

## Message from the Chairman

I am delighted that we have officially launched, and are starting to embed, our five-year strategy across the organisation. This strategy sets out our ambitious goals between now and 2028 and the measures by which we will assess our success. It's underpinned by our new strategic objectives, which set out our priorities for the next 18 months.

This strategy has been developed in partnership with staff across the organisation, from a number of listening events, including a big workshop earlier in the year attended by almost 150 people. I must thank everyone who was involved in supporting us in developing this strategy, ensuring that our patients and staff are at the heart.

I must finish, as ever, by thanking our staff for their hard work – especially as we go into what is sure to be another hectic winter for the NHS. We continue to work closely with our partners in the local health and care system to address our challenges.

All that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we will see you in 2024!



Harry Turner  
Chairman



## RJAH hailed as exemplar for Catering Services

Recognition has been on the menu for the Catering Team – following a national, independent review of hospital food, where the RJAH team have been recognised as one of 21 Trusts in the country to be hailed as exemplar.

The Trust was chosen to join the NHS Exemplar Trusts Programme for Catering for their innovation, high food standards and consistent service in providing food for staff, patients and visitors.

The Catering Team are responsible for providing and serving meals to inpatients, as well as the day to day running of the onsite restaurant, Denbigh's.

Sian Langford, Facilities Compliance Manager, said: *"The Review into NHS Hospital Food recognises the importance of good nutrition in both patient recovery and general support for healthier living in the wider community."*

*"It's a real collaborative approach in a bid to share ideas and improve standards for the NHS nationwide."*

Dan Hoggett, Catering Manager, said: *"We're so pleased to have been chosen as an exemplar site, which is a testimony to the hard work of all the members of the team, and look forward to working with other Trusts to explore new ideas and initiatives."*

# Governors Meetings

Wednesday 13 March 2024

For more information, please email:  
[rjah.ft@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.ft@nhs.net)

## Your elected Public Governors

**Shropshire**  
Colin Chapman / Martin Bennett

**North Wales**  
Colette Gribble / Shelia Hughes

**West Midlands**  
Tony Wright

**Cheshire & Merseyside**  
Katrina Morphet

**Powys**  
William Greenwood

**Rest of England & Wales**  
Phil White

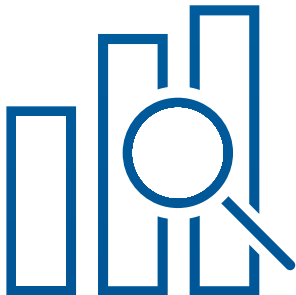
**Staff Governors**  
Kate Chaffey / Allen Edwards / Kate Betts

**Stakeholder Governors**  
*(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)*  
Victoria Sugden – RJAHS Voluntary Services Committee  
Councillor Simon Jones – Shropshire Council  
Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

## Membership figures

At the end of November 2023 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1304
Public	5043
Volunteers	418
<b>Total</b>	<b>6765</b>



## Governor Profile

Allen Edwards

*Staff Governor*



Allen is a Widening Participation Lead and Union Convenor at RJAHS and has been a Staff Governor since the summer of 2016.

He is passionate about promoting the great work that happens across the Trust and inspiring young people to work in the NHS.

In his role, he works closely with the community in promoting a number of initiatives, including work experience weeks for local students, career events across the county and sessions for local primary schools. He is part of a Widening Participation Group across Shropshire and Staffordshire which aims to take the experience of work to schools.

Allen also supports the King's Trust programme in Shropshire which delivers employability skills to young people to help them find work.

Outside of work, Allen is very active and plays football and cricket. He enjoys travelling and visiting different countries, watching live Rugby League, attending music events and is an avid cinema fan.

Governors are always pleased to hear from our members and can be contacted by email on [rjah.governors@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.governors@nhs.net)

## Representing People

**When Parliament created NHS foundation trusts, it provided them with independence from central government and a governance structure that ensured participation from within the local communities they serve.**

NHS foundation trust governors are the direct representatives of local interests within foundation trusts. Governors do not undertake operational management of NHS foundation trusts; rather they challenge the board of directors and collectively hold them to account for the trust's performance. It is also the governors' responsibility to represent their members' interests, particularly in relation to the strategic direction of the trust.

Legislation provides governors with statutory responsibilities to help deliver these key objectives. The legislation is the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Please note that meetings of the Council of Governors are open to members of the public. The public are asked to notify the Trust of any matters they wish to raise in advance, as this will allow the Trust to be able to respond fully and will assist in the time management of the meeting. If you would like to attend, please email: [rjah.ft@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.ft@nhs.net) to confirm your attendance and also of any matters you wish to raise.

## Engaging with our Members



Our Governors will next be outside the Main Entrance on Monday 4 March from 9:30am – 12:30pm.

Our Members Surgery provides our members with a great opportunity to let the Governors know about what you would like to learn more about at the hospital, feedback your experiences and suggestions, or what news stories you would like to receive in our members newsletters and correspondence.

## News from the Trust

# RJAH awarded for working in partnership with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Representatives from RJAH attending a glittering award ceremony were presented with the prestigious 'Employers Working in Partnership – Helping to Make our Community Safer' plaque from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

The award was in recognition of the support given to Chloe Upton, a Project Support Officer at RJAH who also works as a retained firefighter with SFRS.

Chloe was also presented with two awards at the SFRS Celebration of Success 2023.



## Charity is Breakin' Barriers on MCSI

Fidel Thompson, founder of Breakin' Barriers and former spinal injuries patient, made his annual visit to RJAH to donate £2,000 to the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) Activity Fund.

As well as the donation, Fidel donated a Resin 3D printer, worth almost £400, to young spinal cord injury patient Matty, whose passion in his spare time is creating and bringing to life his designs through resin figurines.

## RJAH Friends support patient care with new specialist operating table

The League of Friends have supported in further enhancing patient care and safety – by purchasing a specialist operating table to be used by upper limb surgeons.

The Anetic Aid Beach Chair Operating Table – equipped with a headrest and storage trolley – cost the hospital Friends £7,000.

The beach chair position is commonly used in shoulder surgery, enabling clinicians to achieve optimal patient positioning to better facilitate upper limb surgical procedures while monitoring and maintaining patient comfort and safety.

Mr Marck Van Liefland, Consultant Upper Limb Surgeon, said: "This shoulder table helps us position the patient safe and securely, whilst allowing good access for keyhole or open shoulder surgery."

"The addition of this table takes our total up to two and will effectively double our capacity, meaning we can treat more patients in a day, reducing wait times and ensuring timely, high-quality care."



## Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre celebrates one year

The pioneering Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre recently celebrated twelve months of welcoming veterans and members of the Armed Forces community through the doors.

The dedicated centre officially opened on 1 December 2022 – where former Royal Air Force Wing Commander Alex Baxter, from Shrewsbury, was the first patient to be seen in the £6 million building.

To celebrate the occasion, a birthday party was held in the centre with staff, volunteers, patients and visitors.

Creating a dedicated veterans' centre was a long-standing dream for Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer, Director of the Veterans' Orthopaedic Service and Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, and was made a reality – thanks to the support of The Headley Court Charity.



## Ask others to join

Over 6,750 people have chosen to become a member - anyone over 14 years of age can join and there are a number of benefits, including invitations to events.

As a member you:

- Become part of a wide network patients, carers, local community members and staff supporting RJAH for the future.
- Have a say in how the hospital is run through voting for governors (or by being elected as a governor) and by sharing your views in our member surveys.
- Receive regular news from the hospital, invitations to our members' events and a copy of the Governors' annual report.
- Support the hospital as an NHS Foundation

Trust by encouraging friends, family, patients and carers to sign up as members too!

To join online please visit: [www.rjah.nhs.uk](http://www.rjah.nhs.uk) or for a membership form ring 01691 404394 or email: [rjah.ft@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.ft@nhs.net)

## Get Connected!

Join us on social media and keep up to date with the latest news and events going on across the Trust.

We have an active community on Facebook with over 12,000 likes.

You can also find us on Twitter and Instagram at @RJAH\_NHS.

If you've got anything you think we should be sharing on social media, why not let us know about it?



## Feedback matters

Do you have any feedback on this bulletin?

Is there any other information you would like us to include in the next edition? Do you have any articles you would like to submit? By passing on ideas and suggestions about the report - or any other feedback - you can help us carry out our role more effectively.

Contact the editors – Katrina Morphet and Allen Edwards at: [rjah.governors@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.governors@nhs.net)

## Double shortlisting for 'Bone Idol' in prestigious awards

The Bone and Soft Tissue Tumour Service and Miss Karen Shepherd, Consultant Orthopaedic and Oncological Surgeon, have been announced as finalists in this year's Bone Idol Awards, run by the Bone Cancer Research Trust (BCRT).

The team, who work on Montgomery, have been shortlisted in the Team of the Year Award for providing outstanding holistic care to bone cancer patients, dedicating themselves to providing a highly personalised service.

Miss Shepherd is a finalist in the Surgeon of the Award after being nominated not only for her exceptional surgical skills, but also for her passion and commitment in the field of primary bone cancer.

The winners of the awards will be announced at a glittering ceremony at the Queens Hotel in Leeds on Saturday 3 February – which is also the same weekend as World Cancer Day.



## Celebration to mark end of major clinical trial

A major clinical trial – ran at RJAH, in partnership with Keele University and supported by the Orthopaedic Institute Charity, Versus Arthritis and the Medical Research Council – which has helped to transform the lives of people suffering with damage to their knee joint or cartilage is coming to an end.

RJAH has led the way in pioneering a specialised treatment called Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (ACI), in which patients have their own cartilage cells (called chondrocytes) taken out of their knee, grown in a laboratory and then put back into the knee in a second procedure to repair the damaged cartilage and slow or stop the degenerative process.

Clinical ACI studies began in the late 1990s and were finally given approval by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for use on the NHS in 2017.

But by then a new trial had started called ASCOT (Autologous Stem cells, Chondrocytes Or the Two), in which stem cells from the patient's bone marrow were also used to repair damage. The ASCOT trial aimed to determine if there are differences in patient outcome when using stem cells from bone marrow, either alone or in combination with ACI.

Friday 1 December saw clinicians and patients attend a celebratory event to mark the end of the trial and consider next steps.