

# Health Matters

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



## Cancer dad's charity boost

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Issue 182, Friday, January 18, 2019

## Welcome from the Chief Executive

**HELLO and welcome to your first edition of our Health Matters newsletter for 2019.**



I hope you all had a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to the challenges a new year brings.

The NHS has published its Long Term Plan and we are delighted that new technology has been put under a real spotlight.

Our digital health team has been at the cutting edge of technology for some years and is making massive strides to improve staff productivity and patient experience using innovative ways of working.

You can find out more about the work they do on Page 7.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals are also pioneering new ways of working within our operating theatres by developing roles which provide essential support for patient flow and enhance the productivity of our theatres.

So the stage is set for a challenging and productive year ahead and we look forward to providing the best healthcare for all our patients across the Fylde coast and beyond.

**Wendy Swift,  
Chief Executive**

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# Mum's joy as Arlo goes home

A MUM and her family were so thankful for the care her premature baby received at the Neonatal Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital they donated equipment to enhance care for babies.

Baby Arlo was born at 25 weeks weighing just 1lb 12oz. Mum, Naomi Appleby, and Arlo had to spend the early weeks at Royal Preston Hospital and then in the care of the specialist baby unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Arlo was discharged home on December 12 after spending almost three months in hospital.

Naomi said: "Arlo had a few setbacks but we were so happy he came home before Christmas. I was so emotional when we heard he was able to come home, I cried for nearly the whole day!

Arlo has a hole in his upper heart value and is now under cardiology care. He has a badly damaged right lung due to his premature birth.

"I can't thank the Neonatal Unit enough for all they have done for us," Naomi added. I can now be a mum again to my other two children and my



Above, nurse Lauren Sinnott and Naomi Appleby with baby Arlo in the unit. Left, the family donate equipment for other babies

husband will be able to see Arlo a lot more.

"The care on the unit is fantastic and we wanted to show our thanks. The staff became a big part of my life and we have developed a bond which really helped me get through this difficult time. We wanted to bring something back to the unit and the family fundraised to donate a chair to help babies settle."

Neonatal Unit manager, Catherine Nash added: "We are so grateful for Naomi and her family for all their help with the unit's fundraising. As well as selling tickets they also donated a couple of lovely prizes, at a time when they were already very busy juggling family life and hospital visiting.

"The chair is fantastic and will really help babies to settle and make the experience in hospital that bit better for babies and their families.

"We are so delighted that Arlo enjoyed his first Christmas at home! It's fantastic to see how much he has grown and improved. He was certainly one of our little Christmas stars."

# Grateful dad raises funds to help others

DAD-of-two, Jordan Spedding, was so grateful for the cancer care he received at Blackpool Victoria Hospital that, with his family and friends, he raised almost £4,000 to enhance services for other patients.

Jordan, 33, of Thornton, was diagnosed with leukaemia in October 2015, while his wife was eight months pregnant with their second child.



Haematology Clinical Nurse Jo Bart, dad, Mark Spedding, mum, Cathy Spedding, Jordan Spedding and Kila Redfearn

“I tried to remain as positive as possible throughout my diagnosis and treatment, but it was very hard on my family. My daughter was five-and-a-half when I was diagnosed and we tried to keep the word cancer away from her, we just told her that daddy had poorly blood,” Jordan said.

His wife, Megan, gave birth on the day of his first chemotherapy session and Jordan said it was his family, his football friends and the tremendous care he received by health staff that got him through the bleakest time of his life.

Jordan’s dad, Mark Spedding, organised a 10k run to raise money for Blue Skies Hospitals Fund to enhance patient experience on the haematology unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The run raised £3,903 and the family handed a cheque to Blue Skies charity just before Christmas.

“I wanted to say thank you for all the support I have received from the hospital and I am delighted to be able to hand over this cheque which will in turn help other cancer patients in the future,” Jordan added.

Blue Skies Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn, said: “We are so grateful for this donation which will go towards enhancements for the haematology unit.

“We are always pleased to hear about patients recovering well and we are delighted when they want to help us improve the experience for other patients by raising money for the hospital charity.”

To donate to Blue Skies Hospitals Fund please contact the team on 01253 957904 or pop into the office on the main corridor of Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

# Our nurses achieve star status



Above, Leanne Keighley collects her award from Shane Faulkner. Left, Gill Martin receives her honour

TWO nurses at Blackpool Victoria Hospital have gained star status. Gill Martin and Leanne Keighley have both received the national Cavell Star Award after being nominated by their colleagues.

Gill was nominated for her compassionate service and hard work within the heart failure team by Lead Heart Failure Nurse, Lesley Howard.

Her dedication was recognised by staff on the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) who were told of her work to arrange a wedding for an end of life patient on the unit who wanted to marry his loved one before he passed away.

Gill, who has been a nurse for 35 years, said: "I am absolutely thrilled to have received the award and I feel like I have been more than recognised for my work."

Lesley said: "Gill showed great compassion and

really went above and beyond to organise the wedding at such late notice."

Respiratory Nurse Specialist Leanne Keighley was nominated for her award by Shane Faulkner, a Clinical Care Co-ordinator.

Shane said: "I nominated Leanne because she is fantastic with her patients and the care she gives is probably the best I've seen. She is a brilliant nurse and when I heard about these awards I thought of her straight away."

Leanne, who has been a nurse since 2012, said: "I'm overwhelmed to get this award. I always think I'm just doing my job because I love my patients and their families and I always just want to do the best I can for them."

The Cavell Star Nursing Award recognises nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who provide exceptional care to colleagues as well as patients and their families.

# Post-op escort role is proving a big success

A NEW job role, created by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, is proving to be a success.

Last year the Trust introduced a new clinical escort role designed to help post operative patients back to the ward and offer essential support for patient flow and productivity of operating theatres.



Simon Rooney, Sister Caroline Dempsey and George Howitt

Feedback about the new Trainee Assistant Practitioners in Recovery role has been excellent.

George Howitt and Simon Rooney were the first to undertake the role and they are now well established and respected in their positions.

Sister Caroline Dempsey, who helped create the role, said: "Both George and Simon started in theatres as healthcare assistants and orderlies. They have both developed skills within the theatre environment and progressed to take on new challenges.

"They are undergoing an Assistant Practitioner Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care Apprenticeship Course at UCLAN as Trainee Assistant Practitioners within the Recovery Unit, which is a completely new role to both the hospital and university.

"They are gaining many new skills within the recovery area as they complete their portfolio of evidence for university. This has been a challenging first year, but we are all ready for the next step to qualification."

George said: "The clinical escort role in recovery started about three years ago and was a new role and was pioneering at the time.

"We had to work hard to assure the consultants that we could do this and now we are looking to take it a step further with the AP role.

"We are one of only two trusts doing this in the country so we are pioneering this role.

"Quite a lot of trusts are looking to develop this role."

He added: "I worked as a domestic at the Trust for 12 years. I started part time and loved it, but decided one day that I wanted to do a clinical job and got the role of an orderly. It was a big pay cut for me at the time but it was what I wanted to do and I have been allowed to progress from there.

"The Trust has been great with me and the management has been very supportive.

"I have been pushed to the limit but the hard work is paying off and it is great to know that what we are doing is pioneering and will be promoted in other trusts."

# Putting spotlight on digital health



THE NHS Long Term Plan has recently put technology at the forefront of patient care, but Blackpool Teaching Hospitals is delighted to be already leading the field in digital innovation.

Healthcare provision is changing as smarter ways of working are embraced by the NHS and much of the groundwork has been done by the Digital Health Team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Clinical lead for the team, Veronica Southern, started cutting across traditional boundaries using IT to provide better patient care and experience back in 2014 when she designed, developed and delivered Teleswallowing.

Teleswallowing embraces the innovative use of new technology to allow a therapist, using a tablet, laptop or computer, to remotely assess a patient's ability to swallow without the need for face-to-face assessments.

Teleswallowing was recently praised by Lord Carter of Coles, non-executive director of NHS Improvement, in his Carter Report into Community Health Services for significantly improving staff productivity and patient outcomes.

Now the Digital Health Team has widened its tele-solution remit into cancer care, care of the elderly and palliative medicine and believe there are many other areas that can be transformed using digital technology.

"Digital technology can help us reach our patients far more efficiently," said Veronica. "We are delighted the NHS Long Term Plan has put an emphasis on new technology because we have irrefutable evidence of what can be achieved by utilising different ways of providing services."

"Blackpool Teaching Hospitals is already leading on digital advances across the North West and we are extremely proud of the successes we have already achieved."

The team has recently developed remote ward rounds at Clifton Hospital which have linked up palliative care at Trinity Hospice to Ward 2 at Clifton using video conferencing technology.

The Haematology Unit at Blackpool has been able to provide digital clinics for his patients who cannot easily get to Victoria Hospital meaning patients can have a remote consultation in Preston Hospital with a consultant in Blackpool.

Another innovative project developed by the team, using NHS England funding, is Care Home Connect which allows clinical professionals to remotely access their patients living in care and nursing homes without the need for the patients to have to come into hospital.

Veronica said: "We want to work with other services which we know will benefit from the work we do to see if we can help modernise their patient care to provide a more efficient, modern service for everyone."

# Chief Nurse praises staff on Trust tour

ENGLAND'S new Chief Nursing Officer visited Blackpool Victoria Hospital this week. Ruth May visited Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the first week of her new role.

She spent time shadowing the Community Rapid Response Team and the Emergency Department before touring a number of wards and departments and hosting a question and answer session with Nursing, Midwifery and Care Support staff.

Speaking about the visit she said: "I want to thank Blackpool Teaching Hospitals for their warm welcome this week.

"I went out with the Rapid Response Team and spent time in the Emergency Department and



Chief Nurse, Ruth May, speaks to Catherine Nash from the Neo Natal Unit

saw some fantastic care and the commitment of staff.

"It was great to hear the thoughts and views of staff at the question and answer session as it is important to me that we engage the frontline community in our priorities, especially as we start to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan.

"I had a great visit and met some really inspirational staff."

Marie Thompson, Director of Nursing and Quality at the Trust, said: "It was great to welcome Ruth to the Trust and great to see our staff talk to her so passionately about their roles and for staff to have the opportunity to discuss with Ruth first-hand about her vision for the Nursing and Midwifery professions.



Ruth May, centre, with Medical Director, Prof Mark O'Donnell and Director of Nursing and Quality, Marie Thompson