



## Freeing up beds for our patients

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# Innovating through partnership

We're delighted to bring you the first edition of our exciting new newsletter bringing you all the latest updates from Wirral University Teaching Hospital, covering our sites at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge, our Women and Children's Hospital, our pathology labs at Bromborough - along with our clinics at St Catherine's and Victoria Central Health Centres.

It's been an incredibly busy time as we strive to bring down patient waiting times, treat more people than ever before and introduce innovative new treatments and services to enhance the lives of the people of Wirral.

As we celebrate 75 years of the NHS, we've had the opportunity to reflect on many great advances in healthcare over those years.

As a result, infant mortality has reduced drastically compared to 1948 and we now live, on average, 13 years longer!

At the same time, we're making giant strides to stay at the forefront of innovation and technology. We have a thriving and award-winning research team conducting over 72 studies, recruiting 488 patients- with 68 research active clinicians as Principal Investigators, and multiple partnerships with organisations including our local education establishments, other health trusts and the local Council.

We always welcome feedback, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information about the work we're undertaking and the successes of our partnership working – or if you would like to see what we're doing, first hand.

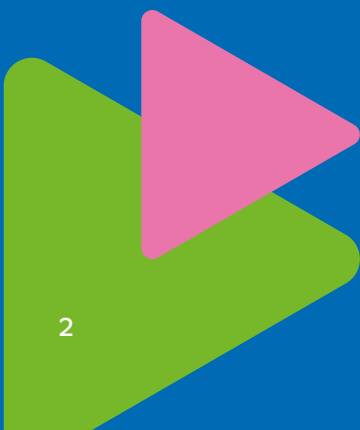
And in this 75th anniversary year of the NHS, we would like to put on record our grateful thanks on behalf of the Trust to all our partners and suppliers, as well as our colleagues, for helping to make Wirral University Teaching Hospital one of the most forward-thinking and innovative organisations in our region.



Sir David Henshaw - Chair



Janelle Holmes - Chief Executive Officer



A photograph of three women standing in a bright hospital lounge. The woman on the left is wearing a white lab coat over a dark top. The woman in the middle is wearing a dark blue nurse's uniform. The woman on the right is wearing a dark blue top and a patterned skirt. They are standing in front of a row of green chairs. The background shows a hospital room with a bed, a desk, and a window.

# Freeing up beds to treat more patients

A major focus for us over the past few months has been to reduce the number of people who are in hospital who shouldn't be - so they can be cared for in way best suited to their needs.

Hayley Kendall, Chief Operating Officer, Sister Theresa Pugh and CEO Janelle Holmes, are pictured in the Discharge Hospitality Lounge at Arrowe Park Hospital

It's been well documented that we've had one of the highest numbers of people in the North West who are waiting to go home or into nursing care, who've not been able to because of the pressures on community and social care.

By remaining in hospital when they're ready to be discharged, we've had fewer beds for other patients who are urgently waiting for treatment.

After introducing a completely new way of working three months ago, in partnership with Wirral Council and other NHS provider partners, plus voluntary sector organisations like Age Concern, we've been able to reduce the number of people in beds who are waiting to go home from 250 to 150 a day, freeing up 100 more beds at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge hospitals. This is a substantial number in hospitals which have a total of 820 beds.

## Great progress and impact

*"The impact of this," says Wirral Hospitals' CEO Janelle Holmes, "is that we're starting to make inroads into our waiting lists which, combined with other initiatives, should not be underestimated. It's amazing progress and proof that a collaborative approach really does work. Our focus now is on reducing those numbers even further.*

*"We're working hard to return our bed occupancy to the levels we had before the pandemic. The high levels of patients in hospital who no longer need to be here has a knock-on effect across the hospitals, for example in the Emergency Department. By working together across Wirral health and social care, we can really make things better for patients, staff and families."*

## Partnership working to benefit patients

Wirral Council Chief Executive Paul Satoor added: *"At the Council, we are working in partnership, with Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals as the lead, in ensuring that patients are transferred from the hospitals when they are medically fit to go home, or to community or residential care. We want the best possible care for the people of Wirral and are committed to the strong partnerships to make this happen."*

Wirral Transfer of Care (Discharge) Hub fully launched in July with a single hospital leadership structure responsible for ensuring the safe transfer of care to the relevant service. It involves a team of staff from the partner organisations and the voluntary sector, and will create a single discharge from hospital flow.



# NHS at 75 – celebrations, legends and an award winning garden

Staff and patients across the Trust joined in the fun and festivities to mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS on July 5th. Staff organised tea parties and took to social media to show their love of the NHS.

Liverpool Football Club's big red community bus, the Red Neighbours Team, visited Arrowe Park with Liverpool FC legends John Barnes, Bruce Grobbelaar and Alan Kennedy. The trio signed autographs, posed for pictures and showed off the replica European Cup. It all contributed to a great buzz around the hospitals on the anniversary day itself. John and Bruce also thanked staff for the care they and their families had received as patients.

On a more reflective note, to celebrate NHS@75, the Trust is to benefit from an RHS Silver Gilt award-winning show garden from the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Tatton Park, Cheshire, which is being donated to WUTH Charity for replanting after the show.

Silver Gilt is the second highest medal that RHS judges make for garden design and planting. The donation in kind of the garden is valued at £40,000. The garden will be sited in the grounds of Clatterbridge Hospital as a lasting commemoration of the anniversary.

WUTH Chief Executive Janelle Holmes said: *"We are delighted to accept this generous donation of an award winning and beautiful RHS show garden, to benefit patients and staff. It will be a fabulous addition to our Clatterbridge site and a lasting facility to enhance the green space around our hospital."*

The garden is a collaboration between designer, Carolyn Hardern and landscape construction manager, Jon Jarvis. It is designed as a calming environment to help enhance people's mental wellbeing.

The relocation to Clatterbridge Hospital will transform this green and contemplative space, so it can be used by WUTH staff and other occupants on the Clatterbridge Health Campus.



# Partnerships to the fore as NHS Medical Director Professor Sir Stephen Powis visits Wirral



Wirral University Teaching Hospital and partners hosted a prestigious visit by Professor Sir Stephen Powis, Medical Director for NHS England, to Wirral's healthcare system. Professor Powis visited local primary care practice Eastham Healthcare Centre, then Clatterbridge Diagnostics Centre, which is a joint initiative between Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and WUTH.

Professor Powis toured Cheshire and Merseyside Surgical Centre at Clatterbridge, one of the national elective surgical hubs set up with national NHS funding, where he got the chance to drive the state-of-the-art Da Vinci surgical robot (pictured). Professor Powis, who is a renal specialist, visited the new £2.8 million Dialysis Unit at Arrowe Park

Hospital, which has vastly improved the experience for patients on dialysis. He ended his visit with a guided tour of the new £30m urgent and emergency care facility at Arrowe Park Hospital.

Janelle Holmes, Chief Executive said: *"It was a pleasure to welcome Professor Powis to our Trust and to showcase the fantastic work happening at our sites, as well as our strong leadership and partnership work in Wirral."*

*"This was a great opportunity to demonstrate the innovative projects that are already improving patient care and our exciting future projects that will further benefit the Wirral community."*



L-R WUTH CEO Janelle Holmes, Prof Powis, Graham Urwin CEO NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and Dr Liz Bishop, CEO Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

Together, we will



The sensory room at Arrowe Park Hospital was opened by autism campaigner and TV personality Christine McGuinness, pictured here with Deputy Sister Becky Brumpton, Theatre Manager Nickie Van Schie and Chief Nurse Tracy Fennell.

## Excellence in care - finalists in HSJ Patient Safety and Nursing Times Awards

Our staff and hospitals have garnered external praise for innovations in patient care and addressing health inequalities. The Trust has been shortlisted as a finalist in the HSJ Patient Safety Awards - Learning Disabilities Initiative of the Year, for improving the experience of adults with autism who are undergoing surgery. The project is also a finalist in the Nursing Times' Dame Elizabeth Anionwu Award for Inclusivity in Nursing and Midwifery.

The Supporting Treatment in Additional-needs Requirements (STAR) Project involved the opening of a sensory unit at Arrowe Park Hospital, which was the first of its kind in the North West of England to be set up specifically for adult patients with autism and additional needs, who are having planned surgery.

It was inspired by Deputy Sister Becky Brumpton, who has a son with autism and saw this gap in provision for adults, and together with her colleagues she fundraised to create the facility, which was supported by WUTH Charity.

It was officially opened by autism campaigner Christine McGuinness who said: *"I am so pleased to open this sensory room that will help adults on the autistic spectrum to feel calmer during the stressful time before having surgery. Seeing organisations like hospitals support those with*

*autism by designing appropriate environments - especially for adults - is a real step forward. Thank you to Arrowe Park Hospital for making this possible. I hope other hospitals will follow suit."*

Ingrid, the grateful mum of patient Dan who used the sensory room, said: *"It made SUCH a difference to Dan's experience today. This needs to be replicated in every hospital to see the impact it had."*

**HSJ**  **PATIENT SAFETY AWARDS 2023**

**WE ARE PROUD TO BE A FINALIST**

# Cheshire and Merseyside Surgical Centre powers through the elective backlogs

We're treating more patients, faster and delivering a great experience for theatre staff who love working at our new surgical centre. The Cheshire and Merseyside Surgical Centre opened its doors at Clatterbridge Hospital last year with two new 'modular' theatres as part of phase one of the project. Since then, it's been a huge asset to Wirral Hospitals and the Cheshire and Merseyside region.

The state-of-the-art facility is innovative in design, as the theatres were largely built as in a modular way, off-site, and then constructed on to the side of the existing hospital theatres, allowing for the new theatres to be developed as quickly as possible. This means the benefits to patients and staff have been delivered in a really quick time scale.

The centre is one of the national elective surgical hubs created using national NHS funding with the aim of clearing the backlog of patients waiting for elective surgery, post-pandemic. It is already benefiting many patients across Cheshire and Merseyside.

The second phase of the project is set to be completed later this year with two further 'modular' theatres. When both phases are complete, the centre will enable the Trust to treat an extra 6,000 elective patients a year, which is a fantastic outcome for the region.



Cheshire and Merseyside  
Surgical Centre  
at Clatterbridge



Together, we will

# Helping local businesses to grow - 100 apprentices within 100 days

In partnership with Wirral Met College, we have launched an innovative scheme to help individuals in the community access career progression, while supporting employers with employee development and recruitment to facilitate company growth.

The initiative enables the Trust to transfer up to 25% of its Apprentice Levy funding to help business fund apprenticeships, facilitated through Wirral Met College. This is in addition to the apprenticeships already at the Trust. As a large employer the Trust is able to use its Levy funding to support organisations and businesses, enabling health inequalities to be tackled through economic growth and employment.

Small to medium sized employers across Wirral and Liverpool City Region will gain much needed financial support for the recruitment of apprentices, as well as providing training and development for existing employees to support their career progression.

Janelle Holmes, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust Chief Executive said of the scheme:

*“We are excited to be working alongside Wirral Met College on this innovative scheme that will not only help individuals who have struggled to access career development, but also support our local businesses to grow and develop. We believe that this scheme will have a positive impact on the community, and we encourage both employers and individuals to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities on offer.”*

Sue Higginson, Wirral Met Principal and Janelle Holmes, Chief Executive at WUTH pictured below







Together, we will

Pictured above (left to right): WUTH - Prof Simon Rogers, Clinical Lead for Research and Innovation, Fiona Brailsford, Research and Innovation Manager, Dr Ranj Mehra, Deputy Medical Director

## Research award win for ground breaking study to improve safety for babies

Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) won a North West Coast Research and Innovation Award with primary care partner, Marine Lake Medical Practice. This is the first collaboration locally on the Wirral, between primary and secondary care, to deliver research.

The award was given in the 'Research Collaboration of the Year' category for the HARMONIE Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine Study. This research study is looking at how babies can be protected from serious illness due to RSV infection by giving them a single dose of antibodies.

The Research and Innovation Team supported the study by acting as a Participant Identification Centre and sharing study information with potential patients. Working together, Marine Lake Medical Practice and the Trust were able to deliver fast, effective and successful recruitment to the study.

For most people, RSV infection causes a mild respiratory illness, but it can be more serious for a small number of patients, especially babies and young children.

In the study, WUTH provided clinical space in the Children's Outpatients Department, as well as clinical support from its Pharmacy and Paediatrics Departments and Research Nurse support.



# Arrowe Park Hospital gets top marks in CQC National Urgent & Emergency Care Patient Experience Survey

The hospital's Emergency Department (ED) received a score of nine out of ten when patients were asked if they had confidence and trust in the doctors and nurses treating them. This positive feedback is particularly encouraging for staff as they work in a busy and pressurised environment, caring for anxious and worried patients. The hospital's CEO, Janelle Holmes, expressed her gratitude for the outstanding care provided by the ED team and highlighted that these results were achieved despite the increasing number of patients attending the Emergency Department.

The hospital is investing over £30 million in a new Urgent and Emergency Care department at Arrowe Park, and the feedback received is a testament to the staff's dedication and professionalism during this period of construction. In the survey, WUTH's Emergency Department and Services were rated 'Better' or 'Somewhat Better' than most trusts for eight questions, and about the same as other trusts for 29 questions. None of the questions resulted

in a 'Worse than' rating. Arrowe Park Hospital scored top marks in the North West of England region for five categories, including 'Experience overall,' 'Leaving A&E,' 'Care and Treatment,' 'Tests,' and 'Doctors and Nurses.' The hospital aims to continue providing exceptional care even during its construction phase, which is the largest single capital investment in the Trust's history.

## Arrowe Park comes up 'time and time again as offering fantastic experience' for medical students

The Trust was featured recently in the University of Liverpool School of Medicine publication as students were consistently giving the Trust great feedback for their placement experiences. Rachael Mitchell, Lead for Medical Education and Workforce Transformation answered questions for the university newsletter. WUTH supports around 560 student placements each year from the University of Liverpool School of Medicine with placements at Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge sites. Rachael highlighted how the Timetabler app has enhanced the way students' schedules are managed. Dr Nikki Stevenson, Medical Director, is pictured centre with the Undergraduate Team.

