



Latest news for our members and stakeholders

June 2023

This newsletter aims to keep you, our members and stakeholders, updated with the latest news from across the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

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Key updates



CQC report published on services at the Royal Devon

The Care Quality Commission published a report on following its short-notice inspection of the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's diagnostic imaging, medical and surgical care services at both acute hospitals at the end of 2022.

This was in response to the Trust reporting 16 never events between March 2021 and November 2022.

Diagnostic imaging services have been rated as good, while the ratings for the inspection in medicine and surgery show a decrease in some areas and the services have been rated as requires improvement.

Chris Tidman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are pleased that our diagnostic imaging services have been rated good. We are of course disappointed by the results in our medical and surgical services, however we feel it is a fair reflection of the challenges the Trust and our teams were under at the time of the inspection."

Read more [here on our website](#).

Catch up if you missed our latest members' event

On Wednesday 17 May we held a members' event at Barnstaple Library. This was the first event we hosted in North Devon and we were delighted to see lots of people come along to hear what's happening at the Trust. People were able to join us online too.

Those who attended had some great questions for us and it was a valuable opportunity for us to hear their views. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Our Governors also took the opportunity to speak to members. This helps them to represent the interests of our members and the public as they carry out their duties.



George Kempton, Public Governor in the Northern Constituency, addressing attendees at the Members' Event and Barbara Sweeney, Public Governor in the Eastern Constituency, speaking with an attendee

If you weren't able to attend and would like to catch up, you can find recordings, presentation slides and feedback summaries here [on our website](#).

We are planning to hold more events for members in the future. If anyone you know would be interested in future events, please encourage them to [sign up to be a member](#) to receive invitations direct to their email address, as well as access to other member benefits.

Governor elections coming soon

We'll soon be looking for more people from our local communities to join us as a public Governor.

Governors play an important role in representing the interests of members of the public and in holding our non-executive directors to account.

Current governor Heather Penwarden has this to say about the role:

"I want to do my bit in supporting our local NHS services. I see myself as a lifelong learner and enjoy a bit of a challenge, so this fits perfectly for me – with the added bonus of getting to meet new people and to keep actively engaged with my interest in how our health and care is delivered within the organisation of the NHS."



We'll be sharing more information soon about the upcoming elections – keep your eyes peeled for updates.

Update from Government about the New Hospital Programme

The Government provided an update in Parliament on Thursday 25 May about the national New Hospital Programme, which includes North Devon District Hospital (NDDH).

Steve Barclay, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced that the Government has set aside a significant envelope of more than £20bn for the programme, with continuous investment beyond 2030. He confirmed that the Government remains committed to NDDH as part of the programme, and indicated that we can progress with phase 1 of our scheme, to develop new staff accommodation and to start enabling works to the hospital site.

We welcome this announcement and are delighted that there is an ambitious plan for rebuilding NDDH so that it can continue to offer high quality care to the people of North Devon in the decades to come. We are also pleased about the commitment to early investment to rebuild our staff accommodation, which is hugely important in supporting our ambitions to be a great place to work, so that we can recruit and retain the very best people.

We look forward to working closely with the national programme team to learn more about when and how we can progress our scheme, and we will keep you updated when we know more.



Working together to transform healthcare across the peninsula

Clinicians from NHS organisations in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly are working together on plans to stabilise and transform acute services for local people and staff in a programme called the Peninsula Acute Sustainability Programme (PASP).

Chief medical officers peninsula-wide have recorded a video to explain more about the programme. Watch the video [here](#).

PASP aims to ensure clinical, workforce and financial sustainability of services at the five acute hospitals in Devon and Cornwall.

The challenge:

- Within our services there are hundreds of clinical vacancies across vital health and care roles, with many colleagues likely to retire in the next five to 10 years.
- As a result, many people are now waiting too long for their care – such as planned procedures, cancer care and in emergency departments.
- There are also unacceptable variations in the quality of care in some services, while health inequalities are widening between our most deprived and most affluent communities.

These challenges are too great for organisations and systems to tackle on their own, so we are working together across Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly on ideas to address them.

Work underway to improve patient information about accessing our sites



We are working in partnership with the UK's leading provider of disabled access information, [AccessAble](#), to produce Detailed Access Guides for users of our sites. The Access Guides will provide patients and visitors with the accessibility information they need before visiting. [Click here](#) to see an example.

Once completed, the guides will be available on our website and on the AccessAble website. We will provide further updates when they are ready.



Cream teas and celebrations – return to practice graduation



Return to practice graduates

A cohort of nurses and midwives have successfully completed our return to practice programme, and have joined the Royal Devon as fully registered professionals. To celebrate this huge achievement, returnees were invited to attend a commemorative cream tea and presentation ceremony on Friday 19 May at the Centre for Women's Health at the Royal Devon and Exeter (Wonford) Hospital. Following the presentation ceremony, returnees held an open forum where the next cohort were able to ask questions about their experiences.

Reflecting on her experience, Kate Shirazi, Registered Nurse said: “If you are thinking about returning to practice and you are still not sure, I would say apply. After a few shifts as a Bank HCA, I knew I wanted to come back as a registered nurse!”

We are proud to offer a fully-funded programme for nurses, midwives, and allied health professionals to come back to their careers with confidence. Working in conjunction with the University of Plymouth, we provide dedicated study days and carefully tailored training to help returnees learn at their own pace. You can find out more about this on our [website](#).

Showcasing Royal Devon careers at Devon County Show



Michelin Star chef Michael Caines with the Royal Devon team

Colleagues from across the Royal Devon inspired visitors to consider a career with us at this year's Devon County Show (18-20 May).

Lots of people visited our stand to learn more about our training and development opportunities, including apprenticeships, and we spoke to many school groups, inspiring them to consider a future career in healthcare.

Our stand attracted visits from the new Lord Mayor of Exeter, Kevin Mitchell, who is also a cancer nurse at the Royal Devon, and Michelin Star chef Michael Caines, who filmed with us, talking about the catering (and other) opportunities available in the NHS! You can find the video on our [careers twitter page](#).

Upcoming recruitment roadshows – Sidmouth and Exeter

We run regular recruitment events across Devon, looking for passionate and caring staff to join our teams. The following events are coming up this month, please share with anyone who might be interested.

Community nursing event

Join the Royal Devon [community nursing team](#) on a full or part-time basis and enjoy opportunities to widen your skills, gain valuable experience working autonomously, and progress your career at a pace that is perfect for you.

Date/time – Saturday 10 June, 9.00 am – 12.00pm

Location - Sidmouth Community Hospital , All Saints Road , Sidmouth, EX10 8EW

If you are interested or know someone who might be full details can be found here, including how to apply for an interview: https://bit.ly/RD_CommunityEvents

Healthcare support worker and newly registered nursing event

Our monthly healthcare support worker (HCSW) and newly registered nurse recruitment event is taking place in Exeter this month. The event is aimed at people looking to start their healthcare careers as Healthcare Support Workers, or for those with experience we can offer the opportunity to increase skills and specialise.

Interviews will also be held for final year student nurses who are soon to qualify as a Newly Registered Nurses.

Date/time - Saturday 17 June, 9 am – 12.30pm

Location - RILD Building, RD&E (Wonford), Barrack Road, Exeter, EX2 5AX

Full details and how to apply here: https://bit.ly/RD_Events



1000th hip/knee operation carried out at the Nightingale Hospital Exeter to help further reduce Devon's waiting lists



The 1000th hip/knee replacement taking place

The South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre (SWAOC) has hit another major milestone, completing its 1,000th knee/hip replacement since opening at the Nightingale in March 2022.

Frankie Wilson from Sidmouth, who received the 1,000th replacement, said: “I feel honoured to have helped the Nightingale hit this milestone, and coming here has been a great experience. I’ve had pain from my left knee for about two years now, so to be able to look forward to that stopping and not having to use two sticks anymore is wonderful. I’ve been really impressed with the facilities here and just how efficient everything is. The staff are all amazing, and the peace and quiet is just what you need to help with your recovery.”

The centre, one of only eight elective surgical hubs in the country to have been GiRFT accredited and recognised nationally for its high clinical and operational standard, has also expanded its services to include hindfoot and soft-tissue knee operations.

For more information [visit our website](#).

South Molton eye centre official opening

We are pleased to announce that the South Molton Eye Centre was formally opened at the end of May. Patients with eye conditions in Northern Devon and Torridge will now benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment at the new unit, helping to reduce waiting times.



David Goodman, Chairman of the South Molton Hospital League of Friends cuts the ribbon

The brand new £1.4m facility has been developed at the former renal unit at South Molton Community Hospital. This was made possible with a generous donation of £500,000 from the South Molton Hospital League of Friends.

The centre will provide diagnostic services and treatments for people with new eye problems and people managing long-term conditions, such as glaucoma and medical retina.

The additional capacity and state of the art equipment provided at the centre will help provide a more positive and efficient experience for our patients, complementing the ophthalmology treatments currently provided at Bideford Community Hospital and North Devon District Hospital.



Lead research nurse awarded Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2023



Maggie Shepherd receives the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award for her work in monogenic diabetes

A leading Exeter diabetes nurse has scooped the international \$250,000 (£200,000) Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award, surpassing over 50,000 fellow applicants.

Professor Maggie Shepherd of the Royal Devon and University of Exeter has been honoured with the prestigious award for her ground-breaking work in transforming diabetes care.

Speaking on her win, Maggie said: "I am deeply humbled and grateful to receive the prestigious Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award. As healthcare professionals, we are privileged to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of our patients, and I feel blessed to be part of such a rewarding profession.

"This award not only recognises my personal achievements but also highlights the importance of nursing as a critical component of healthcare. Thank you to all my colleagues, mentors, and patients who have supported me throughout my career."

You can [read more](#) here.

Royal Devon takes delivery of new Da Vinci XI robots



Da Vinci XI robot being used in surgery

The Trust is very pleased to have taken delivery of two new Da Vinci XI robots. This is a second robot for our RD&E (Wonford) hospital to support expanded use in head and neck surgery, as well as urology.

This is the first robot for NDDH and a major investment in surgery in North Devon. The new robot at NDDH will be used predominantly for our complex abdominal wall service and colorectal surgery, with future use planned in gynaecology and other services.

These robots allow the surgeon to perform keyhole surgery but with the use of fully articulating wrists, the instruments act like the surgeons' hands, controlled from an operating console.

Robotic surgery allows complex procedures to be performed with increased accuracy and precision, allowing keyhole surgery to be performed rather than open surgery. This supports patients to recover faster and have a shorter stay in hospital.

Local updates



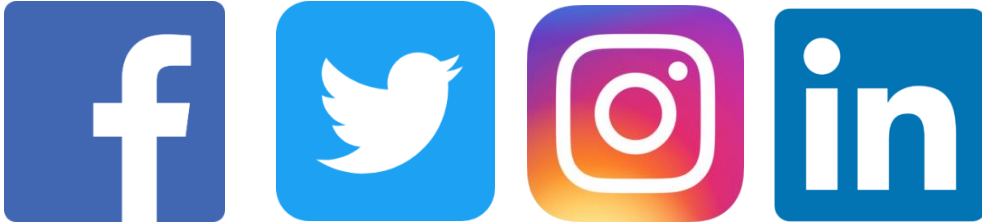
Eye clinics re-open in Sidmouth and Tiverton

The West of England Eye unit (Ophthalmology) has reopened Sidmouth and Tiverton community hospitals' macular injection clinics, glaucoma clinics, and cataract clinics, following closure during the pandemic.

See [our website](#) for more information about the individual sites.

Follow the Trust on social media

Follow our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages for all our latest updates as they happen!



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