any of us, and that is why I believe for dementia sufferers we need to ensure the best medical and care environment we can. That is why I am supporting the Blue Skies Peace of Mind appeal and I think the public needs to get involved in it as well. This is their opportunity to get involved in local dementia care."

Courtney Bickerdike, Clinical Matron at Clifton Hospital, said: "We are so pleased to have Jimmy involved in this very exciting fundraising project. With his help, and the generosity of people living on the Fylde coast, we are sure

we can make this appeal a success and help to create a caring and calming environment for our patients who have dementia."

Amanda Bennett, Head of Fundraising, said: "This is very important appeal for Blue Skies Hospitals Fund. The charity has a focus on supporting care of the elderly, and dementia is a very important matter which is high on the Government's agenda.

Courtney Bickerdike, Clinical Matron, said: "By raising this money, we will be able to better care for our elderly patients, so we hope the whole of the Fylde coast gets on board to make this campaign a success."

Peace of Mind has been launched in partnership with Age UK Blackpool and District and Age UK Lancashire with the support of councillors from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

You can donate to the Peace of Mind appeal in the following ways:

- **Just Giving** visit www.justgiving.com/Peace-of-Mind.
- **Text** the word POFM55 followed by your donation amount (eg £1, £3 or £5) to 70070.
- **Post** cheques, made payable to 'Blue Skies Hospitals Fund' to Fundraising Office, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR. Please include a covering note specifying your donation is for the Peace of Mind appeal.
- **Call** the Fundraising Team on 01253 957904 to discuss any fundraising ideas you have.



Fundraising Officer, Nicci Hayes, Chaplaincy Team Leader, Graeme Harrison, Rev Clive Lord and Fundraising Administrator, Hazel Preston at the Tree of Lights ceremony

Remembrance ceremony raises thousands

MORE than £2,800 was raised to benefit bereavement care on the Fylde Coast, thanks to an annual Appeal.

The Tree of Lights Appeal runs every year to give people the chance to remember their lost loved ones at Christmas while raising money for an important cause.

This year the Appeal, which includes the Tree of Lights ceremony and hospital staff who donate by sending their Christmas Wishes through an online donation, raised a staggering £2,807. The appeal is organised by Trust charity Blue Skies Hospitals Fund and the Chaplaincy Team.

Head of Fundraising, Amanda Bennett, said: "We are thrilled that once again so much has been raised to benefit Bereavement Services through our Tree of Lights Appeal. This money will be used to help those who find themselves in extremely difficult circumstances while loved ones are critically ill in hospital.

"The event itself in December was very well attended, and we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has donated as part of the Appeal."

The money will be spent on buying Comfort Care Packs, which include snacks, drinks and toiletries, to be given to the families of critical patients.

Chaplaincy Team Leader, Rev Graeme Harrison, said: "Christmas can be a very difficult time for people who have experienced loss, whether they are recently bereaved or their loss happened some time ago.

"We are delighted that so many people have supported us in the Appeal, which each year continues to go from strength to strength, allowing us to further support people in their times of need."



Jimmy Armfield CBE, second from the left, launches Blue Skies Hospital Fund's Peace of Mind appeal with, from left: Coun David Ward, Coun Christine Wright, Coun Fabian Craig-Wilson and Doug Garrett, Chair of the Trust's Charitable Funds committee

INTERVIEWEE DOCTORS GET GRILLED BY CHILD PATIENTS



Rev Graeme Harrison thanks school head boy and Girl, Jack Gudgeon and Olivia Stuart and Deputy Head, Anthony Lord

PUPILS' PUZZLES FOR PALLIATIVE PATIENTS

PUPILS at a Preesall school have created a book of puzzles and teasers that will help family members of seriously ill patients.

Saint Aidan's Church of England Technology College has risen to the challenge set to them by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to create a booklet of 20 puzzles and brain teasers. The booklet will be included in a new pack created by the Trust to help family members faced with the emotional distress of visiting patients who are coming to the end of their life.

The 'Visitor Support Pack' is a gift for carers and family members spending long periods at a patient's bedside. Its contents are designed to make them more comfortable at a difficult time and include items such as snacks, information leaflets, toiletries, a blanket and now also include a book of puzzles to help pass the time.

The Trust's Head of Chaplaincy Service, the Rev Graeme Harrison, said: "Visiting patients who are reaching the end of their life can be very distressing and emotionally draining for those at the bedside. We allow them to stay at the bedside for as long as they wish but that means they are away from those little comforts that can mean so much to them.

"The support packs were created to help provide those items that people need to make them more comfortable. It's amazing what a difference something as simple as a toothbrush can make. We have found from pilots of the packs that the support they bring to the visitors has an astounding effect on their wellbeing and ability to cope at such a difficult time."

Anthony Lord, Deputy Head Teacher at the school, said: "As a church school we do a lot of charity work as we feel it is important to give all we can. The hospital is the one most of our pupils will use for their own health needs so we wanted to help our local hospital if we could.

"This is such a great initiative that will help people in a real time of need and we are only too happy to be a part of it. I hope this will be the start of a link between the school and the Trust."

DOCTORS have been grilled by child patients during an interview process with a twist.

In a first for the Trust, prospective paediatric consultants have faced a second interview in front of the Victoria's Voice group.

The group is made up of children who have all been treated by the Trust and have joined together to share their views and make improvements to the way children are treated.

Adult facilitator of the group, Fiona Jones, said: "The group really take pride in their work around the hospital. Who better to tell the executives what children want than the young people themselves.

"Victoria's Voice has been involved in interviewing before for staff nurses and play workers and another consultant post, but this is the first time a candidate has been interviewed by them separately as part of a bigger process.

"They appreciate how much training and time goes into getting to consultant level, but they also want to remind us that the human factor is important too; being able to talk to patients and make sure they understand."

The candidates faced two interviews, firstly with the young people and then with the official interview panel of consultants and executives.

They were asked questions around the subjects of confidentiality and talking to the young patients as well as to their parents. The panel knew what

they wanted to hear and what was important to patients and only the best would do. When the young people had made their choice they told the main interview panel their reasons so the final decision could be made.

Morgan Leather, aged 12, from Victoria's Voice, said: "I enjoy taking part in the interviews because we can help find the people who we would want to look after us and who are nice, friendly and good at communicating with children and young people.

"We had to learn about how to interview fairly and we can't judge on how someone looks or who has a good joke. We know what sort of answers we are looking for and most of the people we meet deserve the jobs."

Trust Chief Executive, Gary Doherty, was on the main interview panel and said: "The group have sat in on interviews before and are very articulate in their questioning of the candidates.

"It's a new dimension to the interview process to have candidates face the young people they will treat but I think a positive step. It's important our paediatric doctors are comfortable with talking to them so this extra pressure was one we felt would really test them to the limit as well as setting the scene for the role they will have at the Trust.

"We will be taking the views of Victoria's Voice into consideration and will be letting the successful candidate know soon."



The Victoria's Voice panel ready to meet their first candidate. Pictured from left: Morgan Leather, Harry Clueit and James Lenthall

YOUNGSTERS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON TAKEOVER DAY

YOUNGSTERS were given the chance to take over hospital management as part of a national campaign.

Around 40 children were able to shadow the top managers and directors of the Trust as part of the national Takeover Day.

All aspects of the Trust were looked in to. From school nurses to the communications team and the kitchens to mental health services, the young people gave their views on the way the hospital works and how it should alter to consider young people more.

Service Manager for Children and Adult Mental Health Services (CAHMS), David Eaton said: "I was blown away by the way the young people were getting involved. The group of four were made up of people who had used the service in the past and so had an opinion and something they particularly wanted to look in to. We showed them everything we are involved with and some of the techniques we use such as teaching relaxation.

"It's great to get young people's views. It spurs you on to make

things better. We've had some great feedback and I will be taking some of the suggestions forward. I have already set some plans in motion to make the changes suggested.

The children also learnt something about the way the top decision makers go about their business. They said the experience was fun, educational, inspirational, motivating and informative.

The day was organised throughout the Trust by Fiona Jones, Patient Experience Officer.

She said: "Takeover Day is about giving young people the chance to have their say on various aspects of their lives. It spans all organisations and we got involved last year for just the day. It was such a success that I really wanted to make it bigger this year.

"The young people get a lot from it either in terms of feeling empowered to have their say or because they are interested in a career in the health service. We get some great feedback and ideas for how we can improve treatment of young people. I can't wait for next year."



Service Manager for Children and Adult Mental Health Services, David Eaton, with youngsters on Takeover Day



Kitchen Manager, Darren Cadwell, shows one youngster how it is done

Schools take part in special careers event

YOUNG people were offered a behind the scenes look at the medical profession at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Schools from around Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre were invited to bring children who were interested in careers within the NHS to Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Simulation and Skills education centre.

The special advice session for around 300 pupils was led by the Trust as part of its patient safety week as a way to encourage

future generations of care givers.

A wide range of career opportunities were represented from radiology to occupational therapy from becoming a consultant to working in the hospital kitchens.

The young people could even use the technology and mannequins available in the simulation suite of the hospital to get hands on and have a go at taking blood and checking patients.

Martin Newton, a member of the simulation and skills team who led the event, said: "Most career days feature all kinds of professions and young people spend their time exploring to see what takes their fancy.

"This was a chance to engage with youngsters who are already interested in a career in the caring profession.

"We wanted to let them see what the job involved, get them enthusiastic about it and show them the different avenues they can take."



One youngster is shown how a cast is made

KNOW YOUR PUBLIC GOVERN

Public Elected Governors:-

Blackpool Constituency

Carol Measures



As a shopkeeper in Waterloo Road in Blackpool, I meet and talk with, a lot of local people and we share our views and concerns. My aim is to represent these views

and concerns and make a positive contribution to the aims of the Trust.

I have always been interested in the care of the elderly and worked in rest homes prior to running my shop. Now, as a pensioner, my interest is a vested one and I hope to put it to good use.

I am a strong believer in the NHS and its principles, particularly that it is available to all equally, and want to support policies of good patient care.

Camilla Hardy



I was born and brought up in Blackpool. The Vic is my local hospital and my family and I have first-hand experience of health care provided by the Trust.

I have more than 25 years experience working in adult social care in Blackpool and Lancashire, most recently as Head of Service for the County. Throughout this time, I have had significant operational responsibilities supporting the discharge of patients from hospitals across Lancashire, alongside managing frontline staff delivering the assessment and provision of care in the community. This enables me to offer a unique perspective to the role of Governor.

I understand the infrastructure and requirements of the Trust. I have expertise in and awareness of the patient experience and can link into resources and networks offered by the wider local community, in which I am a high school Governor. My work experience helps me to understand the challenges faced in balancing the business requirements and budget constraints of the Trust with the need to improve quality, deliver good outcomes and enrich the patient experience.

I am passionate about both the quality of care and patient experience and wish to focus on these areas. I am positive, enthusiastic and keen to contribute and make a difference to local healthcare and believe my knowledge, skills and commitment will shape, influence and support the Trust in delivering the best possible care it can for the benefit of those who use the services.

Zacky Hameed



I have worked as a lecturer in Lancashire and abroad, and had my own business and lived in Blackpool for the last 27 years. I am continuously alert to what is going on in Blackpool and how it affects

the lives of the local residents.

I feel compelled to participate and contribute to the improvement of Blackpool and the health of its citizens. I have always been a constructive, critical observer.

I will assist the Trust management to explore aspects of patient experience from admission, through hospitalisation, to discharge and to palliative care and will look at how best we can do this to the greatest advantage of the patient.

I feel this can be achieved by patient participation, networking groups and for us to expect the best value from the available resources. I am a progressive thinker and prefer to look to the future rather than the past.

Cliff Chivers



I have lived locally since the age of 11.

Work-wise, I served an apprenticeship as a fitter and worked my way up into management.

I volunteered in the RAF, serving both at home and in Germany. I have spent more than 20 years as a volunteer in our Chaplaincy team including working four years on call.

For many years I served on the Bishop of Blackburn's Advisory Council and was a member of the executive of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Trustee of the Diocese. I also served on the Parsonages Board as a Finance Director jointly responsible for a property

portfolio of £40 million.

Neal Brookes



I am married with two adult sons and have lived in Blackpool since 1975.

My family and I have been lucky enough to benefit from the provision of the NHS throughout our lifetime

regardless of the ability to pay. I believe the NHS is a world renowned institution to be cherished and celebrated as a mark of our civilised society.

In my work as a Probation Services Officer, I see on a daily basis how the health service acts as a safety net for the less able members of society. Many of the individuals I meet through my work are challenged through poverty and/or addiction and are often written off by the less caring in our society. I have a deeply held conviction that we were all born equal and have the same rights to enjoy a happy and healthy lifestyle. Poverty often inhibits access to healthy lifestyle choices but our health service rightly provides care on the basis of need regardless of social status or wealth.

I have been a Labour Party member for almost 40 years and represented people as a trade union representative throughout my working life. I am currently chair of the North West Probation and CAF/CASS branch of Unison.

George Holden



I was brought up in a Promenade hotel and attended local schools so I feel I have an understanding of what living in Blackpool means. I went to college in Cheltenham and

Birmingham, then embarked on a career in science teaching and youth work. In 1998 I was appointed Principal Youth and Community Officer for the new Blackpool Unitary Authority.

Now retired, I still play an active role in local youth affairs as Chair of the Council for Voluntary Youth Service and Trustee for both Blackpool Boys & Girls Club and Blackpool Street Pastors.

I am interested in ensuring young people are appropriately catered

for in all aspects of healthcare and for their representation in health governance structures.

Patricia Roche



I have been a member of this Trust for the past four years. I believe our health service to be a pearl beyond price and have followed the recent changes in the NHS with

some misgivings. The Health and Social Care Act looks set to have a considerable impact on local health provision and the focus of services, not always necessarily for the better. It is for this reason that I felt impelled to stand for election. I wished to represent foundation members more fully and to help safeguard the future of healthcare in this area.

My background is in Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy. I have a Masters Degree in Management. I have been fortunate to be able to use these skills as a Curriculum Manager at Blackpool College. Prior to that, I worked in a local surgery for a number of years, where I was able to support patients through my counselling practice. I have also been employed as a Visiting Professor in the United States. Nearer to home, I have designed and delivered summer schools at the University of Lancaster.

I am committed to using all the skills at my disposal as a public governor for Blackpool. My main contact with health staff up to now have been in community settings and I would like to prioritise this area initially. I am already working with the education centre to ensure that my performance as governor follows best practice. I am very interested in issues relating to mental health and would like to ensure that links with Lancashire Care Foundation Trust are strong within the locality.

I believe that members have a vital part to play in ensuring the NHS both locally and nationally moves forward in the right direction. I will do all in my power to represent people and ensure their voice is fully heard.

John Butler



I became a member of the Trust in 2007 and later that year stood for election as a Governor for which I was elected.

During my time as a Governor, I served on various committees including Membership, Patient Experience, Patient Safety, Fire Safety and The Sustainable Transport Committee.

During the last couple of years, I became interested in Equality & Diversity promoted by the Trust and attended one day courses.

As the Chairman of two community associations in Blackpool and a Gateway community representative I work with council officers, councillors and other community representatives within Claremont/Talbot & Brunswick wards. I have worked together to improve local services.

I have also helped to set up an improved form of Neighbourhood Watch.

I am involved with Fylde Coast Community Radio. I am Chairman of Adelaide Street Family Practice and The Harris Medical Centre, Patient Participation Group Committee (ASK).

Fylde Constituency

Clive Barley



Born in Worcestershire, I moved to Lytham St Annes in 1994. I am married to Linda with three daughters and four grandchildren. Two of my daughters work for the

NHS. I originally started my career in the Midlands car industry and held various senior human resource management positions across the UK leading to my move into Fylde, working for BAE Systems.

In 2003 I was diagnosed with Bowel Cancer. Thanks to early diagnosis and the

fantastic team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, I have celebrated being all clear for more than 10 years. I'm also a volunteer campaign ambassador for Cancer Research UK in Fylde. In addition to fundraising I help with patient media campaigns and lobbying parliament/key-stakeholders.

I am passionate about healthcare in the NHS and feel so privileged to have been elected into the role of one of the public governors for Fylde.

Gillian Wood



I was born in Blackpool, am married to Mike and now live in the Fylde. Until recently retiring, I had worked in the Trust for over 25 years in

both patient facing and support roles. I led the introduction of the first housekeepers and developed the Policy Co-ordinator/Archivist role to develop and manage policies and procedures. I also managed Patient Information Leaflets, gaining patient and visitor feedback, which resulted in the first accreditation for the Trust for the standard of its leaflets. Because of my passion to support the Trust in its delivery of better patient care, I am also now involved in voluntary work at the Trust.

I intend to now use all my professional and personal experience to promote patient needs. I see my main role as representing the views of the Fylde residents when talking with key influencers.

I am passionate about our NHS and how it serves our local community and I am honoured and delighted at being elected as a Governor for the Fylde. I am looking forward to becoming the eyes and ears for the local community.

Sheila Jefferson



I have lived on the Fylde Coast for 42 years (I was originally from Preston). I am a Minister's daughter, married with three great sons and five happy grandchildren. I enjoy life

and my hobbies are gardening, singing and jogging.

Having worked in the NHS for 30 years with family planning clinics and being a qualified British Association for Counselling Psychotherapy (BACP) Counsellor for several years, this has given me a great understanding of people's needs.

As a governor I regard my career experience as being beneficial to the Trust and I look forward to my input into this important position.

Fylde Constituency

Peter Askew



I am a long term resident of Poulton (originally from Preston). I have worked in the IT Industry for over 15 years. During that time I have had, and continue to have, a close working

relationship with the NHS. I have also lived and worked in France, America and Australia.

I am married with two teenage sons, and my wife is a Nurse Practitioner at the Trust. As well as an elected Governor (Wyre constituency) I am also on the committee of a youth development charity in Blackpool that takes teenagers through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. I am passionate about ensuring we have a healthcare system that works and I strive towards playing my small part in making that happen.

John Bamford



I was born in Preston and have lived in Poulton for over 40 years. Before retirement I worked in the Chemical Industry for ICI and then finally Victrex PLC. As Production and Technical

Director my responsibilities included safety and quality.

I am married with children and grandchildren. Family involvement has given me a keen interest in the performance of the NHS. I passionately want to make a positive contribution to improving the quality and safety of patient care.

Ramesh Gandhi – JP, DL, OBE, FRCS



I have 41 years NHS experience. I was a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon from 1978 until 1994 and was involved in upgrading, expanding

and fighting to keep the Cardiac Unit in Blackpool. After retiring, I was employed for eight years as the Director of Fundraising and raised nearly £6 million for the MRI Scanner and Macmillan Windmill Appeals.

I have been a Governor of the Foundation Trust since its inception in 2007 and actively participate in the Patient Experience Committee and the Charitable Funds Committee. I always have the welfare of patients in my heart and mind. I have been very interested and pleased to note the progress of the Lancashire Cardiac Centre. I consider that working for the community over and above the call of duty is the norm. I have been an Elected Wyre Borough Councillor since 2003.

Lynden Walthew



I was born and brought up on the Fylde coast, I now reside in Poulton.

I have been fortunate enough to work within the Health Service at the Drug Dependency Unit for several

years before joining Blackpool & The Fylde College to teach Business and Professional Studies.

Both roles have functioned at the heart of our community and where I gained invaluable experience communicating with people from all walks of life. I will work tirelessly to encourage local residents to take a more active role in supporting their Trust.

Lancashire & South Cumbria Constituency

Anthony Nixon



I have 26 years' experience in health and social care and concurrently 36 years' senior executive and non-executive board level experience. I was

Chairman of the Independent Review Panel (Complaints) for the

former NHS Executive North West Region, Non-Executive Director of two incorporated NHS funded healthcare charitable trusts, Non-Executive Director of Lancashire Probation Board (Home Office), Member of Court University of Manchester, Her Majesty's Privy Council appointment for 23 years, Chairman & Managing Director of AM Enterprises Limited for seven years, Member of the Monitoring and Standards Committee, Rossendale Borough Council, Business Advisor Prince's Business Trust.

I have been conducting inspections in East Lancashire NHS Trust Hospitals for the last eight years. Governor work demands commitment but also experience and skills. I understand how the NHS works. Family members and I have been treated in the NHS. My late wife with incurable illness was in and out of hospital for 20 years. I was a Governor of another hospital trust. I will be able to deal with executive and non-executive directors to improve performance and will bring useful skills of Patient Focus, Financial, Performance, Risk and Change Management, Equal Opportunities, Community Engagement, Business Plan, Defensible Decision Making.

North of England Rev David Crouchley



I am an elected Governor representing the North of England constituency. I have a long link with Blackpool Victoria Hospital, both of my

children were born there and many of my wider family have benefited from the professionalism and care of the staff.

I have spent almost equal amounts of time living in Blackpool and Cumbria. I am a recently retired Methodist Minister, I have in my working life been Hospital Chaplain in four different hospitals and I was a Hospice Chaplain for ten years. I have a number of voluntary interests including being a Member of the Carlisle Cathedral Council. I am particularly interested in Medical Ethics and End of Life. I am passionate about the NHS and feel privileged to be able to serve as a Governor.



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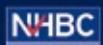
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