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Issue 1

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A message from Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive

Welcome to RJAH Connected – our new stakeholder bulletin to share key news and highlights from our Trust that we hope will be of interest to you.

This is the first edition of the bulletin, so we would welcome your feedback. Get in touch via the email address at the end of the bulletin to let us know whether you find this useful, and what else you might wish us to include. We plan to issue on a monthly basis, and will act on your comments in our next edition.

This month, we are sharing with you some key bits of news that will benefit our patients, our visitors and our staff – including details on our Trust Strategy and a major national accreditation scheme. We also highlight some key awards we have won in the past month, as well as touching on some important Estates and Facilities developments.

In future editions, we'll keep you abreast of other key projects, including our work with system partners on transforming MSK services across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and our progress with implementing a new Electronic Patient Record.

Best wishes,

Stacey



Ambitious new Trust Strategy launched

We were delighted to recently publish our bold new five-year strategy, which sets out how we will deliver an innovative future for our patients, our colleagues and our communities. Within the strategy, we set out five key objectives:

1. Deliver high quality clinical services
2. Develop our Veterans Service as a nationally recognised centre of excellence
3. Integrate MSK pathways across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin
4. Grow our services and workforce sustainably
5. Innovation, education and research at the heart of what we do



[You can read more about our strategy, and how we plan to deliver it, on the RJAH website.](#)

GIRFT Elective Surgical Hub Accreditation

In a boost for our patients, we have been successfully accredited as an elective surgical hub delivering high standards in clinical and operational practice.

The Trust has been accredited both for its adult services and for its paediatric services - it is one of the very first organisations in the country to get the kitemark for paediatrics.



The scheme is run by NHS England's Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Surgical hubs, which are separated from emergency services, are part of plans nationally to increase capacity for elective care with more dedicated operating theatres and beds.

[Read more about this on our website.](#)

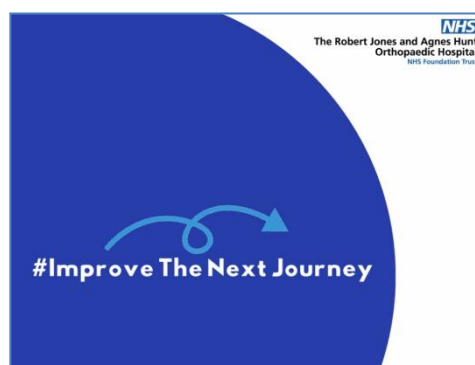
Introducing #ImproveTheNextJourney

RJAH is launching a new platform called #ImproveTheNextJourney, which will give a voice to our patients as we develop our services.

The platform is for patients, carers, or people with lived experiences to get involved and help support the work of the Trust by having a voice whilst bringing knowledge, skills and experience as we evaluate, develop and deliver our services.

We want people to get involved for a variety of reasons – to give something back, to change and improve services or to do something meaningful.

Any stakeholders interested in joining our #ImproveTheNextJourney initiative, should please email rjah.improvement@nhs.net.



Milestone for Enhanced Recovery Programme

Mary Gallacher, 91, based in Rhyl, recently became the 1,000th patient to be discharged on the same day as her operation through our Enhanced Recovery Programme.

Post-surgery, Mary was mobilised to assist with pain management and to prevent any risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or a chest infection. She was able to return home on the day of her operation – known as day zero – due to her pre- and post-operative resilience.

We introduced enhanced recovery for all arthroplasty patients in April last year – aiming to get patients back to full health as quickly as possible following surgery.

[You can read more about this on our website.](#)



RJAH joins Cavell charity to support nurses through tough times

RJAH has recently pledged its commitment to support the wellbeing of its nurses and healthcare assistants, by working with charity Cavell.

Cavell offers a tailored package of support to nurses and healthcare assistants, from advice, signposting, and referrals to specialist services, to one-off grants and rapid emergency funding for those at great risk.

So far, 24 organisations are signed up to Cavell's 'Working With' programme, including 10 NHS Trusts.

[More about the 'Working With' Cavell Membership Programme can be found online.](#)



RJAH in the media spotlight

We were delighted earlier this month to welcome BBC Radio Shropshire to the hospital, as the Clare Ashford Show live from our League of Friends Café in our Main Entrance.

Over the course of three hours, they spoke to a range of staff and patients to shine a light on the work we do. This included Mike Carr, our Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer; Olivia Evans, Improvement Facilitator; and Mr Niall Graham, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon; as well as patients and representatives from our charity partners - The League of Friends RJAH, RJAH Charity, Orthopaedic Institute and Horatio's Garden.



[You can still listen back to the show on the BBC Sounds website.](#) The recording will be available until 4 May.

Muscle Team win prestigious Centre of Excellence award

Our Neuromuscular Service has been celebrating – after being presented with the prestigious Centre of Excellence Award from Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK), for the third time.

The team were hailed by MDUK for providing outstanding care, promoting best practice locally and nationally, and demonstrating their commitment to improving health and wellbeing for people living with muscle wasting and weakening conditions. MDUK is a leading charity who support more than 110,000 children and adults in the UK who are living with a muscle wasting and weakening conditions.



[You can read more about this on our website.](#)

HCA and volunteers win Local Heroes Awards

Some of our staff and volunteers have been recognised in the Local Heroes Awards, organised and run by Oswestry Life magazine.

Ellie Baldwin, a Healthcare Assistant here at RJAH, was hailed with the NHS Heroes Award; whilst the Volunteers Team at the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre were presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Oswestry Life magazine organise the Local Heroes Awards to honour and celebrate those who are making significant contributions to the local community through their time, actions, talents and dedication.

[You can read more about this on our website.](#)

New solar panels coming soon

The Trust has successfully bid for £1.36 million of funds from the Department of Health and Social Care, to roll out more solar panels around the hospital site.

The scheme will generate 1,151,994kWh a year, the equivalent of 600 tonnes of carbon emissions and will deliver a £294,000 saving.



Ben Huband, Estates Compliance & Energy Manager, who completed the bids said, "This is a great opportunity for the Trust to reduce its impact on the environment, it goes a long way to delivering the Trust Green Plan and will benefit the area for generations to come."

Any comments or questions about this edition of RJAH Connected? Then please get in touch with us by emailing rjah.communications@nhs.net. Thank you!