

your hospitals your Pennine

Issue 7
Winter 2014

FOUNDATION TRUST MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE



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Dear Member



HAPPY New Year and welcome to the 7th issue of our Foundation Trust membership magazine. In this issue you will find the latest news about the Trust, our hospitals and the services we provide.

Last year was an extremely busy time for the Trust. January marked the end of the Healthy Futures reconfiguration programme with the successful transfer and opening of our new specialist Eye Unit at Rochdale Infirmary. In June, we were delighted to receive a Royal visit from HRH The Countess of Wessex to officially open our new Women and Children's facility at The Royal Oldham Hospital. This was a fantastic day for the Trust and particularly for the many staff involved in the new development and those who now work on these units. In the same week, we held our fourth annual Staff Awards event where TV personality Ruby Wax joined us in celebrating the achievements of many of our staff who have gone that extra mile to provide excellent patient care or shown innovation in providing and developing our services.

Quality of Care

In July we held our Annual Public Meeting at Rochdale Town Hall where we published our Annual Report and Quality Accounts and also launched our new 5 year Quality Strategy. This document sets out our quality aspirations and priorities for everyone over the next five years. The strategy is themed around what we call the six 'C's' – Care, Compassion, Competence, Communication, Courage, and Commitment. The seventh 'C' ischange. These, I believe, are areas all of our staff can sign up to in our effort to improve our quality of care.

In September we successfully redesigned our stroke services where all new acute stroke patients will now be referred to the Trust's specialist Primary Stroke Centre at Fairfield for treatment and care. We are also progressing well with the expansion of our A&E departments at Oldham and Fairfield.

In October our staff and patients at Rochdale Infirmary received a visit from Lady Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, a Lord peer and consultant physician. During her visit she was shown plans for a new facility at the infirmary called the Oasis Unit, which will allow the assessment and diagnosis of patients with dementia and confusion presenting with acute medical conditions. This is being developed with our local commissioners and health and social care partners.

In November we welcomed our new Chief Nurse, Mandie Sunderland, and Dr Rob Davies who takes up the role of our new Medical Director. Most recently, in December, we announced the appointment of

Dr Gillian Fairfield as our new Chief Executive who will take over from John Saxby who is to retire later this year.

Once again we have risen to the significant challenges in 2013 both in terms of the relentless efficiencies and cost savings we need to find, but also in meeting our national and local performance standards. In particular, we have concentrated our efforts on improving patient safety, improving cleanliness, reducing our hospital mortality and infection rates, and reducing waiting times across emergency care, cancer services and surgery.

Most recently, figures published by the Dr Foster Hospital Guide show good progress in a range of our key performance indicators, including our hospital standardised mortality rate (HSMR). Using Dr Foster methodology, the Trust's HSMR from April 2012 – March 2013 was below the 100 index. This means that fewer patients than expected died. This is due to improvements in our clinical coding and care. Regionally, the Trust is the second highest performing Trust when compared to our other 22 peer acute hospital trusts in the North West. This is excellent news.

It is not possible to mention every change and achievement here but I would like to express my personal thanks again to all our staff for their hard work and commitment for the Trust and, most importantly, for our patients and their families. I also would like to thank you as members of the Trust for your continued support.

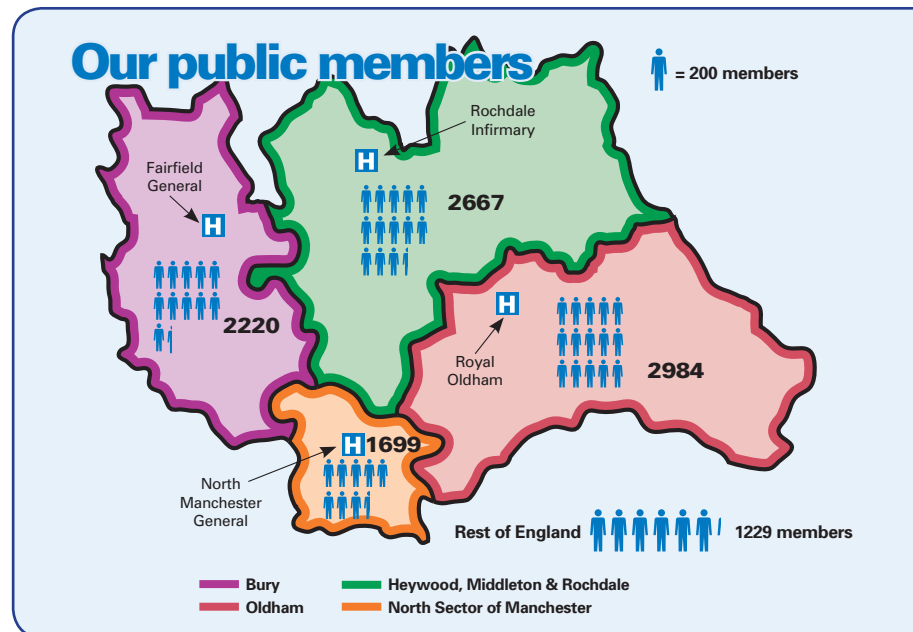
Best wishes for 2014.

John Jesky
Chairman

membership news

OUR membership has continued to grow and to date we have over 10,800 public members. As part of our effort to ensure we have a balanced membership which is representative of the locally and culturally diverse communities we serve across the North East sector of Manchester, we are aiming to sign up more young members, aged 14 and over.

Over the past few months we have been working closely with local schools and colleges explaining about the range of hospital and community services we provide, and advising pupils who are perhaps interested or considering a career or further education in healthcare. We visited a number of colleges during the September Fresher's Week and planned visits to classes including Health and Social Care and physiotherapy students.



Hopwood Hall students sign up to become members

OVER fifty Hopwood Hall students recently signed up as public members of the Trust following a visit by Angela Greenwood, membership manager, during Welcome Week in September.

"We are very keen that members of the public, especially our patients, of all ages and from all areas, are given every opportunity to become members of the Trust and can support their local NHS", explains Angela. "Listening to and working with local people and our staff is important in making sure our services are fit for the future. It is very easy to become a member, just fill out a form, call us, or go to our website."

Membership is free, with no obligation, and is open to anyone aged 14 and over. For more information, or to register to become a member, visit our website or call 01706 517302.



Foundation Trust application

THE Trust will submit its formal application for Foundation Trust status in the first quarter of 2015/16. This date has been agreed with the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA), which is the body now responsible for all non-Foundation Trusts. Following successful assessment by the TDA and by the health regulator, Monitor, the Trust should be fully authorised as a Foundation Trust by March 2016.

The Trust Board is committed to achieving FT status but recognises that this requires continued efforts by all staff to meet our key performance indicators and our challenging Cost Improvement Plans, whilst maintaining high standards of care for our patients. Importantly, our local GPs and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) continue to fully support our aim to become a Foundation Trust and to be one of the best performing Trusts in the country.

'Medicine for Members' Events

'From Workhouse to Wards' Heritage Event

THE Dickensian delights and the history of the Victorian Workhouse were revealed at a special talk and heritage exhibition held at North Manchester General Hospital in September as part of the Trust's series of Medicine for Members' events.

Over one hundred members came along to learn more about the complicated and emotive history of workhouses and what life was really like in the workhouse. Topics included; food (a grim diet of bread, gruel, hasty pudding, cheese, potatoes) labour (running the workhouse, women mostly did domestic jobs such as cleaning, or helping in the kitchen or laundry, stone-breaking and oakum-picking), and the development of medical facilities.

Peter Higginbotham, leading workhouse expert and author, gave a talk which charted the story of the workhouses in the Manchester area. Dr Ian McCartney, a retired Trust consultant anaesthetist, also offered a short presentation on the story behind some of the photographs from the exhibition including a bit of a local scandal! He then kindly took a group of people on a guided tour of the historical hospital buildings around the hospital site.

As part of the event, Manchester City Archives displayed a selection of original workhouse registers. The registers are often used by people trying to trace ancestors who were in the workhouse as they give dates for when the patient was admitted and then when they left...or died! Some entries also give details of why they were in the workhouse and even who brought them in.



Choose Well: Get the right treatment this winter

LOCAL people are being reminded about the range of healthcare services and options available to them as winter approaches.

Traditionally winter months see an increase in bugs and viruses. Self care is the best choice to treat minor injuries and illnesses such as coughs, colds, sore throats and upset stomachs. Many minor illnesses can be treated with over-the-counter remedies available from your local pharmacy who can also provide advice on a range of minor ailments including bugs and viruses, tummy troubles and much more.

For online information, the NHS Choices website offers up to date and expert advice on a range of illnesses and complaints, as well details of local services. For patients wanting advice and signposting, the NHS 111 (dial 111) service is available 24/7 for patients that need medical help fast but it's not a life-threatening situation.

Dr Nick Gili, Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Clinical Director for The Royal Oldham Hospital and Rochdale Infirmary, said: "Our priority is in ensuring our most urgent and critically ill patients are seen and treated first. We often find ourselves dealing with patients who turn up to A&E with minor illness and complaints who could have been seen and



treated elsewhere. A large number of patients could and should be dealt with in a primary care service such as a local pharmacy or community service. Not only are these unnecessary visits to A&E a drain on valuable and limited resources, but these patients will usually be low priority and this means they will be waiting longer than most others and could be treated more quickly elsewhere.

"By choosing well and using the right services, patients can expect to be seen or treated more quickly, whilst keeping emergency services free for those patients with serious and life threatening illnesses. Help us to help you".

Dr. Kassim Ali, Consultant in A&E Medicine at Fairfield General Hospital added: "Minor

illnesses such as colds and flu are fairly self-limiting – you may feel unwell for a few days. Get plenty of rest, drink plenty of fluids and take painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. As colds and flu are caused by viruses, antibiotics will not help get rid of them. A&E departments are for those people who are extremely unwell and need urgent medical attention. In a genuine emergency, the A&E department will provide the best possible care to patients."



Choose well.

New Admissions and Discharge Unit

PATIENTS undergoing surgery at North Manchester General can look forward to an improved patient experience on admission, following the opening of a new admissions and discharge unit.

The unit expects to see around 10,000 patients per year and has benefitted from £56,000 of capital investment, in conjunction with the 23 hour ward, to upgrade the facilities provided. This includes the redecoration of both the admissions and discharge areas, the replacement of carpets with vinyl flooring in the discharge area to meet infection control standards, and the installation of partitions to create admission cubicles.

It consists of 17 admissions rooms/bays, one treatment couch and an area within the unit containing chairs for patients to sit comfortably whilst they await transfer to either theatre or to their hospital bed.

Karen Armitage, manager of the unit, said: "We are open five days a week, Monday to Friday for patients who require surgical, cardio or x-ray interventions. We also provide a facility for the admission of day case, inpatient and short stay patients on the day of their surgery, and also a discharge lounge for them to return to once they are fit to go home from hospital. The ethos of the unit is to provide a high quality multi disciplinary service."

All patients requiring admission to hospital and surgery are seen by the unit staff, medical staff from the specialty from which they are being treated, and an anaesthetist who will prepare them for surgery on the unit.

Patients from inpatient surgical wards and the 23 hour surgery day case step down unit can now go to the discharge lounge when they have been discharged from the ward following surgery, to await transport or collection. This provides a safe, timely and effective discharge from the hospital for the patient, and also releases capacity on beds, for more patients to be admitted to the inpatient wards.

Infectious Diseases Unit triumphs at research awards

STAFF at our specialist infectious diseases department were named Research Team of the Year in the first Greater Manchester Clinical Research Awards last year.

Based at North Manchester General Hospital, the team were successful in recruiting the first patient in Europe to a commercial study investigating hepatitis C.

The study is looking into the treatment of hepatitis C to measure how effective the treatment is, what kind of side effects patients encounter, and

how the treatment affects their quality of life.

The Greater Manchester Clinical Research Awards are the first ever regional awards which celebrate excellence in clinical research throughout hospitals and GP surgeries in Greater Manchester.

Dr Andy Ustianowski, the Trust's clinical lead in infectious diseases, said: "We are one of the largest treatment centres in the UK for hepatitis C and have been heavily involved in studies of newer drugs and pathways of care. The UK and Europe are traditionally quite slow at

processing studies and therefore enrolling patients; it is really gratifying to be the centre that has enrolled ahead of schedule and to be the first in Europe on this study. This is largely down to our excellent research team in infectious diseases and the staff in the Trust's research and development team."

The Trust was also successful in two other categories - Professor Philip Wiles was honoured with a lifetime achievement award, and Katie Doyle scooped research administrator of the year.

MP opens baby memorial garden at North Manchester General

The baby memorial garden was planned and developed by the local SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity) that was established at the hospital in 2011. The memorial garden has been created so that grieving parents and families that have lost a baby will have an identified area to sit undisturbed and reflect.

The Trust donated a small patch of land in the hospital grounds which was landscaped by professionals funded by SANDS. A small commemorative stone was donated by a local stone mason and additional plants were donated by a local florist.

Throughout the project the local SANDS branch was fully supported by members of the Trust's maternity team, including Michelle Morgan, Colette Riley, Julie Whitby and Veronica Spibey, who have worked tirelessly over the last two years with parents, members of the public and staff,



to raise funds.

"This is a very private and quiet part of a busy hospital site and it is important that it is here", said Graham Stringer MP.

"I trust that it will help those parents and relatives that have had tragedies and bereavements through what is bound to be a very difficult period."

Staff at Oldham's children's units celebrate first year

MORE than 5,000 children have been treated as inpatients and 4,800 have attended the paediatric observation and assessment unit at The Royal Oldham Hospital's children's ward since it moved to its new premises in November 2012.

Situated in the £44 million women and children's supercentre, the paediatric inpatient service treats children from the Oldham, Rochdale and adjacent districts in a state-of-the-art unit.

To help celebrate the successful first year in operation, ward staff, along with children, parents and

siblings held a special first anniversary party where they were entertained with a magician and face painter. Regular past patients were also invited to join in the fun and they all tucked in to party food and a special anniversary cake, along with receiving a goody bag to commemorate the day.

The paediatric service has a total of 33 beds which includes inpatient services, day case facilities and paediatric observation and assessment services. The ward is brightly decorated as the four seasons of the year. It offers excellent accommodation for children and families with ensuite 4 bedded bays and individual

rooms, a beautiful play room and outdoor play area, and a special sensory room and parents/visitors' sitting room.

Yvonne Tunstall, divisional nurse manager for children's services, said: "It's been a year since our new women and children's development opened. Our new facilities and new equipment offer children and families high quality care in a modern, bright and spacious environment, which were designed with input from children being treated in the hospital. The new development provides a full range of high quality services to women, children and babies."

STAFF at the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) also held a special celebration event for local families in November to mark World Prematurity Day and the unit's first year anniversary since it opened.

The event was open to the public and particularly to those parents and families from Oldham, Rochdale and surrounding areas who had experienced their children being born prematurely and who have been treated by the neonatal staff.

A fundraising staff 'Bake Off', a tombola, toy raffle and a competition to guess the weight of a baby cake were all part of the fun activities.

Hospital staff work closely with Bliss, the UK's special care baby charity, that helps care for premature and sick babies, supporting families, funding research and in campaigning.

Nicky Park, sister on the neonatal unit, reiterating the word of Bliss, said: "Every year 15 million babies worldwide are born too soon, 500,000 alone in Europe. This means that Europe has an increasing number of ex-preterm babies. Staff here on the NICU wanted to raise awareness of prematurity in the UK. All proceeds from donations made on the day which totalled £750 will go towards the neonatal unit. We are going to buy developmental and stimulation

equipment for the nursery."

"We were delighted that so many people turned up for the event and we had about 15 sets of parents who brought their ex-premature babies in. This helped us to talk about the setting up of a Royal Oldham Hospital Premature Baby Support Foundation for parents and families to meet and share their stories and experiences, and act as a support network. Hopefully this will begin early in the year."

The NICU opened in December 2012 and is one of three specialist regional Level 3 neonatal centres providing the highest levels of intensive care to the smallest and most vulnerable babies in Greater Manchester.

A&E expansion plans on schedule

BUILDING works are progressing well on Oldham's new A&E department. The £4.4M capital investment will see the expansion of the existing emergency department and the development of separate, dedicated A&E facilities for children and young people.

The construction works entail the complete remodelling of the existing A&E Department and will provide six adult resus bays and one paediatric resus bay. The expansion will include the

development of ten treatment cubicles, one psychiatric liaison room, one individual treatment room and a shared plaster room with Paediatrics.

It is hoped that the increased space and capacity will help to improve the waiting times and overall patient experience for patients requiring emergency or critical care in Oldham and surrounding areas. The development and expansion is due to complete by the Summer.

Graham Lord, Head of Estate Development, said: "This is

another exciting and significant estate development for The Royal Oldham Hospital which has involved careful planning with our architects, our clinical staff and patient representatives. It remains 'business as usual' for the existing A&E department and other services that are delivered from the hospital. Our priority is to ensure the construction site and building works is restricted, people are safe and disruption is kept to a minimum."



Changes to Stroke services benefit patients

FROM September all new acute stroke patients within the Trust are now referred to the Trust's specialist Primary Stroke Centre at Fairfield General Hospital for treatment and care.

The changes are part of plans to reconfigure services to improve and refine acute stroke care across the North East sector of Greater Manchester, following a request from the Greater Manchester Commissioners, the Greater Manchester Stroke and Cardiac Network (GMSCN).

The Trust currently hosts one of three hyper acute specialist Stroke Centres for Greater Manchester at Fairfield, along with providing its two district stroke centres for acute and rehabilitation at North Manchester General and The Royal Oldham Hospitals.

Two new wards have been refurbished on the Fairfield site – 11a and 11b. Ward 5 will still be the Primary Stroke Centre, with 16 beds and wards, 11a and 11b will be for sub acute and stroke rehabilitation patients. Ward G1 at The Royal

Oldham Hospital will provide sub acute and stroke rehabilitation beds.

"This reconfiguration will benefit patients across the whole spectrum of stroke care, from the acute phase and then the sub-acute and rehabilitation phases," explains Dr Khalil Kawafi, consultant stroke physician and clinical lead. "It is a real opportunity to consolidate our already outstanding stroke service, which will not only benefit stroke patients now but future patients."

Cath Curley, thrombolysis co-ordinator and specialist nurse at the Trust, added:

"This is an exciting time and gives the Trust the opportunity to build on the excellent stroke care achieved at Fairfield General Hospital, especially during the patient's acute period of care. Fairfield currently has one of the top three door to needle times in the country for stroke thrombolysis which is 30 minutes less than the national average. The more patients we can treat during the first four hours following a stroke, the more we can improve patients' long term outcomes."

Goodbye to old smoky at Fairfield!

THE Trust has been awarded a grant of £2.4 million from the Government's Energy Fund to replace Fairfield's ageing coal-fired steam boiler plant with a new modern gas hot water system.

By using a Combined Heat and Power Unit (CHP) system, the Trust can expect to achieve an efficiency of up to 85% which will have the most significant impact on operational costs and reduction in carbon emissions.

John Wilkes, Director of Facilities, said: "This is excellent news not only for the staff and patients who we treat here at Fairfield, but to the local population and communities surrounding the hospital site. As you would imagine, the running of hospitals is very expensive, not only in maintenance but in power. Not only will the new gas boiler be much more efficient, it will bring other benefits by helping to provide a cleaner site by removing the soot and coal dust emissions from the existing boiler plant. We are also keen to use this capital investment to enlist the work and expertise of local companies in Manchester to help us in our efforts to further reduce our carbon footprint."

Engineering work has now started and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2014.

Bury's sexual health service celebrates a year of success



BURY's new 'one stop' Sexual Health Service has celebrated a year of success. The service opened in November 2012 and brought together community and hospital services into a 'one stop shop' for sexual health advice, based in the community.

The service is run by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and staff in our Trust. It has delivered many benefits to patients, including providing a wider range of services in one place, better 'all round' care for people and improved facilities. In addition, both staff and service users have benefitted from improved partnership working.

Caroline Robinson, Senior Nurse from Pennine Acute Trust, said: "We hope Bury Sexual Health Services will continue to tackle the stigma, discrimination and prejudice often associated with sexual health matters by providing a quality service for all the community."

People can contact the service via one central number - 0161 762 1588. Clinics are also held across Bury – some of these are drop-in and some require an appointment.

Fairfield's A&E expansion

A NEW building contractor has been appointed and work has restarted on the expansion of the A&E department at Fairfield General Hospital.

The successful contractor is a local company called Thomas Barnes & Sons PLC

from Wellington Street in Bury. The delay in building work due to the previous contractor going into liquidation means the expected completion date is now scheduled for May 2014.

The scheme will see the expansion of accident and emergency facilities at

Fairfield, with the construction of two extensions to the existing A&E department. One of the extended areas will provide dedicated, state of the art A&E facilities for children and young people and the other will allow staff to separate minor and major cases.

New service to support patients with Dementia in Rochdale

PLANS for a pioneering new service that will support hospital patients with dementia from Rochdale borough have been unveiled as part of a VIP visit to Rochdale Infirmary.

Lady Baroness Finlay of Llandaff recently met with staff, patients and representatives from local health and social care agencies, including Rochdale Council and Rochdale Healthwatch, at the hospital's Urgent Care Centre and Clinical Assessment Unit.

Lady Finlay, a consultant physician and consultant in palliative medicine, was particularly keen to see for herself the excellent facilities and high standards of care that are being provided to patients and carers at both units.

As part of the visit, plans for the development of a new facility at the Infirmary were also announced which will allow the assessment and diagnosis of patients with dementia and confusion presenting with acute medical conditions.

The Oasis Unit will offer patients who present or who are referred to the hospital with a safe and suitable purpose-built environment to support recovery and access to nursing and mental health staff. The five-bed unit is believed to be the first of its kind in a hospital setting in England.

A patient's length of stay will be between five and seven days depending on their individual needs, as opposed to the current

48-hour length of stay and discharge target for the CAU. This will ensure referral and care pathways are designed to meet the needs of each individual patient, providing a better quality of continuing care.

The service will be provided by doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals from our Trust and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. It is hoped the Oasis Unit will open by April.

Dr Shona McCallum, consultant and clinical lead at Rochdale Infirmary, said: "The announcement to develop the Oasis Unit is fantastic news for our staff, Rochdale Infirmary and, importantly, our patients and carers. The new unit will meet the needs of hospital patients with dementia who present with an acute medical problem which requires treatment or diagnosis, caring for them in a safe and suitable environment with enhanced nursing care to support these vulnerable patients."

Dr Lynn Hampson from NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale CCG, added: "It's a unique project that also showcases the importance of and continued partnership working



that is happening across healthcare services in the Rochdale borough to improve care for patients. It is also another example of our commitment to deliver more services locally, which was outlined in the statement of intent we signed alongside Pennine Acute Trust and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust in 2012."

During her visit, Professor Baroness Finlay said: "I am extremely impressed in the way that the services here are very patient focussed, the staff are professional and are constantly monitoring what they are doing to drive up standards. The plan for the new dementia unit is very clever and I hope the service gets the community support in place. I wish the new unit every success."

Quality Strategy - 5 Year Goals

THE Trust has unveiled a new Quality Strategy for the next five years which sets out a number of quality aspirations and priorities which the Trust and all its staff will focus on to improve patient care and patient experience.

The Quality Strategy sets out the Trust's ambition to:

- have no Never Events
- have no cases of hospital acquired Clostridium Difficile or MRSA
- have no Trust acquired harm in relation to pressure sores, falls, VTE or catheter acquired infections
- have no harm resulting from medication errors
- have no unplanned returns to theatre for our patients
- have a Trust wide Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio (HSMR) of 80
- communicate with patients so that their expectations of their treatment are absolutely clear
- demonstrate through the NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT) that patients would recommend our hospitals
- be in the top 10% of Trusts for all indicators of clinical efficiency

- ensure staff want to work and be treated here if necessary and recommend the Trust as such
- put the patient first and work in a culture of care, compassion, openness and transparency.

Trust Chairman, John Jesky, said: "Everything we do from the ward to the Board is focussed on providing high quality services and to making a real difference to our patients and the local communities we serve.

"We aim to create an environment where quality of care, clinical improvement and patient safety underpins all of our services through strong clinical leadership, innovation and a culture of care, compassion, openness and transparency. To achieve this, it is important we listen and respond to our patients and their families, and take the necessary action to improve things.

"By focussing on patient safety, patient experience and clinical effectiveness, we will drive up our performance, deliver on the financial imperative, and improve the quality of care our patients and their families receive."



New Chief Executive announced

In December the Trust announced that it has appointed Dr Gillian Fairfield as its new Chief Executive to take over from John Saxby who is to retire in 2014.

Dr Gillian Fairfield, currently Chief Executive at Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW), is to take up the position in the Spring.

Trust Chairman, John Jesky, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to attract and appoint Dr Fairfield to help us lead the organisation and our staff through the next chapter of our journey. Gillian has an excellent track record of achievement, having taken two Trusts to Foundation Trust status, and she brings with her a wealth of experience in the NHS in both clinical and senior management roles. I know she will draw on this experience and work closely with our senior doctors, Board members and Executive Management Team, in helping us lead our ongoing work in improving our quality of care, transforming the Trust to meet the needs of our patients locally, and in becoming an NHS Foundation Trust."

Commenting on her appointment, Dr Fairfield said: "I am delighted to accept the post of Chief Executive of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. It is a fantastic opportunity to lead the organisation through a period of substantial development and transformation as it continues its journey to Foundation Trust status. I am proud to have been chosen to take on this exciting and challenging role and look forward to helping the trust deliver on its mission to provide the very best care, for each patient, on every occasion."

making the headlines

C. Diff vaccine trial to prevent major cause of hospital-acquired infections

THE first vaccine against a superbug which strikes more than 15,000 people in Britain each year will be trialled in Manchester. There were 1,000 cases of *Clostridium Difficile*, also known as C. Diff, reported in Greater Manchester last year.

The bug often causes severe diarrhea and mainly affects sick and elderly patients already taking broad-spectrum antibiotics. It is highly contagious and resistant to disinfection, occurring both in hospitals and now especially in the community. Even appropriate treatment with specific antibiotics fails to prevent

recurrent diarrhea in 20 per cent of patients.

Despite falling numbers of cases brought about by rigorous infection control procedures and careful antibiotic prescribing, C. Diff caused 1,600 deaths in England and Wales in the past year.

Dr Tom Blanchard, a consultant in infectious diseases at North Manchester General Hospital who also leads the Vaccine Design Group at the University of Manchester, has begun recruiting to a trial testing a vaccine which could prevent C. Diff and save thousands of lives.

Dr Blanchard said: "I'm

confident – you can't say 100 per cent – but I think the evidence that this is going to work is really good. This is very exciting as this may be the first vaccine to fight a hospital superbug. We want to identify people who are likely to get C. diff for the first time and see if we can prevent it. By vaccinating the most vulnerable we should be able to deliver a major blow to the number of cases we are still seeing."

In Manchester the trial will see 200 patients injected with the vaccine. A total of 1,600 people will test the vaccine across the country. Vaccines will be administered at North Manchester General Hospital.

I'll be your buddy – new cancer support service

A NEW service has been launched for cancer patients and their carers. The cancer buddy scheme at the Trust aims to provide people affected by cancer with the opportunity to talk to another cancer patient or carer who has already been through it.

The initiative which has been developed by the Pennine Cancer Patient User Partnership works with the Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Cancer buddies are carefully selected and attend a two day

training programme devised by Macmillan to see what buddying involves and whether it is suitable for them. Following the training they undergo the same disclosure checks as other Trust volunteers before being cleared to work within the hospital.

Working to clear guidelines, the buddies' role is around being able to provide support, mainly by listening and being able to empathise with cancer patients, as they have experienced the disease/illness themselves.

Christine Newton, who helps provide a buddying service for

people with laryngectomies (surgical removal of their voice box) described the benefits of buddying. "When you have cancer it can sometimes help to talk to someone who has already been through it. When you are told you have cancer it can be very daunting and you can feel lost. Talking to someone may help you feel less like you're on your own and make you feel more confident about coping with the situation you are in - it can make a big difference," she said.

your choice

Membership Events

All sessions are free and open to all, but we do ask you to reserve your place by emailing, Angela Greenwood, FT Membership Manager ft.membership@pat.nhs.uk or calling 01706 517302. Please let us know if you have any special requirements.

Date	Time	Subject	Venue/Location
22nd Jan 2014	2pm – 3pm	Diabetes Presentation – Linda Adams	Education Centre, The Royal Oldham Hospital
3rd Feb 2014	3pm – 4pm	Urgent Care Centre – tour of unit & presentation	Urgent Care Centre, Rochdale Infirmary
12th Feb 2014	2pm – 3pm	Equality & Human Rights presentation – Naheed Nazir	Education Centre, Fairfield General Hospital
22nd Mar 2014	2pm	Volunteering Open Day & Work Experience event – Mary Sunderland/Julie Roberts	Post-Grad Education Centre, North Manchester General Hospital
11th April 2014	10.30 – 11.30am	Pain Management talk, by Dr Swayamprakasam, Consultant Anaesthetist	Education Centre, The Royal Oldham Hospital
May (tbc) 2014		Mens Health – Prostate cancer	

your feedback

THE Trust welcomes feedback from members and there are a number of different ways in which you can contact us to give us your views. We would also welcome any stories you would like to share with us, which we may publish in future editions under "Member's letters".

Tell us what you want to receive as FT members

WE aim to provide members with a mix of news, health promotion topics and membership related information so you know what's happening at the Trust. We have planned a series of membership events and would welcome any comments or ideas for future events.

How can we improve our website?

WE are in the process of improving our public website which can be found at www.pat.nhs.uk. Can you find what you need or are looking if you need to visit one of our hospitals? Are you aware of our news and events? Please let us know how you think we can improve the online information and content available on our website, either as a patient, visitor or as a member of the Trust.

Feedback via our online feedback form or email trust.communications@pat.nhs.uk

As a Foundation Trust member you can now follow the Trust and our news and events on Twitter

@pennineacutenhs



Find us on YouTube



your comments

Please write any comments you have here:

Foundation Trust membership

I am interested in becoming a Foundation Trust member

Volunteering

I am interested in volunteering in the Trust

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Charity

I am interested in raising funds or making a donation to the Charity

For existing members - if your details have changed, or you are able to provide a mobile number or email address, please tick here and complete the form below with your details.

First Name Last Name

Address

House/number

Street

City

County

Post code

Telephone

Mobile:

Email

Ethnicity

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? YES / NO

Please return this page to: Freepost RSER-HGCC-LEES
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Manchester
M8 5RB

Please note that the data you provide will only be used to contact you by the Trust and will be stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act. This data will not be given to any third party.

Useful contacts

Switchboard – 0161 624 0420

Volunteers Co-ordinator – 0161 604 5892

Trust Charity – 0161 918 4497 or charity@pat.nhs.uk

Foundation Trust Membership Office – 01706 517302

or email ft.membership@pat.nhs.uk

