



The stakeholder bulletin of The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital

May 2025

Inside this month's edition...

1. [Introduction from Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive](#)
 2. [Introducing our new Vision Statement](#)
 3. [Apollo – our new Electronic Patient Record – goes live](#)
 4. [RJAH welcomes new Chief Finance and Commercial Officer](#)
 5. [Partnership working leads to new service](#)
 6. [New programme of Sexual Safety Training launched for staff](#)
 7. [Award win for Paediatric Team who have transformed patient experience](#)
 8. [Vacancies on our Council of Governors](#)
 9. [Popular TV comedian officially opens therapeutic garden for children](#)
 10. [New solar panel funding awarded to RJAH](#)
 11. [Get active in 20Thrive and support RJAH!](#)
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A message from Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our stakeholder bulletin, RJAH Connected. As we head into the summer period, it has been as busy as ever here at RJAH, and you can read about some of our key news and highlights below.

I want to call out the launch of our new Electronic Patient Record system, which we have named Apollo. This has been in the pipeline for some time, so I was delighted that we were able to launch it this month and start to put it into action. I want to place my thanks on the record for the Project Team who have worked so diligently to make it happen. I also want to recognise what a huge change it has been to our ways of working and thank our staff for their positive attitude to that change. In the coming weeks and months I am sure we will really see the benefits of Apollo bearing fruit.

Since I last wrote in one of these bulletins, the NHS has barely been out of the news and we all know this is a period of change and reform. While we cannot ignore all of that, we do have to keep focussed

on our primary goal. We recently launched a new vision statement which is helping us to do that, and you can read more about that below as well.

We also remain as committed as ever to working collaboratively with our partners across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and beyond. With that in mind, I am delighted that we have been able to team up with our friends at SaTH to launch a new minor diabetic foot service. This will make a real difference to our patients and shows once again that we are stronger and better together.

There is a lot more in here that I hope will be of interest, but circling back to the start and talk of summer weather, I do also want to highlight the investment we have secured to further expand our solar panel infrastructure. With all the sunshine we have been having recently, they are certainly being put to good use!

Whatever you are doing this summer, I hope it is a good one.

Best wishes,

Stacey

Introducing our new Vision Statement

We were delighted to recently unveil our new Trust Vision Statement: “Improving Lives Through Excellent and Innovative Care”.

Stacey Keegan, our Chief Executive, said: “We wanted a vision statement that really reflected who we are as an organisation. We went out to vote with a number of options, and I am delighted with the one that our staff have chosen.

“We pride ourselves on the excellence of the care we provide to patients here at RJA, and we strive to be at the forefront of innovation so that we can maximise our potential. This new vision statement really captures that drive and that ambition, and it aligns perfectly with our five-year strategy.”

Apollo – our new Electronic Patient Record – goes live

We have had lift-off with Apollo, our new Electronic Patient Record system, which went live earlier this month.

Apollo is supplied by System C and is a comprehensive solution that is made up from a suite of products that are integrated together. It is replacing our long-standing patient administration systems, which have been integral to the way they receive care to-date.

The new integrated solution represents the biggest single investment this organisation has ever made in a technological solution. [You can read more about this on our website.](#)

RJAH welcomes new Chief Finance and Commercial Officer

We were delighted to welcome Angela Mulholland-Wells (*pictured*) to the Trust at the end of April, as our new Chief Finance and Commercial Officer.

Angela brings with her more than 15 years' experience in the healthcare sector, having held a number of senior finance leadership positions. Her career has spanned both the independent sector, where she's serviced as regional finance director of private hospitals, and the NHS, most recently as Director of Finance at an NHS acute Trust.

Angela takes over from Craig Macbeth, who has now left the organisation after an HNS career spanning 33 years, more than half of which was served at RJAH. We thank him for his tireless hard work and his significant contribution.

Partnership working leads to new service

We have launched new minor diabetic foot service, which provides essential surgical intervention for diabetic patients with tendon-related foot conditions.

The service, which runs in partnership with The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), aims to support patients who require minor procedures, such as toe tenotomies, to prevent the progression of deformities that can lead to serious complications, including ulcers and infection.

It has been introduced in response to an increasing demand for specialist foot surgery for diabetic patients in Shropshire – which has one of the highest amputation rates in the country. [Read more on our website.](#)

New programme of Sexual Safety Training launched for staff

Last year, the Trust signed up to the national Sexual Safety Charter – pledging as an organisation to foster a safe and respectful workplace. Now, as part of this ongoing commitment, we have unveiled a series of sexual safety training sessions for staff.

Sexual safety at work remains a priority at RJAH, and we take a zero-tolerance approach to any unwanted, inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviours.

Denise Harnin, Chief People and Culture Officer, said: "Staff may know colleagues that have been impacted by these issues, or they may be a manager that needs support to better understand how staff can be affected.

"Some behaviours that were once seen as acceptable or 'banter' are not tolerated in today's world, and these sessions will help navigate right and wrong, with open sessions and open learning, and no judgment."

Award win for Paediatric Team who have transformed patient experience

Our Paediatric Team have earned national recognition – being named winners at the prestigious National Orthopaedic Alliance (NOA) Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards.

The team picked up the Supporting Patients of their Pathway Award at the ceremony, for their work on improving pre-admission and procedure experiences for children; a project that has transformed pre-operative services for young patients and their families.

The comprehensive pre-assessment pathway supports children coming to Alice Ward (our dedicated children's ward) for surgery, rehabilitation and other procedures, and has been designed to improve their overall experience.

The service includes both face-to-face and virtual appointment options, integrated support from the Play Team, and innovative digital tools such as Remcare and the Little Journey app. It offers tailored interventions for children with high levels of anxiety or more complex needs, helping to reduce stress and improve outcomes.

Vacancies on our Council of Governors

We currently have a number of vacancies on our Council of Governors and are open to nominations for candidates to fill those roles. Governors play a vital role in ensuring that the views of the wider community are taken into account in providing and developing our services, so this is a fantastic opportunity to get involved.

We currently have vacancies for a governor to represent the following constituencies: Shropshire, North Wales, and Powys. We also have a vacancy for two staff governors. Nominations close at 5pm on Tuesday 17 June 2025. To find out more information about the elections, the role of a Governor or to complete a nomination form online, visit: www.cesvotes.com/rjah2025.

If you would like further information about the role of a Governor, please contact Dylan Murphy, Trust Secretary, at dylan.murphy1@nhs.net.

Popular TV comedian officially opens therapeutic garden for children

A new outdoor therapeutic garden designed to support the health and wellbeing of our young patients has now officially opened. Garden for Alice was officially opened earlier this month by Harry Hill, comedian, TV personality and writer.

The project was made possible thanks to a dedicated fundraising appeal by the RJAH Charity, which launched in 2022 and raised more than £240,000. Work on the garden began in October 2024.

[Read more on our website.](#)

New solar panel funding awarded to RJAH

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero recently announced a package of £100 million from Great British Energy for the NHS to install solar power and battery storage solutions to help drive down energy bills, offering better value for the taxpayer.

As part of this groundbreaking new funding, RJAH has been awarded £2.4million to install further solar panels. Investing in renewable energy generation will deliver reductions in energy costs that can be redirected into front line care.

These new solar panel installation projects are expected to deliver savings of around £8.6million a year, and up to £260million over the panel's lifetime across the NHS. RJAH has plans to significantly expand our solar energy capacity, adding a further 1.2MW system to our existing 2MW installation. This expansion is projected to deliver an additional £300,000 in annual electricity savings and reduce the hospital's carbon dioxide emissions by 220 tonnes each year.

Get active in 20Thrive and support RJAH!

RJAH Charity is calling on people to get sporty, challenge themselves, and make a difference with its exciting new fundraising initiative – 20Thrive.

The hospital charity is encouraging supporters to take on a fitness challenge in 2025. This series of sporting events offers participants the chance to get active, set personal goals and raise vital funds to support patients and staff at RJAH.

Whether it's running, cycling, swimming, or another challenge, 20Thrive provides an opportunity for people of all abilities to take part, have fun and make a real difference.

The charity already offers spaces with TCS London Marathon – which proves popular amongst supporters and often has a waiting list each year. 20Thrive aims to build on this, offering up different opportunities for those wishing to support RJAH in this way.

[Read more on our website.](#)

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!
