

Trust membership newsletter

Issue 15: October 2012



Bristol has a variety of NHS hospitals: South Bristol Community Hospital and the city centre hospitals, for which we are responsible, and Southmead and Frenchay in the north of the city.

Who actually provides the service is not always of interest to patients and the NHS aims to provide seamless care whether patients consult their GPs or are referred for more specialist hospital treatment at hospitals run by either ourselves or our colleagues at North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT).

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UH Bristol) and NBT work closely together to benefit patients in many ways and 18 months ago we signed a formal partnership agreement to strengthen the partnership. Working together, the two trusts plan to move breast and urology services to NBT and head and neck services to UH Bristol in the city centre. In addition, the trusts have

appointed two joint senior clinical members of staff – the director of research and director of cellular pathology.

Both trusts have also introduced a “passport” for staff. If a staff member leaves UH Bristol and goes to work at NBT their mandatory training record will go with them. Any training that is up to date with one trust does not need to be repeated at the other and there is a similar agreement for employment checks. This has saved a lot of time for new staff and cost to both organisations.

Late in July we jointly announced that consideration would be given to taking this partnership agreement further and working more closely together in the future.

The trusts have agreed to look at whether the potential integration of the health services in Bristol would benefit patients by improving access

to care and better organising the clinical workforce.

It is important to emphasise that no decision has been taken about the future organisational shape of acute health services in Bristol. Detailed work will now take place to assess the benefits and drawbacks and prepare business cases for both trust boards to consider in early 2013. I will of course update you as this work progresses.

In the meantime I hope you will enjoy this issue of the membership newsletter and, for those of you who receive the newsletter by post, the accompanying Annual Review. The review presents some of the Trust’s highlights over the past financial year. If you don’t receive your newsletter by post and would like a copy of the review, please contact the Communications team on 0117 342 3678.

John Savage CBE
chairman

Respecting everyone
Embracing change
Recognising success
Working together
Our hospitals.

Younger patients lead the way with an active Olympic challenge

Across the country we have enjoyed a summer of Olympics and Paralympics and there is much debate about the health and wellbeing legacy that this festival of sport will leave.

Here at the Trust we are well aware of the health benefits of being active and staff and patients at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children have been showing us the way with their own Olympic challenge.

The four-week Ultimate Olympic Challenge was devised by Helen McGowan, a clinical specialist cystic fibrosis physiotherapist, for school age children with cystic fibrosis under the full care of the children's hospital.

Because cystic fibrosis affects the lungs, moving around can ease the sticky mucus that tends to build up.

For those who took part, the challenge consisted of both a daily "step challenge" and a weekly "sports star challenge". Everyone who took part was given a pedometer to count how many steps they took. Participants were also rewarded for taking part in weekly sports activities.

"Children and staff really enjoyed this challenge and it had benefits. It is important for anyone with cystic fibrosis to be active but of course it's also a valuable lesson for all of us," said Helen.

It also had the added benefit of encouraging family members to take part. Lorna Watson, the mum of two children who took part in the challenge, said: "Seeing them being active reminded me that I and my husband also have pedometers so we dusted them off and treated it as a family challenge."

Medals were awarded to the children by the children's hospital's own Olympic star, Sophie Collett, a paediatric physiotherapist on the paediatric intensive care unit. Sophie carried the Olympic torch through her home town of Hereford in May.

Lorna is one of two carer governors who represents carers of children who are under 16 on the Membership Council. Ring the Membership Office or contact Lorna to find out more about the role of the carer governor.



Left and below: Patients in the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children showed the way with an Ultimate Olympic Challenge designed to encourage them to be active. As some found, it had benefits for the whole family



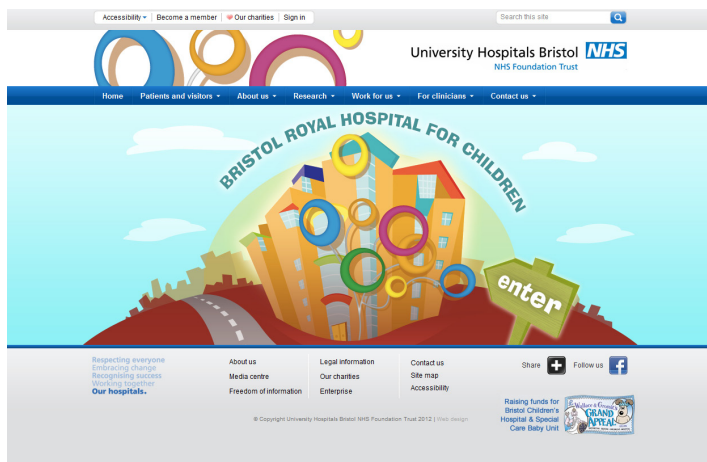
The views of children and young people

The Bristol Royal Hospital for Children cares for thousands of children and young people every year and it is therefore appropriate that, as a Foundation Trust, the organisation interacts and hears the views of the children and young people it serves.

One of the ways the Trust does this is via the Youth Council, which was set up in 2009, to provide opportunities

Teen Zone areas and completed a first aid course with St John Ambulance.

Jade Scott-Blagrove was a Youth Council member and went on to become a governor. She says: "I wanted to join the Youth Council to help improve hospitals for children and young adults. We have helped the cardiac team with a questionnaire and improved leaflets aimed at



The Youth Council helped plan the look and feel of the children's hospitals new website

for young people to have a say in the hospitals' services and how they could be improved. "Right at the start we asked young people how they wanted to be involved and two things came out at the top of the list — to create a Youth Council and mystery shopping," said Cathy Gane, young person's involvement worker.

The Youth Council meets monthly, usually on a Saturday for two hours, and is open to 11–21 year olds.

There is no doubt that the Trust and younger patients have benefited from their views. In the past year, council members have helped plan how the new children's hospital website looks and feels, secretly tested services in most hospitals, designed signage for

young people. I have enjoyed the variety the Youth Council offers. Talks from health care professionals, tours around the hospitals and visits to the Medical Simulation Centre have been really interesting. The Youth Council has introduced me to my role as a governor and the MCRN (Members for Children Research Network). I have met lots of new people, learned lots of new things and I have had many great experiences so far."

Jade has now gone to medical school and we wish her all the best. To find out more about the Youth Council call Cathy Gane on 01173428158 or email Catherine.Gane@UH Bristol.nhs.uk

Members tell us why they joined the FT

Vivienne Corbin has a long association with the BRI, ever since her father worked in the hospital's boiler house, and she and Derrick Bookham have experience of being patients here.

"In 2008 we were invited to come along to a members' meeting and find out how things work and contribute our thoughts on how things could be improved," says Vivienne. "I thought: 'we are the system, we are the patients and we can help to make things run better'."

Derrick says: "You really can make a difference; we've found that our suggestions have been taken seriously. We felt strongly that the appointments system could be improved, and money saved at the same time. We brought this up at a meeting and although it's taken a little while to sort out, the new centralised appointment system has made things 100 per cent better."

Diary dates

Council of Governors

When: 1 - 3pm
on Thursday 8
November 2012

Where: UH Bristol
Education Centre,
Upper Maudlin Street,
Bristol, BS2 8AE

Council of Governors

When: 1 - 3pm on
Thursday 21 February
2013

Where: UH Bristol
Education Centre,
Upper Maudlin Street,
Bristol, BS2 8AE

How did we do last year?

Find out what we did last year to improve patient care. The annual review for 2011/12 which gives an overview of our work last year is on our website www.uhbristol.nhs.uk

Contributing towards the Trust's strategy

Every edition we ask a governor to tell us about the role of a governor and the work that they are involved in. This time we hear from Anne Ford, public governor for North Somerset, about her role as chair of the Governors' Strategy Group.

I have been a governor at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust since it became a Foundation Trust in 2008. As a governor I have been fortunate to be involved with, and am currently chair of, the Governors' Strategy Working Group.

This role means that I and other members of the group have been involved and informed about a variety of Trust developments including the development of the BRI, the extension to the children's hospital, the redevelopment of the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre and the development of a Welcome Centre at the entrance of the BRI.

We have also received regular updates regarding:

- The development of the new adolescent ward in the children's hospital.
- A transport scheme to transfer patients by bus from a car park on Alfred's Hill to the BHOC funded by charity Above & Beyond.
- Information about plans to reconfigure pathology services for the greater Bristol area.
- Updates on the innovation strategy as a partnership between UH Bristol and Bristol's two universities which looks at academic education and clinical outcomes for patients.

- Information about the Bristol Heart Institute's work and progress in gaining new research contracts.
- Updates about the progress of the shadow commissioning groups which will take over the commissioning of health services in the spring of 2013.

I have been the governors' representative for the Foundation Trust Governors Association which has meant that I have attended conferences in London, Birmingham and Manchester. This has been a valuable experience, meeting governors from other trusts, and considering and promoting the knowledge gained from these contacts.

The Governors' Strategy Working Group works with the Trust to reflect the health needs of the members and local population in the planning of services in Bristol. We give our feedback on early drafts of the Trust's Annual Plan, and ensure that the Trust hears the views of patients when planning longer term strategic initiatives.

To be a governor is a great opportunity to meet patients, nursing staff, general support staff and medical teams. I hope that we can make a difference and look forward to meeting you at our information events held for members in the Education Centre.

Get in touch

This newsletter is for public, patient and staff members of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. If you know someone who would like to join or if you need to contact a governor, email foundationtrust@uhbristol.nhs.uk.

If you require this newsletter in another format, for example braille or large print, please contact Maria Fox on (0117) 342 3763 or email foundationtrust@uhbristol.nhs.uk. Membership is free.

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