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## Update on Stronger Together Partnership with UHNM

As mentioned in previous editions of this newsletter, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) has been in a formal partnership with University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) for the past two years.

The rationale for this partnership, known as Stronger Together, is simple: both Trusts are increasingly dependent upon each other in order to be strong, successful and sustainable healthcare providers in the future.

The collective efforts of this partnership are leading to real improvements which will greatly benefit patients and help to sustain services locally for both Trusts. This article aims to provide an update on three aspects of the partnership: Specialist Cancer Services, Elective Orthopaedic Care and Gastrointestinal Bleeds.

### Specialist Cancer Services

Following a comparative assessment process led by NHS England and NHS South Cheshire and Vale Royal CCGs, UHNM has been selected as the preferred sole provider of specialist Gynaecological Cancer Services for the Mid Cheshire population. This means that, from April 1, 2016, a new care pathway will be in place, delivering the following improvements for patients:

- The local Gynaecological Cancer team at Leighton Hospital will partner with the specialist MDT at Royal Stoke University Hospital;
- Patients who require major complex surgery and/or radiotherapy treatment will receive this treatment at Royal Stoke University Hospital, with all Outpatient care being provided at Leighton Hospital. Currently, most patients travel significantly further to specialist hospitals in Manchester for this care;
- Chemotherapy care will be delivered

at Leighton Hospital. Again, patients currently travel to hospitals in Manchester for this;

- Care will be better co-ordinated and patients will have access to Care Co-ordinators.

For the two Trusts, this means that investments can be made into the Chemotherapy Unit at Leighton Hospital and to the surgical and clinical Oncology Gynaecology cancer service at UHNM. It also means that UHNM's special gynaecological cancer services now cover a population of more than 1million people which will help to make the services more resilient and sustainable, and will also see £2million over three years being retained locally in North Staffordshire and Mid Cheshire.

Both Trusts will be continuing to work with Commissioners over time in relocating further cancer pathways to the partnership.

### Elective Orthopaedic Care

In recent years, UHNM has struggled to provide planned Orthopaedic care in a timely manner to its patients, leading to long waiting lists and high rates of cancellations.

As a result, UHNM and MCHFT have agreed an Orthopaedics partnership whereby patients from North Staffordshire will have access to high quality elective Orthopaedic care at Leighton Hospital, where state-of-the-art Theatres are available alongside a new Surgical Admissions Lounge.

This arrangement commenced in October 2015 with patients awaiting hand surgery being offered the choice of a day-case operation at Leighton Hospital under a UHNM consultant. The arrangement will be extended over the coming months to include North Staffordshire patients being

### in this issue

- P2** • Radiology Update  
• Pancreatic Cancer
- P3** • Suggestion Scheme  
• New Consultant  
• Staff Flu Jab Update  
• Survey Thanks
- P4** • Recruitment Drive  
• Cleanliness Praise



### feedback

If you have any feedback on this newsletter, or any suggestions for future articles, please tell us by emailing [gp.link@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:gp.link@mcht.nhs.uk).

offered the choice of having their major joint replacement surgery at Leighton Hospital.

### Gastrointestinal Bleeds

From October 2015, the partnership has implemented pathways to deal with a number of patients needing GI Bleed interventions. This service is based at UHNM for complex cases whilst retaining a service at MCHFT.

The partnership ensures the best use of NHS facilities whilst enabling patients to have their operation without relying on private sector capacity.

There are a number of other discussions underway, updates on which will be provided in the coming months.

# Radiology: Electronic Ordering & Reporting

As part of the move towards improving the patient and staff experience, the Radiology Departments at Leighton Hospital and Victoria Infirmary will be implementing full electronic ordering and reporting for Radiology examinations in the coming months.

The system which will be used is the same one which Practices currently use for the electronic ordering of Pathology tests and viewing of results and reports. The addition being made is the ability to order Radiology examinations via this route. This will mean that it will be possible to request Radiology examinations and this will automatically go through to the Radiology system to be available when the patient arrives for their examination. It will not be necessary to print out the request form, as all of the details will be available electronically immediately. However, it is appreciated that patients may wish to have a paper copy of the request, so this option will also be available.

Having a fully electronic system for requesting and reporting for Radiology will also mean that it will be possible to 'track' the progress of any requests made.

For example, to see when the patient has arrived for the examination, when the examination has been completed and when the report has been authorised.

To ensure that the views of Practices are taken into account and any questions answered fully prior to implementation, the Trust is requesting volunteers to act as representatives of the wider Practice community on both the Project Team and Project Board.

The system that the Trust is intending to implement has been used by a number of other Trusts, most local being Royal Liverpool Hospital.

Please note, this system will only apply to Radiology requests and not those undertaken by the Cardio-Respiratory/ECG department.

For further information, please contact:

- Diane Nolder, Senior IT Projects Manager - Diane.Nolder@mcht.nhs.uk - 01270 273481
- Jason Peters, IT Project Support Manager - Jason.peters@mcht.nhs.uk - 01270 273482.

## Lighting Up Purple For Pancreatic Cancer

The Macmillan Cancer Unit, based at Leighton Hospital in Crewe, is being lit purple throughout evenings in November as part of a campaign being run by Pancreatic Cancer UK for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

Purple Lights for Hope launched last year as an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those dealing with a pancreatic cancer diagnosis and to remember those who have died of the disease. It also aims to spread a message of hope.

The Macmillan unit, which is run by MCHFT, has joined dozens of organisations and landmarks across the country, including Blackpool Tower and Edinburgh Castle, for the scheme.

Del Owen, Clinical Nurse Manager, said: "The reason we are getting involved in Purple Lights for Hope is to raise awareness locally – we have a large proportion of patients who present pancreatic cancer symptoms too late or who don't get checked out.

"We want to encourage those displaying symptoms to present themselves earlier so that, if needed, they can be diagnosed and treated quicker. A quicker diagnosis leads to a better outcome."

Pancreatic cancer is the eleventh most common cancer in the UK with around 8,800 people diagnosed every year – the equivalent of 24 people every day.

MCHFT has also recently set up a Pancreatic Cancer Support Group, which held its first focus group on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. For further details about the support group please call Vicky Woodall, Clinical Nurse Specialist, on 01270 273803.

Further information about pancreatic cancer, including symptoms, can be found at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-pancreas](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cancer-of-the-pancreas).



# Suggestion Scheme To Open To Public

In November 2013, MCHFT launched its suggestion scheme, known as Bright Ideas, to allow staff members to submit any ideas that they had on how things such as patient care, processes, morale or environments could be improved within the Trust.

The scheme has been positively received since its introduction, with each and every one of the near-300 ideas submitted so far being considered and reviewed by the appropriate department, before detailed feedback is provided to the person who sent in their idea.

Following its success, the initiative is now being

extended to patients, carers, partners, stakeholders and members of the public, to allow more people to influence and shape the healthcare services provided locally. This involvement in decision-making will provide the Trust with additional confidence that it is meeting the needs of its local population by including their feedback at the heart of transforming local healthcare services.

Further information about the Bright Ideas scheme is available on the Trust's website at [www.mcht.nhs.uk/brightideas](http://www.mcht.nhs.uk/brightideas), where you will also find two submission forms - one electronic and one that can be downloaded and printed off.

## New Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

**Mr Greville Farrar, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, BSc, MBBS, FRCSEd (Ortho), Dip Sports & Exercise Medicine**



Greville Farrar has recently joined MCHFT as an additional Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, bringing the total number of Consultants within the department to 12.

Specialising in sports knee injuries, hip and knee arthroplasty and trauma, with sub-specialty interests in knee

ligament injuries and partial knee replacement, Greville joined the Trust on August 17, 2015.

After qualifying in London, Greville started at St Thomas' Hospital before posts in Leicester, Derby and Nottingham led to higher Orthopaedic training in the East Midlands. He then progressed to become a Senior Registrar in the Mersey area and at Wrightington Hospital, before undertaking further fellowship training in York which allowed him develop his interest in sports knee injuries. In addition to this training, Greville has also undertaken research in knee surgery and healthcare economics.

Greville is delighted to have recently moved to Cheshire with his wife Nadia, a GP partner, and their young son.

Secretary's Details: Christina Russell – 01270 273968 / [christina.russell@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:christina.russell@mcht.nhs.uk).

For further information on MCHFT Consultants, please visit [www.mcht.nhs.uk/consultants](http://www.mcht.nhs.uk/consultants).

## Staff Flu Campaign Ahead of Schedule

More MCHFT staff have protected themselves and their patients from the flu virus by having this year's vaccination when compared to the same time in 2014.

At the time of this newsletter being finalised, 45% of frontline healthcare workers at the Trust have received their flu jab from one of the 130 peer vaccinators that have volunteered to administer the vaccine to their colleagues.

Overall, a total of 76% of staff played their part and had their flu vaccination in winter 2014/15, and the Trust hopes to exceed this figure this winter.

## Survey Thanks

During September and October 2015, the Trust ran a survey asking for feedback from its external partners about their experience of working alongside MCHFT.

If you took part in the survey, thank you for taking the time to provide the Trust with your opinions and for highlighting those areas where MCHFT performs well and those where there may be room for improvement.

If you didn't get chance to complete the survey but would like to share your thoughts on working with MCHFT, please email them to [gp.link@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:gp.link@mcht.nhs.uk) and they will be fed back to the appropriate departments.

# Recruitment Drive For Current & Former Nurses

The Trust is currently undertaking two recruitment drives in a bid to increase its number of Qualified Nurses.

## Medicine and Emergency Care

The Medicine and Emergency Care Division is looking for keen and dedicated individuals to join its various teams, and recently held a 'one stop shop' recruitment event earlier in November 2015. The event featured tours of the various hospital facilities and the chance to talk to existing staff about their experiences of working for the Trust. There was also the opportunity for people to apply for a position and be interviewed on the day.

Due to the event's success, which saw more than 100 candidates attend and a significant number being offered positions at the Trust, a second event is being held on Tuesday, December 2, 2015, in the Board Room at Leighton Hospital from 3pm until 8pm.

If you are aware of any individuals who may be interested in joining MCHFT's Medicine and Emergency Care Division, please contact Linda Ormson, Divisional Lead Nurse, on 01270 612183 or email [linda.ormson@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:linda.ormson@mcht.nhs.uk). Those interested in Nurse Bank work can also contact 01270 612506.



## Return to Practice

Former nurses who are considering a return to the profession still have time to apply for a new training programme that will allow them to get paid whilst they train.

In September 2015, the Trust launched its new Return to Practice programme in partnership with the University of Chester. Designed to fit around the professional and personal needs of former nurses, the flexible programme has already seen a large amount of interest from those looking to bring their invaluable skills and experience back into practice.

Sue Hamman, Divisional Lead Nurse and lead for the programme, said: "We have been delighted with the response to our campaign and to meet so many former nurses who are keen to return to the profession.

"We still have a limited number of places for our programme starting in Spring 2016, so if you have previously trained as a nurse and want to find out about coming back, we'd love to hear from you and discuss the options that we have available.

"We have tried to make the programme as flexible as possible and, with the additional support that we've put in place such as ensuring that our trainees receive a salary whilst they train, the feedback that we've received from applicants so far has been very positive and we're looking forward to commencing the training early next year."

For further information about the programme, please contact Audrey Butterworth on 01270 273712 or email [Audrey.Butterworth@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:Audrey.Butterworth@mcht.nhs.uk).

# Praise for Cleanliness

Earlier this year, representatives from Healthwatch Cheshire East and Healthwatch Cheshire West visited the Emergency Department at Leighton Hospital to undertake an 'Enter and View' visit.

Amongst the improvements that they witnessed during their visit, they were particularly positive about the cleanliness of the area.

Healthwatch's positive comments echo the findings of a recent PLACE (Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment) audit, which saw patients, volunteers and other members of the local community visit the hospital to assess how the environment supports a number of important standards.

In terms of the overall cleanliness, Leighton Hospital scored 97.93% in the 2015 audit, against the national average of 97.57%. In comparison, the hospital scored 93.06% for the same category in the 2014 audit.

The Trust is always keen to act on feedback provided by patients, visitors and healthcare partners in order to continually improve all aspects of its services and experiences.

