

Summer 2023

Membership Newsletter

For the Members of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust



Bay Hospitals
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and events

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update

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Summer 2023 edition of our membership newsletter! As ever, the last few months since the last membership newsletter have been a very busy time for the Trust and the wider NHS as a whole.

As you will be aware, trade unions representing some NHS staff have been in dispute with the Government over the 2022/23 pay award, and some NHS members have taken part in industrial action.

The Trust fully supports colleagues' right to take strike action, and we are sincerely grateful to all our colleagues who have maintained the level of support needed to keep our staff and patients safe during this time. The level of planning and preparation that has been undertaken by teams working together during the industrial action has been exceptional.

We received an inspection from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in mid-May to carry out the well-led part of their overall inspection - this assesses the leadership, management and governance of the organisation. Following the inspection, we received [a formal feedback letter](#) which highlighted the hard work of teams from across the Trust to improve services for our patients. Also noted was the need to keep up the good work to make sure that these improvements are maintained for many years to come. We expect to receive the final report around August, and will share this widely as soon as possible.

Looking to the future, we have recently launched our new Trust priorities and clinical strategy which are a vital part of how we plan to achieve what we set out in our strategy so far for 2023/24. You can read more about this on page 3, and we will continue to share real examples of these priorities in action so that we can show the difference that our colleagues' hard work is making to our patients and local communities.

Finally, on behalf of the Trust Board, I'd like to thank our wonderful colleagues, partners, volunteers, fundraisers, governors, staff side, members and local communities for your support.

Professor Mike Thomas
Chair of UHMBT

UHMBT welcomes Tabetha Darmon as new Executive Chief Nursing Officer

UHMBT is delighted to announce that following an extensive recruitment process involving colleagues and stakeholders, Tabetha Darmon has been appointed as the Trust's new Executive Chief Nursing Officer.

Tabetha joins UHMBT from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust where she was Executive Director of Nursing, AHPs and Quality. Nottinghamshire Healthcare has more than 9,000 members of staff, and provides integrated healthcare services, including mental health, intellectual disability and physical health services in a variety of settings ranging from the community through to acute wards, as well as secure settings.

Tabetha is a registered Mental Health Nurse, who holds a BA (Hons) in Applied Youth and Community Work, a post graduate diploma in Management, post grad (cert) in Health Promotion, Risk and Society, Prince2 project Management and an MBA. She has more than 30 years' leadership experience at a local and national level.



Putting patients first with our new Clinical Strategy

I'm pleased to share that the new UHMBT Clinical Strategy which details how we will put patients first, has been agreed and published.

Many of you took part in workshops last autumn to help us get our new Clinical Strategy right. Hundreds of colleagues took part and many more contributed comments throughout its development so thank you to everyone who gave their time and consideration.

The Clinical Strategy forms part of our new [Trust priorities](#) and supports our vision of: Creating a great place to be cared for and a great place to work.

The strategy is:

- Patient First – focused on the community we serve
- Clinically Led – development has been through our clinical and operational teams
- Quality / Safety Driven – ensuring we seek to deliver outstanding care and experience in line with best practice

Key points from the Clinical Strategy:

- Many of our services are fragile, we have workforce challenges and, without change, some of our services would become harder to deliver well
- Health inequalities affect our communities across Morecambe Bay with some residents living ten years less than their neighbours in other parts of the Bay. It is often the most vulnerable communities that struggle to access good care
- Our financial resources are finite and we will need to learn to do more with what we have: by working smarter, not harder. Colleague wellbeing is built-in to our future development
- By designing services together with our colleagues, our communities and our partner Trusts, we can improve outcomes for patients
- Creating a great place to work gives us a chance to look at where and how services are delivered, whether on our acute sites or in our communities - closer to where people live

[You can view the full Clinical Strategy here.](#)

This isn't the end of the work. We now need to work with you to look at our models of care - how we could and should deliver our services for the benefit of patients and colleagues.



Look out for future opportunities to talk about what new models of care could mean for your team, your service or your role. There will be opportunities to ask questions on sites, out with our community colleagues, online and with our patients or communities during summer and into autumn. We'll share more information.

If you have any feedback or questions in the meantime, please let us know by emailing: clinical.strategy@mbht.nhs.uk

It's an exciting time for our Trust and there are a lot of opportunities for us to work together to make a lasting difference for patients and colleagues. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we develop this strategy.

Miss Jane McNicholas
Chief Medical Officer

Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospitals Programme: funding update

I wanted to provide you with an important update as we reach a further milestone in the Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospitals programme.

Lancashire & South Cumbria New Hospitals Programme

On 25 May 2023, the Government announced a record investment of more than £20 billion, ring-fenced for the next phase of the national New Hospital Programme, which brings proposals for new cutting-edge hospital facilities for Lancashire and South Cumbria a step closer.

In September 2022, the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria stated its preference for new hospitals on new sites for both Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Royal Preston Hospital as part of the Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospitals Programme, alongside alternative partial rebuild options. This followed a comprehensive assessment for deliverability, affordability, value for money, and viability, considering feedback from thousands of patients, local people and staff.

Following last week's statement to the House of Commons from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the local NHS welcomes the announcement of two new hospitals to replace Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Royal Preston Hospital as part of a rolling programme of national investment in capital infrastructure beyond 2030. This will also include investment in improvements to Furness General Hospital.

The existing Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Royal Preston Hospital sites will remain in place and deliver services to our population until new hospital facilities are opened. What this means for future hospital services needs to be worked through: we will continue to keep communities and those who represent them involved and provide further updates as more information becomes available.

Across the health and care system, NHS Trusts, the Integrated Care Board and wider partners are working together to improve services and this work will continue.

I encourage you to [read the full announcement here](#), which further explains what this could mean for patients, staff and our local communities.

Further detailed work is underway to assess the viability of potential locations for new hospital builds for both Royal Lancaster Infirmary and Royal Preston Hospital and to develop the required business cases. There is still further work to be completed in this area and additional sites may emerge over the coming period. We will share further information with you in due course.

No final decisions have been made and the New Hospitals Programme team will continue to involve patients, local people, staff and wider stakeholders in the development of proposals.

We are keen to hear your views and you can email your feedback to us at LSCNHP@lthtr.nhs.uk. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the programme.

Many thanks,

Aaron Cummins
UHMBT Chief Executive



UHMBT recognises colleagues' outstanding achievements in new Patient Safety Awards

Highly dedicated and caring staff from our Trust were honoured in the first ever UHMBT Patient Safety Awards.

Winners of the UHMBT Patient Safety Awards were delighted to receive recognition and thanks for their hard work at an awards ceremony at The Villa in Levens near Kendal on Friday 17 February.

The awards ceremony was held in the same week as the Trust's 'Patient Safety Day' which took place online on Wednesday 15 February.

This gave UHMBT colleagues an opportunity to get together to hear a range of inspirational patient safety experts talking about their experiences, learning and insights. [See all of the Patient Safety Awards winners.](#)



Patients' lives transformed through new stroke rehabilitation and therapy space

A new stroke rehabilitation and therapy space is having a hugely positive impact on the care and recovery of patients at UHMBT.

Patients have described the new facility as "absolutely fantastic" and "brilliant" because it offers an opportunity to regain their strength and mobility, to socialise with others and receive valuable support from highly skilled therapists.

Out of the devastation that a stroke can wreak, people can start to regain their strength, movement, independence and their lives in the Integrated Community Stroke Team's sensitively designed stroke rehab and therapy space. [Read more about the new stroke rehabilitation and therapy space.](#)



App launching to help new Dads

Dads-to-be in Lancashire and South Cumbria are set to benefit from the [DadPad app](#) - an easy-to-use resource, developed with the NHS, to provide support and guidance. The DadPad app is a useful resource before baby arrives and after baby is born, and is designed to be used as a quick, on-the-go reference tool, allowing new dads to enjoy their babies and feel more confident about fatherhood.

Disability Staff Network, inclusion team and careers team help achieve Disability Confident Leader award

UHMBT has been honoured with the title of [Disability Confident Leader](#) thanks to many colleagues' work in relation to inclusion and diversity, and the provision of educational and employment opportunities.



Strengthening the diversity of our workforce is one of the Trust's key commitments to support the aim of becoming effortlessly inclusive.

The Trust had previously earned the title of [Disability Confident Employer](#) due to the hard work of the UHMBT Disability Staff Network (DSN) and the Inclusion Team.

Martin Brooks, Chair of the DSN, said: "This is fantastic news for everyone at the Trust as we have moved up from level 2 to level 3 of this Government-led scheme."

New way to access mental health services across Lancaster, Morecambe and South Cumbria

Residents from across Lancaster, Morecambe and South Cumbria who need to access mental health help and support are now able to via one number, 24 hours a day.

Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust has launched a new service that can be accessed through a new freephone number – **0800 013 0710** – so that everyone will be able to easily access urgent or general mental health support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The team may arrange for you to receive support over the phone or for a mental health practitioner to see you at home, at a GP practice or another mutually agreed place to allow further information about current mental health needs. Information about other services that could assist will also be shared, if appropriate.

This new approach will help improve access to mental health services – particularly during evenings and weekends – across Lancaster, Morecambe and South Cumbria where there are over half a million residents, and is part of a wider programme of work across the health system, to transform access to mental health services for local people and their carers who have a mental health need or are experiencing a mental health crisis. For further [information about Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust please visit the website.](#)

UHMBT welcomes new Freedom to Speak Up Guardian

UHMBT is delighted to announce that Kara Mallonga has been appointed as a [Freedom to Speak Up](#) (FTSU) Guardian, following a competitive recruitment process. Kara, an Operating Theatres Nurse at Westmorland General Hospital, is delighted to be taking on the role and joins our two existing FTSU Guardians, Wesley Blondel and Heather Bruce.



Barrow Meals on Wheels service needs more volunteers

The catering team at Furness General Hospital currently runs the service Monday to Friday with the help of volunteers. The service launched in April 2014 and currently serves up to 100 meals per day.

It is looking for people to volunteer up to an hour on Mondays and Wednesdays to deliver meals. Volunteers using their own vehicle can claim mileage expenses through the Trust.



As well as making meals for patients at Furness General Hospital and its staff, the catering team spends up to three hours a day making dishes for the Meals on Wheels, using freshly sourced products from local suppliers. Dishes include meat and potato pie with beetroot and mushy peas, tomato and basil pasta bake, a cold option such as a salad and bread roll, and warm sponge pudding or cold fruit salad. They also offer specialist diets for people who are gluten-free or who require a soft consistency diet or a puree diet.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Meals on Wheels service in Barrow you can contact Tracy Litt on tracy.litt@mbht.nhs.uk or 01229491001.

Morecambe Bay families affected by dementia are benefiting from new dementia specialist Admiral Nurses

UHMBT has launched a new Admiral Nurse service in partnership with Dementia UK, the specialist dementia nursing charity, to support families affected by dementia in Morecambe Bay.

Dianne Smith, Dementia Matron for UHMBT based at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, is now a Consultant Admiral Nurse, and Marina Woodburn and Sarah Doughty (pictured) are Admiral Nurses on a job share basis at Furness General Hospital. A second Admiral Nurse for the RLI is in the process of being recruited.



Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who are continuously supported and developed by Dementia UK to provide life-changing support for families affected by all forms of dementia. [See more about the Trust's new Admiral Nurses.](#)

Update on improvement work in our Urology Service

NHS England has published an [assurance review](#) summarising progress towards 48 recommendations made in the report, *An independent investigation into Urology services at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust*, first published in November 2021. The process which led to that independent investigation started in 2019, when the Trust began to investigate concerns which had been raised regarding the service. Read more about the report and improvements on the [UHMBT website](#).

Bay Hospitals Charity update

Sisters raise thousands for Bay Hospitals Charity to say thanks for dad's life-saving care

Two sisters trekked the Yorkshire Three Peaks, raising nearly £3,000 for Bay Hospitals Charity, to say thank you for the care given to their dad at Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

Amy Merckel and Hannah Simpson were joined by family members and friends for the hike over Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent in April.



They were inspired to raise funds for Bay Hospitals Charity after their dad Andy Simpson was treated for a serious case of sepsis at the hospital last summer.

Thank you to our amazing Keswick to Barrow walkers

Thank you and well done to all the incredible Bay Hospitals Charity supporters who took part in Saturday's Keswick to Barrow Walk.

Around 80 inspiring walkers and runners took part in this popular challenge to raise money in support of UHMBT.

As well as our intrepid walkers, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the event, including our support cars volunteers who cheered you on and handed out food and drink, and the catering team at Furness General Hospital who once again provided their famous flapjack.



Ralphie, 7, walks 100km for Furness General Hospital to say thank you for 'toe walking' treatment

A seven-year-old boy walked 100km to raise money for Furness General Hospital as a thank you for treatment he received to correct the common childhood condition of 'toe walking'.

Ralphie Pattinson raised more than £160 with his sponsored challenge of walking every day in March, and will donate the money to Bay Hospitals Charity to support the hospital's Orthotics department.

He said: "I've had lots from Orthotics since I was little, with my bad legs and tip toes walking. I wanted to make £25, because casts cost lots and I've broken lots of boots they have given me. I'm happy that orthotics has made me a bit better so I don't need to go to Barrow lots now."



Thousands of people come through the doors of our hospitals every year, every one of them deserves the best possible care. By making a donation to Bay Hospitals Charity, you could help 'make it better' for local people. [See how your donation could help.](#)

Celebrating our colleagues

There are many awareness days that take place in order to celebrate our incredible colleagues working throughout the NHS. Nurses Day, Midwives Day, ODP Day, Estates and Facilities Day, Pharmacy Technician Day, Allied Health Professional Day... the list goes on! We think it's so important to celebrate our colleagues, and have made dedicated pages on the Trust website to do just that. Just visit the [campaigns section of the Trust website](#) to see more.



Managing your Membership

We would like to improve how we communicate with you as a Member of our Foundation Trust (FT) and provide you with more regular and relevant information about our services, which as you know cover community and hospital care in Morecambe Bay.

If you have an email address and are happy to receive information this way, please support us by adding an email address to your Membership details, if you haven't already, by:

- Visiting: <https://secure.membra.co.uk/updateemail/UniversityHospitalsOfMorecambeBay>
- Entering your Member ID: [member ID] and [post-code]
- Inputting your valid email address. Your member record will be automatically updated

Our new 'Member Portal' - manage your Membership and keep your details up to date

You can now manage your membership data via our new 'Member Portal'. Register by visiting: <https://secure.membra.co.uk/memberportal/MorecambeBay> and inputting the email address you provided as part of your Membership application or via the process detailed above. You will then be asked to input your first name and set a password. To complete the registration process, you will be sent an email with a link to confirm your 'Member Portal' account.

Accessing information that we hold about you as an FT Member

You have a right to see or be provided with a copy of the information we hold about you in the Membership database. You can view our privacy statement at any time from our website: <https://www.uhmb.nhs.uk/privacy-policy>

How to contact the FT Membership Office

Should you no longer wish to be a Member, you can contact us to ask for your details to be removed by email on: ftmembership.office@mbht.nhs.uk; by phone on 01229 614155 or by post at the [address here](#).