

# Health Matters

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



## Why golf is hip for Audrey

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### CQC Report

*Hospital focuses on improving services — Page 3*

#### Getting into the swing

*Health care assistant beats odds to win trophies — Page 4*

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# Contents

## News

### Praise for caring staff at Trust

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has praised the kindness and compassion of Trust staff and rated all services as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' for the care provided to patients. Overall, the Trust's CQC rating remains as 'Requires Improvement',

**Page 3**



### Audrey scoops golf awards despite double hip ops

Two new hips have not stopped Health Care Assistant, Audrey Bramhall from picking up four fantastic golf trophies after a remarkable season.

**Page 4**

### Cardiac survival rates

Nationally the average chance of survival from cardiac arrest to hospital discharge is 19 per cent. But Blackpool has been named as one of the top hospitals for successful resuscitation with a survival rate identified at 40.8 per cent.

**Page 5**



▲ Golf champ Audrey Bramhall

◀ Tower turns pink to support baby loss

▼ Blackpool figures for cardiac arrests

### Presentation award

Nurse consultant, Sharon

Mawdsley, beat off tough competition to win a prestigious award at the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Conference following her presentation on the Trust's response to the monkeypox incident last year in Blackpool which involved two cases of the rare disease.

**Page 6**



### Mother-in-law saved by quick thinking clinician

A trainee nurse associate at Blackpool Victoria Hospital put all his skills to good use when he saved the life of his mother-in law at a family meal.

**Page 7**

### Support for baby loss campaign

Caring staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, businesses and charities across the Fylde coast have supported the national Baby Loss Awareness Week campaign to support bereaved families.

**Page 8**

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# Hospital focused on improving services

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has released its report following an inspection of health services provided by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Overall, the Trust remains rated as 'Requires Improvement', with the CQC praising the kindness and compassion of staff and rating every single service as 'GOOD' or 'OUTSTANDING' for the care provided to patients.

During June 2019 the CQC carried out a full inspection of the Trust which was assessed on the following five areas overall, which were each given a separate rating:

Are services safe?	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
Are services effective?	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
Are services caring?	<b>Good</b>
Are services responsive?	<b>Requires Improvement</b>
Are services well-led?	<b>Inadequate</b>

Kevin McGee, Chief Executive of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "The Trust accepts the findings of the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection carried out in June 2019.

"Our patients are always our priority so we are sorry where we have not delivered the high standard of care we aim to provide.

"We are determined to provide the very best care for our patients, and I am confident that with a new and committed leadership team supporting a truly caring workforce, we will deliver significant improvements that we can all be proud of.



"It was positive to see the CQC inspectors stress throughout the report that our staff were respectful, caring and kind. The report also acknowledged areas of outstanding practice across the Trust. Our staff have done us proud and it is important that we, as senior leaders, begin to fix the issues in terms of culture and learning.

"The CQC has a number of actions that we must take and we are focused on completing those actions. We will also continue to work closely with the CQC, service commissioners, staff and stakeholders to ensure we provide a better service.

"There is a lot of work to do quickly, especially around performance, leadership, staff engagement, governance and learning lessons. The people who use our services deserve the best and we will work tirelessly with our dedicated staff to turn things around as a matter of urgency.

"We are determined to rise to the challenge and have already started to implement changes that we believe will make major improvements to the services we deliver.

"We have agreed a major investment into a programme of Quality Improvement and the board has approved investment into more senior nurse staffing posts.

"We have started a major staff engagement programme with a series of Big Conversations with staff and regular senior leader visits across the organisation. Working closely with our staff will help us make the improvements we need for our patients."

# Driving force that got Audrey back to golf

AUDREY Bramhall may have two new hips but that has not stopped her picking up four fantastic golf trophies after a remarkable season.

The 65-year-old, who works as a Health Care Assistant in the orthopaedic department at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, is a driving force on the golf course at Blackpool's de Vere course and has had her best season yet after recovering from two hip operations in 2017.

She said: "I had arthritis in my hips and had to have them both replaced in the same year.

"At the time of the operations I couldn't move. I was in agony all of the time and I thought I was facing life in a wheelchair, without a job and being thoroughly miserable.

"But I was never going to settle for that without giving it my all to make sure I got moving again and I was determined to get back on the golf course as soon as I could.

"It wasn't easy at first because I couldn't bend down to put my tee in the ground and I struggled to pick my ball up out of the hole, both pretty major things in golf, so I needed some help.

"Things continued to get better though and this season has been an amazing one for me and I'm really chuffed of what I have achieved in a pretty short time."

Audrey said she wanted to thank her surgeon, Mr Javed, at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and the



physio staff at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for their help in getting her back on the greens.

"I can't thank Mr Javed enough," she said.

"He did both my operations and was fantastic. I got great support from the physio team as well who looked after me at home and in the hospital.

"Without these people and their skills I don't think I would have been able to achieve what I have done and I am just so grateful."

# Cardiac arrest survival figures



Whenever a cardiac arrest occurs at Blackpool Victoria Hospital a team of highly trained, specialist staff are immediately alerted and rapidly get to that person to give them every chance possible of survival.

Nationally the average chance of survival from cardiac arrest to hospital discharge is 19 per cent. But Blackpool has been named as one of the top hospitals for successful resuscitation with a survival rate identified at 40.8 per cent.

The figures are released in the National Cardiac Arrest Audit Report (NCAA) which monitors the number of in-hospital cardiac arrests and their outcomes to identify possible patterns that could lead to improvements in resuscitation.

The figure for initial Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC), which is the resumption of sustained cardiac activity, is 45 to 50 per cent of all in-hospital cardiac arrests nationally. In Blackpool the figure is 71.4 per cent which means patients have a higher likelihood of neurologically-intact survival.

The national report covers the quarter from April 1 to June 30, 2019 and shows how many cardiac arrests occurred and what the survival rate was.

Head of Resuscitation at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Anthony Freestone, said: "Blackpool has really shone in this report which is a testament to the amazing workforce we have and

the highly trained responders who work within the cardiac arrest team."

During the period of the report the hospital had 49 instances of cardiac arrest, 35 patients were resuscitated and 20 went on to hospital discharge. This compares to a predicted number of 14.2 patients out of the 49 surviving to discharge. As these are in-hospital arrests patients are often already acutely unwell when the incident happens.

Anthony added: "This report clearly shows we are doing something right and we are actively reducing mortality. The whole clinical workforce undertakes resuscitation training with staff in key areas undergoing immediate and advanced skills instruction and, because we are a tertiary cardiac centre, we have the luxury of engaging with our heart specialists who can access and deliver specialist interventions."

Anthony added: "We are one of the top performing hospitals for cardiac arrest survival and that is all down to staff being well trained, using innovative planning and working together to maximise the potential of the best possible outcome.

"Our crash trolleys are always rescue-ready thanks to our staff using state-of-the-art technology and we utilise all types of education, team work and skills which has resulted in excellent outcomes for our patients."



# Conference award for Trust nurse consultant

NURSE Consultant and Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control at the Trust, Sharon Mawdsley, received an award for the Best Oral Presentation at the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) Conference.

Sharon beat off tough competition to win this prestigious award which is judged by the IPS Scientific Programme Committee.

Her presentation related to the Trust's response to the monkeypox incident last year in Blackpool which involved two cases of the rare disease.

This was a very significant incident with National and International ramifications.

The local response included providing clinical and laboratory diagnostic expertise, implementing infection control and the isolation of those infected.

The infection team were also involved in contact tracing and risk assessments of over 200 exposed patients and staff, vaccination of at-risk contacts and ongoing surveillance and

monitoring of more than 130 exposed higher risk contacts for over a 2 month period.

Throughout the incident, which lasted nearly three months, staff and members of the Team showed dedication and commitment over and above their normal duties to help achieve control of the outbreak and ensure the safety of staff and patients.

Following the outbreak, the Trust received a letter of thanks from Professor Dame Sally Davies, former Chief Medical Officer, for its professionalism and exemplary care of patients, and its collaborative efforts in dealing with other agencies.

Sharon was awarded the runner up prize for Infection Prevention Nurse of the Year in March at the British Journal of Nursing (BJN) Awards.

She was consequently invited to write an article for the journal which was published in September. Sharon and her team have also been shortlisted for the Nursing Times Infection Prevention award later this month.



# Saving his mum-in-law was no joke for Reg!

A trainee nurse associate at Blackpool Victoria Hospital put all his skills to good use when he saved the life of his mother-in-law at a family meal.

Reg Potter, who works on works on Ward 14, acted swiftly to stop Joan Arnott from choking when a piece of food got stuck in her throat. His immediate actions helped clear her throat and now Joan is full of praise for Reg.

Joan explained: "Once I started eating, straight away a piece of food got stuck and I couldn't feel it going down my throat.

"I started to panic but because I couldn't cough it wasn't obvious to start with what was happening and I tried not to make a fuss in front of my grandchildren as I didn't want to upset them.

"My daughter then turned to me and shouted, 'mum can you breathe?' And I shook my head because at this point as I was really struggling.

"Reg immediately pushed his chair back and

sprang into action. He walked behind me and gave me three back blows and then the steak came out of my mouth.

"I was obviously really shaky after this but also so in awe of Reg's actions and how professional he was in caring for me and ultimately, saving my life.

"I was so proud of him and how he acted and just shows how much he has come on through his training."

Reg added: "I have done a lot of first aid training working as a healthcare assistant and now with my role as a trainee nurse associate.

"It just shows how much the knowledge sticks with you and is always in your mind for when you need it!

"This is what we train for as we never know when we will need these life-saving skills. If something does go wrong, I do have confidence to act and I have learnt this through my training here.

# Trust and Tower join to support baby loss

CARING staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and charities across the Fylde coast have supported the national Baby Loss Awareness Week campaign to support bereaved families.

Baby Loss Awareness Week takes place every October in the UK and seeks to provide comfort and awareness to those who have been affected by losing a baby.

An awareness stand was held at Blackpool Victoria Hospital for families seeking advice, to talk to professionals and take away leaflets, resources and lovely memory boxes, donated to the Trust from 4 Louis, a charity that supplies all hospital trusts in the UK with both memory boxes for all types of baby loss and much needed resources and support for staff.

This year there were a number of various local events to support the moving campaign, the main one being the Lights of Love Walk at Carleton Cemetery.

Sands, a stillbirth and neonatal death charity, held the annual walk and decorated the graves of beloved babies to create a special atmosphere for families.

The walk was lit up in fairy lights and lanterns and attended by more than 100 people who came together for this important and comforting time.



On the same evening, The Blackpool Tower and the arches on the promenade were also lit up in pink and blue during this week to support the cause. Throughout the UK famous buildings and monuments such as Wembley Stadium also took on these colours.

Megan Murray, Bereavement Support Nurse

Specialist from the Families Division, supports families who experience Pregnancy and Baby Loss. She said: "We are trying continually to raise awareness of a very important campaign that affects so many people."

"Every day in the UK 15 babies will die before or shortly after birth and one in four pregnancies will experience early miscarriage before 12 weeks of pregnancy."

"Blackpool is very fortunate to have local groups for support. Both SANDS and the Miscarriage Association hold monthly support groups in Blackpool, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month."

Both groups have their own websites for further information.