



## Latest news for our members and stakeholders

July 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



## Suzanne Tracey announces decision to step down as CEO of the Royal Devon

We announced yesterday that our Chief Executive Officer, Suzanne Tracey is standing down from her role. You can read the full announcement here:

[www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/news/suzanne-tracey-announces-decision-to-step-down-as-ceo-of-the-royal-devon/](http://www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/news/suzanne-tracey-announces-decision-to-step-down-as-ceo-of-the-royal-devon/)

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## NHS@75 thanks and celebrations

On Wednesday 5 July, the NHS turned 75 and we celebrated across the Trust.

Throughout the week our colleagues took part in a range of activities to celebrate, support their health and wellbeing, say thank you to each other and many took part in local NHS park runs.

Some of the highlights are pictured below, including:

- The arrival of little Orson Lovett from Landkey near Barnstaple who was the first baby born in our hospitals on the NHS' 75th birthday.
  - Visits by the Lord Mayor of Exeter and Deputy Lord Mayor of Barnstaple who each planted a tree to mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS.
  - Five lucky colleagues from the Royal Devon attended the special NHS 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary service at Westminster Abbey and two scientists from our Exeter Genomics Laboratory got to enjoy a Big Tea party with the Prince and Princess of Wales.
  - We lit up the Fern Centre at NDDH blue to mark the anniversary.
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Our Chair, Dame Shan Morgan, had the following message to share on our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday:

“On the NHS’ 75th birthday, I wanted to take a moment to reflect.

“The NHS is a marvellous institution, known across the world for the way we give care. But it couldn’t exist without all of you.

“You might work for the NHS or know somebody who does. You might have been a patient, or visited somebody in hospital. You might volunteer for us or to help people access our services. You might be a Governor, part of a League of Friends, support or work with a charity, or be a fundraiser. You might work with one of our partners or in our communities, or you might simply support the NHS and everything we are here to do.



“You are all part of making the NHS what it is, so on this momentous day I want to say thank you, and I hope you join us in celebrating the NHS at 75.



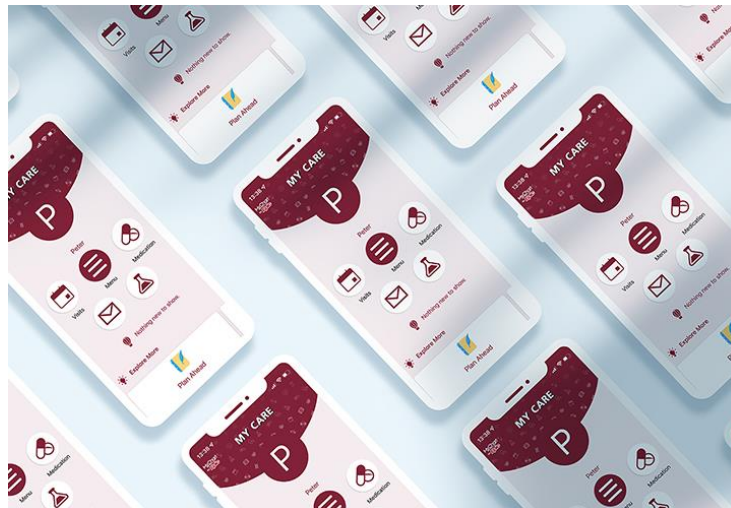
“75 years have seen us achieve so much and there is much more to do – here’s to the next 75 and beyond.”

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## It’s one year since we launched our electronic patient record Epic Trust wide

It is one year since our electronic patient record, Epic, was rolled out across our Northern services, following the go live in our Eastern services in October 2020.

Epic has helped our two acute hospitals to work together seamlessly despite the fact they are 60 miles apart. With a single patient record and the support of video technology, a patient from Northern Devon can be seen by a specialist in Eastern Devon and vice versa, helping to reduce waiting times for patients and preventing travel times for both patients and clinicians.



Available from the App Store and Google Play

This same digital record also offers patients better access to information about their own care through the Epic MY CARE app.

Patient Mark Rogers had this to say about MY CARE: “I would just like to say how impressed I am with the ability to use the Epic MY CARE app virtually to follow up all medical appointments and recent correspondence I have received within the Trust. This has been very reassuring as I have been receiving information in a timely manner whilst awaiting further treatment in hospital.

“I can access my blood results, telephone consultations and recent scan results which has helped me to have further discussions with the surgical teams supporting my care. I have encouraged my family to access the app as well. This is very much needed in today’s busy times and avoids having to wait for letters to arrive which increases any worries. Well done to the Epic team making this possible.”





Learn more about the MY CARE app and how to [download it here](#).

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## **Junior doctor and consultant national industrial action – July 2023**

The British Medical Association (BMA) is taking strike action involving junior doctors at a number of NHS trusts, including the Royal Devon, from 6:59am on Thursday 13 July to 6:59am on Tuesday 18 July.

The BMA has also announced that consultants have voted in favour of taking strike action too, planned for Thursday 20 and Friday 21 July.

The industrial action is a national dispute between the Government and Trades Unions about terms and conditions.

### **Appointments**

Anyone who has an appointment at one of our hospitals during the strike periods is asked to attend unless they hear from us. You don't need to check if an appointment is going ahead, we will contact you directly if we need to rearrange.

**If you know someone who has an appointment during the strike period please share this information with them.**

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## **Would you like to help improve your NHS trust?**

We are looking for people to join the Trust's Council of Governors as Public Governors.

Our Governors have a wide range of experiences and backgrounds, but what they share is a real passion for helping to shape local health services in a way that best meets the needs of patients and the public. Public Governors work alongside Staff Governors and Appointed Governors from Devon County Council and the University of Exeter.

Dame Shan Morgan, Royal Devon Chair, says: "This is an exciting time to become a Governor at the Royal Devon. Our Trust is just over a year old, and I am really grateful for the valuable insights and perspectives the Governors have shared with me in my first year as Chair.

"Our Council of Governors will join us as we go forwards, ensuring we act in the best interests of our patients and wider communities. If you think you have something to offer, we want to hear from you."

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Jeffrey Needham is one of the volunteer Public Governors in our Northern constituency. He says: "In my opinion the Council of Governors benefits from Governors having a wide range of experiences so that the public can be well represented."

Jeffrey very kindly answered our Q&A to explain why he decided to become a governor and what the role means to him. You can read his [full interview](#) here on our website.

If you would like to nominate yourself to stand as a Public Governor please [see our website for more details](#). Nominations open on Tuesday 18 July.



## Young people with learning disabilities graduate after completing their internship with Royal Devon



Exeter MP Ben Bradshaw and Chris Tidman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Royal Devon, were among the guests at the graduation for young people in Project SEARCH programme

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The achievements of young people with learning disabilities were celebrated at an awards ceremony on Friday 30 June after they completed an on-the-job training scheme at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Wonford). Some of the students are now moving onto permanent employment within the Trust.

Project SEARCH is an innovative one-year internship programme which gives 16 to 24-year-old students with learning disabilities the opportunity to experience the working environment.

Chris said: "Inclusion is one of our core values and Project SEARCH provides a fantastic opportunity to support people into work. Listening to the interns' stories, it is clear that the experience the scheme offers can be profound and life-changing, both for the individuals themselves and the teams they work with."



## **Our community nursing career roadshow is coming to Bideford**

We're on the lookout for student nurses, registered nurses and return to practice nurses to join us. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in a community nursing role with us, please come along and talk to us.

At the roadshow, attendees will learn about the different roles and hours available. They will be able to meet the team, take a tour, and even have an interview if they've applied.

The roadshow is taking place on Saturday 15 July, 9am – 12.00pm at Bideford Hospital.

We're also holding the following community nursing career roadshows over the coming months:

- Saturday 12 August – Exmouth Hospital
- Saturday 9th September – Honiton Hospital
- Saturday 7th October – NDDH
- Saturday 4th November – Okehampton

Full details of all of the roadshows and information about a career as a community nurse is available [here](#).

**Please share the roadshow details with anyone who you think would be interested in coming along.**

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## Tell us about your experience of using our urgent and emergency hospital services

NHS organisations in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly are working together to improve hospital services for local people and colleagues. The NHS has been experiencing unprecedented levels of demand for services across the country and Devon is no exception.

We want to be there for people when they need us, but we need to understand the challenges that exist so that we can use our collective resources wisely and deliver the best outcomes for our local population.

The NHS in Devon would like to invite you to take part in an online focus group to talk about your experience of using urgent and emergency NHS hospital services.

- **Exeter area – Tuesday 25 July at 10.30am – 12pm**
- **North Devon area – Thursday 27 July at 10am - 11.30am**

Find out more and how to take part [here](#).

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## Innovative home blood testing service wins coveted Impact Award

An innovative new service developed in Exeter which allows people to take blood tests at home has won a prestigious national award to celebrate its positive benefit for patients.

The new service means eligible patients who normally have to visit hospitals or GP surgeries for routine blood tests can now take their blood samples at home and send them directly to the laboratory. The results are then automatically sent to their clinicians for discussion.

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Please see the [full story here](#).

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## Heart failure remote monitoring pilot launches



Pictured from left to right: Dr Chris Gibbs, Consultant Cardiologist, Rob Miller, Heart Failure CNS and Angie Tithecott, Lead ACP Heart Failure

We're piloting a remote monitoring system for selected patients with heart failure in Northern Devon over the next six months. Through this exciting project, we're aiming to improve outcomes for patients with heart failure, avoid unnecessary hospital admissions, and help the heart failure team prioritise face-to-face appointments with those patients who need them most.

Patients who have been identified as suitable for the pilot will be given the opportunity to monitor their health from home using a remote monitoring platform and equipment that directly connects to the heart failure team. This allows the patient to record and send the team daily information about their blood pressure, heart rate and weight.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

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## Devon's domestic abuse and sexual violence colleagues win NHS Parliamentary Award

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The winners photographed with Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of NHS England

Domestic abuse and sexual violence colleagues across Devon have won an NHS Parliamentary Award for Excellence in Primary and Community Care.

The award recognises the work of NHS Devon and the local providers who have contributed so much to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence project in Devon. In particular, this includes the Royal Devon's Sexual Assault Referral Centre team, who cover the whole of Devon and Cornwall, and our safeguarding teams, who provide support to other local trusts as well as our own.

The team was nominated for the award by three local MPs – Sir Ben Bradshaw (Exeter), who was at the ceremony to congratulate the team on their win, Richard Foord (Tiverton and Honiton) and Simon Jupp (East Devon).

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## Local updates



### **North Devon District Hospital expands ADHD services**

We are pleased to announce that we are expanding our North Devon District Hospital (NDDH) service providing care for children and young people who have been referred for treatment and diagnosis with non-complex ADHD.

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Our team at NDDH already provides care for children with non-complex ADHD up to the age of five and this change will enable them to offer continuous care and treatment as patients develop and grow into adulthood.

CAMHS will continue to provide care for children with complex ADHD but will transfer their non-complex ADHD cases to the team at NDDH.

See the full story [on our website](#).

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## **COVID-19 memorial garden opening at RD&E (Wonford)**

After generous donations from the public, we are very pleased to be opening a new memorial garden at the RD&E (Wonford) to serve as a place to remember those lost to COVID-19.



After two years of planning, the memorial garden will officially be opening on Saturday 19 August.

The garden has been built behind Ashburn Ward, which was one of the hospital's main COVID-19 wards.

Ashburn Ward is also one of the main dementia wards, so the garden will double as a dementia therapy garden, where patients will be able to do light gardening to boost their mobility and mood. It has also been designed with easy access for bedbound patients, so end-of-life patients can use the space as well.

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

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## Coronation Suite discharge lounge at NDDH now open



Patients who are ready to be discharged from hospital and no longer need a hospital bed will now be able to wait to go home in a dedicated discharge hub at NDDH.

One of the first patients to use the suite was Maureen Jones, (pictured above). She said: “The hub is a marvellous idea and a very nice area to wait before your transport home arrives.”

See the full story [on our website.](#)

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### 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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NHS and CARE working with communities and local organisations to improve people's lives

