

# Health Matters

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



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# New board members take up the challenge

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTHFT) and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT) will be working closer together with Kevin McGee as the Chief Executive and Accountable Officer of both Trusts.

The Trust has also named its new Medical Director and Director of Nursing.

Since May 2019, Kevin has been undertaking the joint role on a temporary basis and the Trust Boards, NHS Improvement and NHS England have supported the permanent appointment

This move will see both Trusts benefit from sharing good practice and experience.

Speaking about the appointment, Pearse Butler, Chairman at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals said: "We are really pleased to have secured the services of Kevin McGee on an ongoing basis.

"Kevin has a great reputation for success and is a champion of the people who are most important in ensuring effective and compassionate care for our patients - the staff.

"I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to Professor Eileen Fairhurst, Chairman of East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and her Board colleagues, for agreeing to this innovative arrangement, and to Kevin for accepting this challenging role. I am sure the communities and the staff of both Trusts will benefit from this important decision."

The arrangement brings with it many benefits for the patients, staff and stakeholders of both organisations, including:

- Enhancing quality of care.
- Drive towards financial sustainability.
- Improving performance.
- A strengthened leadership team across both Trusts.



- A strong career offer to all staff which will lead to more effective recruitment and retention, attracting the best staff and keeping them.
- Enhanced education and training, research and development with enhanced links to our local Universities.
- Quality improvement with scalability to ensure a move towards a consistent delivery of services.
- The ability to undertake a strategic review of services.

The move is in line with the national NHS strategy and the NHS Long Term Plan and reflects a paradigm shift in how providers in Lancashire and South Cumbria will work together in future to meet the significant health and care needs of the population.

The Trusts will continue to work with partners in their local ICPs, (Integrated Care Partnerships)



Dr Jim Gardner



Peter Murphy

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as well as the wider Lancashire and South Cumbria (ICS) Integrated Care System (Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria).

An ongoing assurance process has been agreed to pave the way for a future where the Trusts continue to work effectively together to deliver quality outcomes and improved patient experience and play an active role in supporting the ICS strategic objectives.

Kevin said: "I'm delighted to be appointed to this role and excited at the prospect of carrying on leading both Trusts on their continuing improvement journeys at what is, undoubtedly, a challenging time for everyone working in the NHS.

"Both Trusts have much to commend them, especially the staff - who are all among the best I've ever worked with. I am totally committed to ensuring that the people of the Fylde coast and East Lancashire have access to the best services possible, in the most appropriate place, provided by the NHS. I'd like to thank my executive colleagues, senior teams, the members of both Boards and Governors at Blackpool for their support and confidence."

Prof Eileen Fairhurst said: "I have no doubt that Kevin will be a great success in undertaking this new, extended role especially given the support he will have from his close team. Both hospital Trusts are set to gain from each other in this ongoing relationship.

Blackpool is also welcoming two new members to the board.

Peter Murphy has been named as the Director of Nursing.

Peter has worked in a large number of roles within nursing over a number of organisations. He comes to Blackpool from Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust where he was a key member of the leadership team. As Peter is already working for the Trust he will commence his role with immediate effect.

Dr Jim Gardner has been appointed Director of Medicine. Jim joined the Trust as a Non Executive Director in 2018. He is a GP and his former roles include having been a Primary Care Trust and NHS England Medical Director within Lancashire.

Currently Jim is the Deputy Head of the School of Medicine at UCLan. His start date as Medical Director has yet to be confirmed.

# Walking the Lights to help build cancer unit at Victoria



THE Rosemere Cancer Foundation's Walk the Lights event has helped boost an appeal to build a cancer triage unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Rosemere, along with the hospital's Blue Skies charity, launched the appeal to allow cancer patients a way to by-pass the busy A&E department by building a dedicated assessment and treatment centre. Events like Walk the Lights have boosted funds and the cash target is now close to being reached and officials are hoping work will begin soon.



# Jackie's birthday run for cancer unit cash



Jackie Brunton and Michelle Livesey proudly show their Great North Run medals

LEAD Cancer nurse Jackie Brunton celebrated her 44th birthday at the Great North Run to help Rosemere Cancer Foundation and Blue Skies with the campaign to open an acute cancer triage unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Jackie, and her running buddy, mum-of-two Michelle Livesey, of Preston, were among 18 runners participating in the Great North Run to raise funds for the cause.

They completed the half marathon in 2 hours, 23 minutes, raising more than £1,000 towards converting a disused operating theatre at the rear of the hospital's Oncology and Haematology Day Units into an assessment and treatment centre exclusively for the hospital's cancer patients.

When completed, it will mean cancer patients can receive immediate specialist care, by-passing the busy general Emergency Department, which they currently have to attend if their condition worsens, they fall ill or suffer treatment side-effects.

Jackie said: "We had an amazing, epic day full of emotions. Helping a wonderful cause was a great way for me to celebrate my birthday.

"I am so thankful to everyone who sponsored us and see this oncology unit development as a boost which is much needed."

Rosemere Cancer Foundation is partnering with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's charity Blue Skies to bring the project to fruition.

It is estimated that, when opened, more than 500 local cancer patients a year will benefit from attending the new acute cancer triage unit.

It is also anticipated that the new unit, which will be run by doctors and nurses from the hospital's Acute Oncology Team, will relieve pressure on the Emergency Department to the benefit of other patients. It will reduce the number of cancer patients needing hospital admission and improve overall cancer treatment outcomes.

# Go smoke free this Stoptober



Rebecca Booth and Andrea Graham from the patient experience team take a Stoptober selfie

THIS month we have been promoting Stoptober, the campaign to help people go smoke free.

Teams across the Trust have been supporting the campaign by taking photos with various selfie boards.

Some Trust teams who have a specific link to smoking have filmed some important messages and we are sharing one out a week on social media.

To hear what our Patient Smoke Free Advisers have to share about their service, please view this link: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackpoolHospitals/videos/149047575773024/>

Jennifer Cryer, a Patient Smoke Free Adviser said: "This campaign is really

important to our service and to make people aware of the dangers that smoking can cause.

"Our in-patient service provides stop smoking support for patients who are admitted into hospital and we give them treatment and advice on how to become smoke free. Stoptober is really important to us also to raise awareness of our service and what impact we have in the hospital.

"Work is ongoing to make our site smoke free and to give staff and patients the best opportunities to quit smoking."

View our social media sites for facts, videos and pictures of our staff supporting the campaign throughout this month.

## Helping those bereaved by suicide

A SERVICE providing support to those bereaved by a suspected suicide has received additional funding so that it can continue helping Lancashire residents.

AMPARO (which means 'shelter' or 'safe haven' in Spanish) Fylde Coast and AMPARO East Lancashire have both had their funding extended until March 2020, so they can offer vital support to local people.

The service provides support for anyone affected by suicide, including family members, friends or colleagues.

AMPARO provides support in a range of ways including; one-to-one individual support, help with media enquiries, support and guidance up to and including the inquest and signposting to further services.

Louise Thomas, Suicide Prevention Lead for Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, said: "It's fantastic news that AMPARO can continue to offer its invaluable service to people going through the unimaginable.

"We have one of the highest rates of suicide in the country and we know that those bereaved by suicide are at much higher risk, therefore it is crucial we are able to provide immediate help and support to those bereaved."

# Putting patients' time at top of the agenda

PATIENT time is the most important currency in the NHS and hospitals must make sure they do not steal people's time.

That was the thought-provoking message Professor Brian Dolan gave to staff and senior executives during a two-day visit to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals.

Prof Dolan, the founder of the PJ Paralysis campaign and #1000Days, told staff that the hospital is full of people in the last 1,000 days of their life and that time is precious.



Prof Dolan with care of the elderly staff

"Staff time is important, but patient time is sacred, they often do not have time to wait," he said.

"We can steal time by causing delays when we could have got their medication quicker or discharged them earlier. These are the things staff can influence; nothing changes unless someone changes it.

"If you are working on a ward time goes so quickly, but if you are lying in a hospital bed time

crawls by. Time is relative and we have to make it count."

Prof Dolan said that despite the hard work of caring staff, some patients, particularly the elderly, can get stuck in hospital and it is vital that the NHS does not waste patients' precious hours or days.

"By putting patients' time at the heart of everything we do we create a new system that enables us to do the best by our patients on a daily basis."

Prof Dolan also spoke about the End PJ Paralysis campaign, which encourages patients to get up, dressed and moving about while in hospital.

This helps patients retain muscle strength, bone density and mobility which makes them safer and less prone to falls.

"It is also about dignity, patients should not leave their identify at the ward door. If they are in pyjamas they are labelled a patient; in their own clothes they are a person," Prof Dolan added.



Director of Nursing, Peter Murphy with Prof Dolan and Trust Chairman, Pearse Butler



Staff from Minds Matter at Lancashire Care



Helen Smith, Terri Vaselli, Bethanne Bullion and Angela Sharp

# Yellow support for mental health day

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals promoted World Mental Health Day which took place on Thursday, October 10.

Our Healthier Workforce team were on the mezzanine raising awareness of mental health for our staff, patients and visitors and sharing the resources on offer.

The theme colour for this campaign was yellow and staff wore all things yellow to support the cause.

Staff also enjoyed Reiki holistic therapy treatments to help them relax and learn self care techniques.

This week, a national campaign has been launched to support people with their mental health. Every Mind Matters has received celebrity support and been featured through national



Reiki therapists providing sessions

television coverage from Public Health England.

For more support and information on the campaign please go to: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/82-every-mind-matters/resources>



Jade Savage from Supporting Minds



A Reiki therapy session

Helen Smith, Primary Mental Health worker at Blackpool CAHMS said: "We are raising awareness of the importance of self care and our mental health.

"Be kind to each other because you never know what people are feeling inside unless you ask. Remember– it's OK not to be OK."



Nicola Ellis and Lucy Mitchell from the Macmillan team

# Cuppas and cakes raise cancer cash

MACMILLAN Coffee mornings across Blackpool Teaching Hospitals helped to raise £2,366.64 for cancer patients.

The Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre hosted a coffee morning and staff working at Victoria Hospital brought in their delicious cakes to enjoy a treat with colleagues whilst raising funds for an important cause.

The games, cakes and donations were all totted up and Macmillan were delighted to receive the funds which will make a huge difference to patient care and the service they provide.

Macmillan Coffee Morning was set up as a national event in 1990 helping to raise money to help cancer patients.

Since then it has grown massively and has raised more than £200 million for Macmillan.

Helen Bright, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Manager, said: "We are so grateful to all

staff, friends and groups that made the effort for our Coffee Morning campaign.

"Fundraising makes a huge difference to the service we offer to cancer patients and it is such a lovely way to raise money by doing something small and enjoying a coffee and a cake with friends.

"We would like to thank our hospital teams for their amazing efforts and The North Euston Hotel at Fleetwood with Healthier Fleetwood and Fleetwood Trust who raised £649.65. We also supported The Village Hotel's coffee morning last Thursday and they raised £708.20."

Jackie Brunton, End of Life Lead at the Trust, added: "It was fantastic to see so many teams getting in the spirit.

"As a Trust we do benefit greatly from money raised. Macmillan Cancer Support funds services, education and resources provided through our Macmillan Information and Support Service."



A DIGITAL health team from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals have won an innovation award for their remote end-of-life service.

The Trust team and Trinity Hospice, in partnership with The Hamptons and Sandycroft nursing homes, revolutionised patient care and improved effective use of time and resources, by introducing virtual technology which remotely connected patients and specialist clinicians.

The results of this collaboration were so impressive the scheme has taken first place in the North West Skills Development Network's innovation category.

Digital Health Clinical Lead, Veronica Southern, said: "We're thrilled to receive the recognition of this prestigious regional award.

"We see it as a springboard to inform other hard-pressed clinicians that an idea can reap massive benefits for our patients.

"It's really important to do something about ideas, to bring them to reality and then it's almost as important to apply for awards as a way of disseminating the good news so that other clinicians don't have to reinvent the wheel. We're over the moon!"

The trail-blazing system allows specialist nurses to give remote end-of-life care to patients via an iPad link meaning neither the clinician or the

patient have to travel to appointments.

This has meant more frequent consultations and has resulted in a massive increase in productivity.

"It just shows what a group of local clinicians can do when they have an idea and act upon it collectively. Team work and collaboration is at the heart of everything we do," Veronica added.

During a 12-month period, 360 patients were contacted using a weekly one hour virtual clinic at the three pilot sites.

Only seven patients required a face-to face follow up which resulted in more than 867 clinical hours saved.

A huge £21,052.51 was saved showing an increase in efficiency of 91%.

Trinity Hospice community service manager, Sarah Roberts, said "Patient feedback has been extremely positive as they have found the interactions fun and convenient.

"Patients at the end of their life don't want to wait all day for an appointment to talk about death and dying, they want to be making the most of the time they have with their loved ones."

■ Pictured above are: Veronica Southern, Sarah Roberts, Helena Palin from Clifton Hospital and Katie Selby from the digital health team.