

# Health Matters

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



## Top award for star performer

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# A record number of staff have their say

A RECORD number of staff at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust took part in this year's NHS Staff Survey.

More than 3,100 staff completed the survey, a major increase on previous figures, giving the Trust a valuable insight into how they can make life better for its employees.

The survey, during October and November 2019, highlighted a number of improvements made by the Trust especially around the quality of appraisals, the ability for staff to fully utilise their skills and the number of supportive managers who encourage training and development.

Other areas identified as strengths included a high score for the number of staff members who looked forward to going to work, were enthusiastic about their job roles, felt involved in changes that were taking place and the ability they had to give feedback about incidents.

There were also a number of areas for improvement identified such as relationships at work.

Chief Executive, Kevin McGee, said the results of the staff survey provided valuable feedback. He said: "There was a huge increase in the response rate from 2018 and I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who completed their survey. The views of 3,100 people provide us with a valuable and reliable insight.

"This survey is important to us so that we can better understand how staff feel about working here and importantly what we need to do to make their experience at work better.

"The Trust has a new leadership team in place and staff engagement was quickly identified as being a major priority for that team.



Kevin McGee

"We are constantly listening to feedback from staff and taking steps to make changes.

"We have already developed a programme to support this work with a series of "Big Conversations" with staff across the Trust to get their views, frequent senior leadership visits to speak face to face with colleagues and a regular "Great Place to Work Group" meeting where staff tell us how we can improve their working lives.

"We are incredibly proud of our staff and the fantastic work they do but we know there are areas where we can do better, particularly in terms of organisational culture.

"We have already taken steps to do that with a Compassionate Leadership strategy which is central to everything we do because we are determined to create an environment where our staff feel safe, respected and – above all – valued."

# Outstanding leader is honoured for his work



A STAFF leader in Emergency Care has been honoured with a special award at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

For years staff who worked with Advanced Practitioner, Liam Duffy, knew he was a star and this week it became official when he was awarded the Cavell Star Nursing Award for his outstanding work within the hospital Trust.

Described as a kind and compassionate team leader, Liam oversees the Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit which diagnoses, treats and discharges suitable A&E patients to prevent unnecessary admissions.

Team member, Sharon Mellis, was one of the staff who nominated Liam for the Cavell Star Award which recognises nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who provide exceptional care to colleagues as well as patients and their families.

“As a clinical lead Liam is kind and compassionate and ensures staff are supported in every way,” Sharon said. “He invests in the

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training and development of each team member and supports them through their challenging and complex assessments.

“This award holds a mirror to all the great things Liam has done,” she added.

The nomination praised Liam for enabling a safe environment for patients and staff and always going the extra mile to ensure patients receive the right experience and that they feel reassured during their stay.

The award was presented by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust consultant, Dr Venu Kollipara, who congratulated Liam on his achievement.

Accepting the honour Liam said he was overwhelmed by the nomination and thanked staff for putting him forward.

“We have an amazing and supportive team and I feel very honoured to receive this award,” Liam said. “But I do believe this is an honour for the whole team who have made this new concept of Ambulatory Emergency Care work for the good of our patients.”

# 100 Cardiac triumphs

MORE than 100 patients have benefited from a pioneering operation undertaken by experts at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre

The Blackpool-based centre is the only one in the north of England to offer a minimally invasive operation to replace an aortic valve called anterior right thoracotomy (ART).

The first procedure at the centre took place in 2016 and has now recently passed the landmark of 100 patients benefiting from it.

Mr Joe Zacharias, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon who leads the team delivering this approach, said: "The least invasive way to replace an aortic valve that is diseased is through this technique which is performed through a two inch opening next to the breast bone.

"In the past, the only way to replace the aortic valve was by cutting the breastbone down the middle to gain access to the heart, an invasive procedure which weakens the chest and has a long recovery time of up to three months.

"This procedure has many benefits for patients. It reduces trauma compared to splitting open the breastbone, so patients recover more quickly. With the conventional method they are in hospital for about six to seven days, but with keyhole, it is less.

"Being keyhole surgery, it is technically more demanding and needs a specialist team and specialised instruments. The forward-looking management has invested in both these and this has helped the surgeons achieve the excellent



Mr Joe Zacharias, far left and staff from the Lancashire Cardiac Centre with patient, James Westerman who underwent anterior right thoracotomy (ART) surgery

results that have been accepted for presentation at the national annual cardiac surgery meeting in Cardiff in March.

"It can take longer than traditional open-heart surgery because it is more technically demanding, but gradually we are getting quicker at it. However, the keyhole procedure has a lower risk of blood loss and infection because you don't open the breast bone up.

"Patients get back to lifting, carrying and pushing quicker with this approach. There is a small chance that during the operation it may be deemed too challenging because of other problems, but this is very rare."

Mr Zacharias added: "We are very proud to say the Lancashire Cardiac Centre is still the only place in the North of England to provide this operation. We are a training centre and have hosted surgeons and teams from other UK centres that are keen to start. We hope our experience will help other centres make the transition from sternotomy to ART safely."

# Have your say on our future health plans

PEOPLE living on the Fylde Coast are being encouraged to have their say on plans for local health and care services over the next five years.

For the past 18 months local NHS and council organisations have been working in partnership to plan health and care services for the next five years across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

This 'integrated care partnership' is part of a wider system of partnership working across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Six public roadshows are being held throughout March which people are encouraged to attend.

Dr Amanda Doyle OBE, chief clinical officer of NHS Blackpool and NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) – the organisations that plan and buy health services on the Fylde Coast – said: "We have spent the past few months working closely as a Fylde Coast health and care partnership to develop our five year strategy.

"This is your chance to get a better understanding of our strategy and help us by sharing your ideas about how we can best deliver it.

"Our aim is to create health and care services which support people to be as healthy as possible with a greater sense of wellbeing. We want to make sure when people are unwell, they can get high quality treatment or advice as close to their home as possible. To do this we need more, and better, community based services.

"We also want to make better use of technology which will make it easier for people to access

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## Help us develop our strategy for 2020-2025

We are holding a number of roadshows to speak with local people about plans for health and care services across the Fylde Coast in the next five years. Have your say:

To book one of the below, visit <https://tinyurl.com/nhsbooksession>

|  |                           |                                       |                           |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Poulton – Vicarage Park Community Centre | 17 March<br>10:00 – 12:00 | Blackpool – Blackpool Central Library | 18 March<br>14:00 – 16:00 |
| Garstang – YMCA                          | 17 March<br>14:00 – 16:00 | St Annes – St Thomas' Church          | 19 March<br>10:00 – 12:00 |
| Fleetwood – YMCA Lofthouse               | 18 March<br>10:00 – 12:00 | Blackpool – St Peter's Church         | 19 March<br>14:00 – 16:00 |

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A SESSION



services and stay at home for longer. We only want people to go into hospital if they absolutely have to. This will allow our hospitals to concentrate on services that only they can provide."

Places are limited so people are encouraged to book their place as soon as possible by visiting <https://healthierfyldecoast.nhs.uk/our-strategy-2020-2025/book-now/public-engagement-sessions>

# Junior fundraisers help neonatal unit

A NINE-MONTH old baby girl who defied odds when she was born premature, has had a hand in raising more than £600 for charity.

Lottie-Beau weighed just over 700 grams when she was born three months early and her family have since raised money for local NHS charity Blue Skies Hospitals Fund.

Touched by the lifesaving work of Blackpool Victoria Hospital staff, parents Emma and Chris wanted to thank the people that saved their daughter's life.

Lottie-Beau's elder sister Lola-Violet, 7, who was also born premature, joined in the fundraising as she was crowned a Junior Fundraiser for the NHS charity.

Both girls took part in an event at Roseacre Primary School to raise money for the Neonatal Unit at The Vic.

The school held a "Wear it Purple" day where all the students wore a purple piece of clothing to match the colour of World Prematurity Day.

Emma, 34, recognises how important it is to support the area that saved the girls' lives.

"Lottie-Beau and Lola-Violet were very, very poorly and they both nearly died. If it wasn't for the Neonatal staff, neither of them would be here.

"We went to the school and said we wanted to raise some money and we came up with an own clothes day."

She quickly realised that the cause is something that many people can relate to and get behind and is grateful for how generous people were with their donations.

"There's someone in a family somewhere along



Lottie-Beau and Lola-Violet with their mum Emma

the line that's been in special care, or knows somebody that's been in special care. It's something we all really wanted to raise money for."

Together with their classmates, they raised an incredible £604 and the girls have now ticked off their Bronze Award in the Blue Skies Young Fundraisers Scheme.

If you know a little one with a big heart, get them involved in the scheme. You can take part either as an individual, or encourage your nursery, class, or friends to join you!

Email [paula.wright7@nhs.net](mailto:paula.wright7@nhs.net) for more information.

# New ceiling lights are a bright new world

YOUNG patients at Blackpool Victoria Hospital are benefiting from a colourful and uplifting environment thanks to new ceiling artwork funded by Lytham St Annes Lions Club.

The club teamed up with lighting specialists [Visualite](#) and [Yesss Electrical](#) and hospital charity, Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, to fund an illuminated ceiling in a treatment room in the paediatric ward.

Steph Holmes, Practice Education Facilitator, said the artwork was already making a huge difference to the patient experience.

She said: “The illuminated artwork provides a really soothing atmosphere and helps relax young patients who are going through treatment.

“The artwork itself means you can provide some distraction methods to help put patients at ease and take their attention away from the treatment they are going through.

“We absolutely love it and are already looking to install more similar pieces in other areas where we treat young people. We would all really like to thank the Lions Club for their support.”

The Lions Club provided funding towards the ceiling and other pieces of equipment including a blanket to help neo natal children suffering from jaundice after raising more than £14,000 from their annual Swimathon last year, an event that staff from the children’s wards took part in.

Lions Club Past President, Martin Chatfield, said: “The money raised from the Swimathon always goes towards helping children and young people and we are delighted to see the ceiling in its place.



Members of Lytham St Annes Lions Club and staff from Blackpool Victoria Hospital pictured with the new ceiling artwork on the children’s ward

“The feedback from the staff has been amazing and it is great to know that the money raised from our event goes to such a good cause.”

Steve Nelson, Creator at Visualite, said: “Some environments lend themselves to our Visualite system more than others and we knew this area could be transformed wonderfully with the extra light and colour they provide. We’re so pleased with the result because now patients, families and colleagues have a bright welcome.”

Kila Redfearn, Head of Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, said: “Thanks to the amazing Lions Club members and fundraisers who support the charity, we’ve been able to transform the room with some wonderful Visualite ceiling lights which are already making a massive difference.”

Blackpool-based Facilities Management company, BFW Management Ltd (Atlas), installed the lighting. Two of their Electricians, Calum Wilson and electrical apprentice, Tom Amos, installed the lighting and Atlas’ Estates team will maintain it for years to come.