



One of the Trust's major aims has been to further develop its emergency department and critical care facilities. I am delighted to say, this week we have taken a major step forward as our £13million business case to develop our Emergency Village and Critical Care Improvement plan was approved.



This is fantastic news for Blackpool Victoria Hospital, the Trust and everyone on the Fylde coast. The opening of the first phase of the Emergency Village in January has already given us a real boost in terms of safety, comfort and staff morale and that was just the beginning!

Now we can focus on the next stage which will be to upgrade existing facilities in the Emergency Department and create space to care for more people. It is a huge and significant step which, with the funding already granted, would amount to a £25million investment in health care on the Fylde coast.

It is great to see patients reaping the benefits of that development while staff in the Emergency Department are already making full use of those improvements to implement new ways of working and support a high number of patients who need emergency or critical care.

As well as improving the environment and facilities for emergency care we are also working on building a new Critical Care building behind the current Emergency Department and Urgent Care Centre. The existing High Dependency Unit and Intensive Care Units will then move to allow the Emergency Department to expand with greater space for patients and staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of modern, up to date critical care facilities for extremely ill patients, locally and nationally and this development is a massive step forward for population we serve.

The provision of mental health care facilities has also been a focused and important part of the overall plan. In conjunction with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust we will be creating a Mental Health Urgent Assessment Centre. It will be up and running in the next few weeks and will enable the Mental Health Liaison Team to be on hand to offer support to people in crisis in a more suitable setting.

The impact of this plan to emergency and critical care cannot be underestimated. We're ahead of schedule, allowing us to open up the first phase, which has supported environmental improvements and increased social distancing. I've no doubt that, when completely finished, it will deliver gold standard patient care in an enhanced environment which benefits both our patients and our staff.

We will work harder to ensure that the best possible journey, quality of care and outcomes for our patients are reached through the transformational changes this will bring. This sets the ball rolling for exciting milestones to be reached in the near future and I excitedly look forward to them.

My thanks go to our fantastic workforce who have supported the development, been instrumental in designing the facilities, and continued to provide care throughout the reconstruction. I am really looking forward to seeing the full development taking shape over the coming year.

You can follow the progress of the project on the Trust's website at:

www.bfwh.nhs.uk/emergency-village plus Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BTHEmergencyVillage> and Twitter: @BTH_EVandCC.

Kevin McGee, Chief Executive, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

IN THIS WEEK'S STAKEHOLDER BULLETIN

[COVID VIDEO UPDATE](#)

[VISITING RULES RELAXED](#)

[MOTHER, DAUGHTER AND DOCTOR REUNITED](#)

[BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH](#)

[GOVID VACCINATION CLINIC FOR CANCER PATIENTS PRAISED](#)

[GOING THE EXTRA MILE](#)

[CARDIAC CENTRE PIONEERS NEW TECH](#)

[POSITIVE COMMENTS](#)

Positive

VIDEO UPDATE

This week's COVID video update is from Medical Director, Dr Jim Gardner, which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Dr Gardner talks about the continuing reduction in inpatient figures and the community infection rates across the Fylde coast and highlights the success of the vaccination programme nationally and locally.



VISITING RULES RELAXED

The Trust's visiting policy has been relaxed with patients now permitted to have one visitor for a specified one hour each day with time slots set for 2-3pm, 3.30pm-4.30pm or 7pm-8pm.

Where possible any meetings with relatives/carers/advocates will still take place remotely but if not visitors will be asked to follow infection prevention and control measures throughout their time on site. They will be asked to follow hand hygiene measures and will be given a Type II Fluid Resistant Mask and follow social distancing measures throughout.

Compassionate

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER REUNITED WITH DOCTOR WHO SAVED THEIR LIFE

In last week's bulletin we brought you news of baby Ruby who was celebrating her first birthday after her mum almost died from Covid. This week we can bring you a video of the emotional reunion with mum Kathrine, baby Ruby and Dr Jason Cupitt.



[Click here to watch the video](#)

People Centred

BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH TAKES OFF

Every 15 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with bowel cancer.

April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, and throughout the month the Trust will be sharing a suite of videos specially produced to help raise awareness of the disease.

These videos include details on every single aspect of bowel cancer, including how to spot signs and symptoms of the disease, what a patient can expect in an investigation in gastroenterology, and what would happen if you need surgery.



Keep an eye on the Trust's social media channels and YouTube [channel](#) to see more from the Trust's brilliant colorectal cancer teams.

[Click here to watch a playlist of all the Bowel Cancer Awareness Month videos](#)

COVID VACCINATION CLINIC FOR CANCER PATIENTS PRAISED

A SPECIAL Covid clinic to vaccinate cancer patients across the Fylde coast has been praised.

The weekly clinic, which takes place in the Macmillan Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, sees local cancer patients invited to receive their vaccinations in a safe and comfortable environment away from the main vaccination hub at the hospital.

This helps to reduce the risk of infections for patients, who may be more vulnerable because of their condition, while at the same time providing a calm space for patients.

Sue Wild, Head of Occupational Health at the Trust, said: "We wanted to provide a safe space for our cancer patients to have their Covid vaccine and decided to trial a separate clinic to support them.

"We look to see about 20 patients each clinic and the feedback we have had has been fantastic.

"Patients have told us that they feel really safe and really appreciate the support and the clinic has been a real success."



Excellent

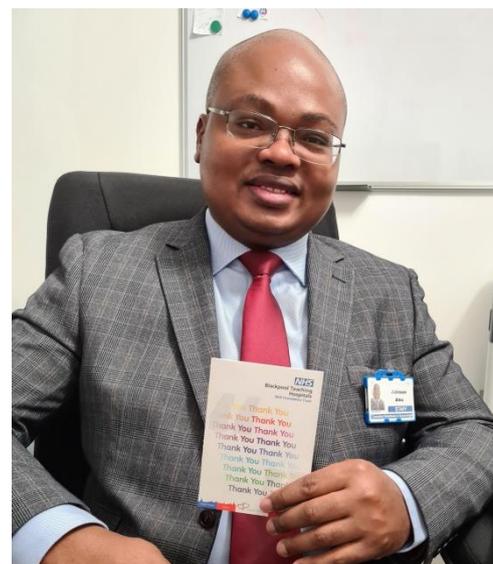
GOING THE EXTRA MILE AWARD FOR CONSULTANT

Consultant Johnson Amu has received a Going the Extra Mile award.

Mr Amu, a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, is based at the Ward D Offices within the Women and Children's Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

His work was highlighted by colleague Debbie Curwen who said she had made the nomination: "For being a very supportive Consultant of the week and for going above and beyond by being sensitive with an extremely anxious patient who required an USS guided biopsy."

Mr Amu said: "It is nice to be nominated by my colleague who observed and appreciated the 'above and beyond' care given to ensure a patient who was extremely anxious, received the treatment required to relieve her distress."



CARDIAC CENTRE PIONEERS NEW HEART TECHNOLOGY

The Lancashire Cardiac Centre at the Trust is once again leading the way with pioneering heart surgery techniques with the aim of providing better outcomes for patients in the region.

The cardiac electrophysiology team at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre, led by Dr Khalid Abozguia, has received new catheter technology which will help patients who are diagnosed with irregular heart rhythms.

The Intellanav Stablepoint Ablation Catheter is a brand new tool that treats the heart for irregular rhythms. Treating the heart for irregular rhythms involves burning millimetre-wide



areas of the heart using a catheter. This new catheter provides physicians with immediate feedback on how hard they are pushing into the heart tissue and how the tissue is responding to the treatment.

The physician can now diagnose, burn and validate the success of intricate changes to the heart during the procedure.

Speaking about the use of the pioneering Stablepoint catheter, Dr Khalid Abozguia, the clinical lead for cardiac electrophysiology (EP) service at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre, said: "We are pleased that our centre is one of few hospitals in the UK able to offer this new technology, to provide significantly better outcomes for our patients undergoing catheter ablation for heart rhythm disorder."

POSITIVE COMMENTS

Kayley sent us this amazing message to thank staff for the care they gave during the birth of her daughter Nula:

Just wanted to message to say a heartfilled thank you. I will always be thankful after the care I received recently.

On Friday 26th March I gave birth to our little daughter Nula; this day I will never forget for many reasons. I gave birth via planned c-section after my first birth going a bit wrong. My section went perfectly despite my emotions until the very last minute and for some reason no other than my own body, it went terribly wrong rather quickly. The theatre team and delivery suite staff couldn't have done anything more for us.

If it wasn't for them and their amazing work, care, calmness and patience, I wouldn't be here to share our Nula together and be her mummy.

They saved my life.

It has been the scariest time of my life, but all the theatre staff were amazing. Giving me hands to hold when my partner had to leave theatre so I could be operated on a second time, telling me "they have me and I will be seeing them and my family again soon" before being put to sleep not knowing if I would be waking up.

Thank you for the aftercare from the maternity staff on the delivery suite for looking after not only me but my partner too and being there for us all.

I am also thankful for people who give up their time to give blood and their kindness for donating, as for people like me, that day I needed it or I wouldn't be here.

It was a really really tough time but we got to come home all together.

We will be forever grateful for everything that was done for us 💞 I am so lucky, so thankyou.

Debra contacted the Trust to say a big thank you to staff on Ward 3

I am a patient on ward 3 and I would like to thank each and every member of staff for their fabulous caring approach, their attention to detail, their kindness, Louise the sister and all her team from the housekeeper upwards are indeed angels. It was like staying in a five-star hotel! I would give 5-star rating on trip advisor!

I am currently being treated for breast cancer and the oncology unit from Alison Melvin and Karen Teale and Meaghan Kay and the rest of the staff are all deserving of the same praise.

I work although currently of sick in the NHS and thank goodness these wonderful people are around to look after us.

Thank you for reading this bulletin. If you have any comments or questions, or would like to know more about any of our services, please get in touch via telephone on 01253 300000, through our [online contact form](#), or via post at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Trust Headquarters, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR

