

Health Matters

Keeping you informed about the news and views of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals



Feeling Dandy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pet Therapy success

Delightful dog Dandy helps patients in Critical Care — Page 7

Star performer

Trust Nurse wins a special national award for her dedicated NHS service — Page 6

Issue 166, Friday, May 11, 2018

Welcome from the Chief Executive

HELLO and welcome to the latest edition of your Health Matters newsletter.



The Trust has been delighted to receive a number of accolades in recent weeks with members of our IT team praised nationally for developing an in-house system to help staff deliver better care for patients.

At the same time we have been recognised for our work to ensure we put equality and diversity at the heart of everything that we do with an award from NHS Employers.

One of our dedicated nurses, Valentina Morris, has received a Cavell Star award for her 15 years of dedicated service to the NHS.

These are all major honours in their own right and we are delighted that everyone has been praised in such a way.

Away from awards we have a lovely story of Dandy, our Pet Therapy dog, who is making a real difference for our patients on our Critical Care Unit. Patients build up a rapport with Dandy, as do staff, and moods really are lifted during his visits.

**Wendy Swift,
Chief Executive**

Contents

News

Top award for our IT team

A TEAM of experts at the Trust has won an award for using real time data to help improve patient care - **Page 3**

Trust recognised for equality and diversity work

THE Trust has been recognised for its commitment to promoting equality and diversity.- **Page 4**

Raising awareness of skin cancer

THE skin cancer team, based at Clifton Hospital in Lytham St Annes, is taking part in a new scheme to raise skin cancer awareness. - **Page 5**

Nurse is a “star” performer

A STAFF nurse at Blackpool Victoria Hospital has won a national award after being nominated by her manager - **Page 6**

How pet therapy dog helps critical care patients

PATIENTS in Blackpool Victoria Hospital’s Critical Care Unit have the chance to receive pet therapy from a loving Staffordshire terrier called Dandy - **Page 7**



See how Dandy and his owner Dianne Ogden are supporting our patients - Page 7

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Trust team praised for IT innovations



Dr Marc Farr, centre right, presents the Beautiful Information Innovation prize to members of the Trust's IT team

A TEAM of experts at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has won an award for using real time data to help improve patient care.

The Trust's Health Informatics team won the Beautiful Information Innovation Prize for developing an in-house computer-based patient information system which replaced traditional white-boards on adult wards.

The new system, which is integrated with other important clinical tools such as test results and referral updates to help patients, is accessible via any Trust device and provides live, transparent and auditable information to help provide better care by knowing exactly where the patient is in the hospital, what treatment has been given and what the next steps are.

Steven Bloor, Chief Information Officer at the Trust, said: "The patient tracker has been developed in house by a dedicated team of

clinical and informatics staff together.

"It has been a tremendous success on our wards and we are constantly looking how we can make further improvements to it to help as many Trust areas as possible.

"Everyone involved should be really proud of this award which recognises their innovative work."

Dr Marc Farr, founder of Beautiful Information, said: "We found it incredibly humbling to see shortlisted entrants come from each corner of the country to share their ideas and to reach out to us to possibly help them take the next step.

"We are investigating putting together a national showcase event later this year to encourage the spread of innovation we have seen and we will also be developing a series of written and online resources so that we can spread the word quickly."

Equality and diversity a priority for the Trust

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been recognised for its commitment to promoting equality and diversity.

The Trust has received a Partner Status accolade from national body, NHS Employers, after taking part in their Diversity and Inclusion Partners Programme.

Tina Daniels, the Trust's Equality & Diversity Lead, said: "The NHS Employers programme assists Trust to benchmark the work they are doing around equality, diversity and inclusion and gives them the tools and practical idea on how to move forward their work around equality and diversity.



Associate Director of Nursing, Jo Lickiss and Tina Daniels with the NHS Employers Equality and Diversity award

"NHS Employers work with Equality and Diversity Leads and senior members of staff in areas such as nursing and patient experience to help embed inclusive principles across all areas of the organisation through an action plan that is regularly assessed by NHS Employers who are then on hand to give advice on best practice." Examples of work undertaken to improve the patient experience include:

- Yellow hooks are being used on patients' beds to raise awareness that particular patients have a sight impairment.
- Raising staff awareness of the issues people with learning disabilities have by working with Highfurlong School who offer awareness sessions for staff.
- Changing the lighting across the Trust so it is at a lower level thereby reducing discomfort for patients and carers with sight impairments, as well as ensuring the environment meets the required standards for access.
- Working towards meeting the Accessible Information Standard which means the Trust has to provide information in a number of alternative formats such as Braille, large font, Easy Read and different languages.
- Working with local third party organisations such as Healthwatch, Disability First and N-Vision to improve how we provide services.
- Numerous policies, procedures and guidelines on equality diversity and inclusion to support staff and patients.
- Achieving the Disability Confident Employer quality mark



Lead Skin Cancer Nurse, Heather Baines, Macmillan Skin Cancer Nurse Specialist Joan DeVega and Skin Cancer Care Coordinator, Michelle Forsyth

Specialists raise skin cancer awareness

A TEAM of specialists are taking part in a new scheme to raise skin cancer awareness.

The skin cancer team, based at Clifton Hospital in Lytham St Annes, is supporting the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Early Detection (MASCED) programme for hair, health and beauty industry professionals.

The programme, which encourages early detection of skin cancer by hairdressers and beauty therapists, has already been rolled out over the Fylde coast and a student event is also planned this month.

Macmillan Skin Cancer Care Coordinator, Michelle Forsyth, said: "Staff in these industries are often the first to spot potential skin problems, especially if they are found on the scalp, back or other areas that are hard to see yourself.

"A lot of salons in the area have already gained their online accreditation and to promote this further the team will be visiting Blackpool and the Fylde College's hair and beauty department on May 15."

The team will be at the Bispham campus from 9am to 5pm encouraging students to become more aware of potential skin cancers and to encourage their clients to visit the GP if they feel something may need further investigation.

Michelle added: "From April 2017 to March 2018, our department diagnosed 1,654 skin cancers, most of which were treatable. Early detection of skin cancers is vital, that's why it is so important to be aware and to be safe in the sun."

The scheme is run by Skcin, the Karen Clifford melanoma and skin cancer charity.

Nurse's delight with Cavell Star award

A STAFF nurse has won a national award after being nominated by her manager at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Valentina Morris had no idea she had been put forward by Acute Medical Unit (AMU) Ward Manager, Emma Wiper, in response to Tina's 15 years of dedicated service.

Emma said: "Tina has always gone above and beyond to support the countless patients and their families over the years.

"She has also shown consistent support for her team and nursing students. She is constantly caring and compassionate and is a shining example to nursing."

Cavell Star Awards, run by the Cavell Nurses' Trust, are given to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who shine bright and show exceptional care to their patients, colleagues and patients' families.

Many people are nominated but there are few selected winners.

Tina received a medal, certificate and badge for winning the award.



Clinical Matron Clair Watson, Ward Manager Laura Lowther, award winner Valentina Morris and Ward Manager Emma Wiper

She said: It's so nice to be appreciated in this way.

"We have a great team spirit on this ward – we are like a family and we all work hard for our patients and families. We also have the best managers who are always supportive."

Clinical Matron, Clair Watson, said: "Tina has consistently cared for not only patients, but also their families at what is often the most challenging times of their lives.

"She is a very worthy winner."

Dandy the dog wins our patients' hearts

PATIENTS in Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Critical Care Unit have the chance to receive pet therapy from a loving Staffordshire terrier called Dandy.

The canine cutie visits patients on the Intensive Care Unit one afternoon a week and is hoping to become a more regular visitor

Before Dandy started his visits, a six-week trial took place involving the dog and his owner Dianne to see if his visits would have a positive impact on patients.



Ruth Knighton, Katie McNuity and Amy Cartmell on Intensive Care with Pet Therapy dog, Dandy.

Catherine Ashton, sister on ITU said: "We have seen such a difference to the patients and staff. It's amazing for Dandy to have such a positive psychological impact.

"The visits can really improve a patient's mood and we want to use pet therapy for rehabilitation to help shorten stays on ITU.

"Patients build up a rapport with Dandy, as have staff, and moods really are lifted during the afternoon he visits.

"We were given the funding through a pets therapy charity who looked at our case and provided us with a therapy dog."

Catherine added: "The dogs have to be a minimum of nine-years-old before they can be trained for pet therapy.

"Pet therapy dogs are becoming more common in healthcare, we have found it breaks up the day

for the staff, patients and also relatives.

"We can see a drop in a patient's blood pressure after spending time with Dandy. They are much more relaxed and we are confirming this from their blood pressure readings.

"All areas of the hospital could definitely benefit from a pet therapy dog, especially areas with children.

"Not all patients come into contact with Dandy, we ask them for consent and we assess infections and illness before Dandy arrives.

"Patients usually spend about 15 minutes with Dandy and his owner Dianne. The feedback we receive is very positive and patients feel comforted".

Practice Development Nurse, Andrew Henson, added: "I was apprehensive at the beginning, but we have really seen patient experience enhance in critical care.

Church group boost for Trust's charity funds



Elaine Buckley and Elizabeth Thomas from Cleveleys Park Methodist Church hand the cheque to Blue Skies Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn.

A GENEROUS church group has raised £3,200 to support patients at a local NHS Trust.

Cleveleys Park Methodist Church raised cash for a whole year to donate to Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the charity of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Church treasurer, Elaine Buckley, said: "We chose Blue Skies as our 'project' for 2017 as nobody ever knows when they may need the hospital and its services.

"We raised the money from our country fair, Christmas fair and by hosting coffee mornings and the total is more than we thought – we are delighted. Huge thanks to everyone that helped us achieve such a fantastic amount."

Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn, said: "I had the pleasure of meeting Elaine and Elizabeth when they came to our office to present the cheque.

"It takes some doing to raise this sort of money and sometimes, thank you just isn't enough.

"What an amazing team and this money will certainly go to good use within the hospital."

The money will be used to enhance patient care around the Trust.

If you would like to help Blue Skies support patient care, please email blueskies@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk, or call 01253 957904