

## Message from the Chairman



It is obvious that one of the initiatives that has dominated the Trust's agenda in the last few months has been our role as a vaccination hospital hub, and now vaccination centre, for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

At the time of writing this message, over 200,000 people across the county have received at least their first vaccination and, at RJAH, we have administered over 10% of that total. This is a fantastic reflection of the multi-disciplinary approach that we have taken and I am particularly proud of the work done by the staff and volunteers who have contributed so brilliantly to our success.

Of course, this leads us on to the next challenge for the Trust which is the restoration of our services that so many of our patients require. This will be a long and complex programme, but I do know that all clinicians and support staff will be determined to see elective cases back underway at RJAH as soon as possible.

Best wishes,  
Frank Collins, *Chairman*

## Covid vaccination site opens at RJAH

The coronavirus vaccination programme took another step forward in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin when the county's second hospital hub opened at RJAH on Thursday 7 January.

Since its opening, the vaccination hub has transitioned into a vaccination centre meaning patients are able to book appointments through the national booking system when invited to do so.

The first patient to receive their vaccine at RJAH was grandmother-of-three, Freda Hays, aged 91, from Whitchurch.

Freda said: "When I was contacted to say I would be having the first dose of my Covid vaccine, I was extremely surprised but also felt very relieved and hopeful.

"I'm looking forward to when things start to get back to normal again and I'll be able to spend more time with my family, rather than just the doorstep visits.

Nurse Rebecca Warren was the clinician who gave the first jab at the hospital site. Rebecca is the Clinical Lead Nurse for the RJAH Hub, having been redeployed from her usual role as Nurse Manager for the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries.

Rebecca said: "I am proud to be able to contribute to the national effort to roll out the coronavirus vaccine, and by doing this I really feel I get to be a part of history.

"It's been a real team effort and everyone has worked so hard to enable this to happen. I feel very proud to be leading the team at RJAH to ensure we protect everyone. This is the outcome we all want, in order to be able to see our loved ones again and be safe."



# Governors Meeting

Thursday 25 March

This meeting may not be going ahead due to social distancing guidance for covid-19. For more information, please email [rjah.ft@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.ft@nhs.net)

## Your elected Public Governors

### Shropshire

Colin Chapman / Sue Nassar / Victoria Sugden

### North Wales

Jan Greasley / Martin Coggan

### West Midlands

Russell Luckock

### Cheshire & Merseyside

Katrina Morphet

### Powys

William Greenwood

### Rest of England & Wales

Vacant Position

### Staff Governors

Kate Chaffey / Allen Edwards / Kate Betts

### Stakeholder Governors

(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)

Peter David – RJAHS Voluntary Services Committee

Cllr Karen Calder – Shropshire Council

Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

## Membership figures

At the end of February 2021 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1166
Public	4865
Volunteers	466
<b>Total</b>	<b>6497</b>

## Governor Profile



### Colin Chapman – Public Governor for Shropshire

#### How have you contributed as a Governor so far?

*"I have attended most of the Council of Governors (CoG) Meetings, taken part in walkabouts and Governor Surgeries until the coronavirus pandemic struck. I have attended Governor Workshops, both physically and virtually, as well as read and responded, if required, to updates from communications to keep myself up to date so that I can perform my role as best as I can."*

#### Why do you think the Governor role is important?

*"The Trust is there to provide a high level of healthcare to the public. In order to achieve this, these services on occasion required to be scrutinised to ensure that they are delivered to a high and safe standard. I feel that the Governor role is very necessary to monitor or challenge if services are compromised or sub-standard."*

#### What do you think CoG has achieved and what do you enjoy?

*"As a group we all have different levels of experience ranging from finance, communications, clinical experience, and charity and fundraising. It is this collective experience that allows us to focus on key areas that we have experience in and are then able to share with fellow governors and challenge specific issues raised at meetings."*

*Personally, I find this immensely satisfying particularly as I was an employee at RJAHS for 30 years starting as early as the mid-1970s and then returning in the late 1980s to finish my career."*

*The NHS is ever-changing and so are local services, it is more important than ever that Governors have a key role in its future to ensure that these services continue at a high and safe level."*

#### How has RJAHS responded to the coronavirus pandemic?

*"RJAHS stepped up to the pandemic head on. They were quick to respond and converted a ward into an isolation unit specifically for coronavirus patients, without question and achieved this with impeccable professionalism. Collaborating with our local general hospitals was swift but allowed us to provide a trauma service whilst they concentrated on caring for the ever increasing number of covid patients. Whilst extremely challenging for our Trust as many employees were re-deployed in areas well out of their comfort zone, they rose to it with pure professionalism, all credit to those involved."*

*Caring for our patients is paramount but in view of the pressures of covid caring for our staff have never been so important and I am proud to be part of that and offer my support when I can."*

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.



## News from the Trust

### Pick-me-up packages give patients a boost

Those who have a loved one staying RJAH can now send them a personalised pick-me-up package thanks to the hospital's League of Friends.

While strict visiting restrictions are in place the League of Friends has launched this service so those who have a loved one staying at RJAH are able to send them a message and/or a gift bag during their stay.

If you would like to arrange a pick-me-up package for your loved one all you have to do is email: [love.RJAH@nhs.net](mailto:love.RJAH@nhs.net), including your message and/or whether you would like to send a gift – and a member of the League of Friends team will deliver the message or gift, as required.



## Minister for Care virtually visits RJAH student nurses

Student nurses who joined the frontline at RJAH on extended six-month placements during the coronavirus pandemic have been thanked for their hard work and dedication by Helen Whately MP, Minister of State for Care.

Jayne Johnson, Clinical Placement Facilitator, joined the online meeting with nurses Helen Crawley, Jo Davies, Stephanie Doleman, Kathryn Dytor and Mat Wright.

A total of 17 nursing students; as well as several therapy, radiology and operating department practitioner students; joined the workforce at the Oswestry-based hospital back in April 2020 to support the response to the first wave of the covid-19 pandemic.

## Hospital vaccination hub administers 20,000th jab



The covid vaccination hospital hub at RJAH administered its 20,000th jab at the end of February, heralding “a monumental step towards helping to protect everyone against this awful virus”.

In just over six weeks since the first batch of vaccines arrived at the site, more than 20,000 jabs have been given to the first set of patient priority groups, including health and social care staff from across the region.

Spinal cord injury patient Pip Wright, from Tarporley, was the recipient of the milestone vaccine.

Pip said: “I feel absolutely delighted that I was the 20,000th person at the hub at RJAH to have had the vaccine – what an amazing milestone that is. It’s also extremely reassuring for me and my family.

“I’m classed as being clinically extremely vulnerable and although that’s not how I associate myself, it feels great to know I will have some protection from the virus in the weeks to come.”

## Morrisons supermarket supports comfort of patients

Morrisons Supermarket in Oswestry has set up a toiletry donation point for inpatients at RJAH where shoppers can donate toiletries to help provide extra comfort for patients.

The local community have rallied behind the initiative which is being supported by the League of Friends.

Victoria Sugden, Charity Director for the League of Friends, said: “We are so pleased to be working with our local Morrisons store to further support our patients.

“None of this would be possible without the support of the local community so we’d like to say a big thank you for all their help and kindness with this initiative.”

The donations from shoppers are held centrally by the League of Friends in their Main Entrance Shop.

Wards in the hospital can then contact the shop when their stock of toiletries needs replenishing.





## Ask others to join

Over 6000 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 8,000 likes.

You can also find us on Twitter and Instagram at [@RJAH\\_NHS](https://twitter.com/RJAH_NHS).

And if you are talking about the Trust, remember to use our Twitter handle and help us spread the word!



## 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)

## Stellar results for RJAH in National Staff Survey

Staff at RJAH have hailed the standard of care at their own organisation – with table-topping feedback in the National NHS Staff Survey, which has been published today.

A best-ever 96% of RJAH staff completing the survey said they would be happy with the standard of care provided if a friend or relative needed treatment. It is the fourth year in a row that the hospital has secured the highest marks in this question, in a survey completed by staff at more than 300 NHS employers.

RJAH also scores highly as a place to work, with 79% saying they would recommend it. That is up by two percentage points on last year, and puts it within the top three in the country.

The full staff survey report can be found online at: [www.nhsstaffsurveys.com](http://www.nhsstaffsurveys.com).

## State-of-the-art £25,000 physio gym equipment

A state-of-the-art collection of gym equipment has been revealed in the Physiotherapy department - in a bid to further support the physical and mental wellbeing of patients.

Physiotherapists at RJAH say patients are already benefitting from the new pieces of equipment, which is part of an investment of £25,000 to replace the outdated gym equipment.

The new equipment means that RJAH can better support inpatients and outpatients with their therapy needs.

The new equipment includes various dumbbells and kettlebells, a leg press, a treadmill, spinning bikes, a squat rack and more.

Michael Murphy, Advanced Physiotherapist, said: "Previously at RJAH, we had a limited range of dated equipment which wasn't fit for purpose and we've already seen so many benefits to our patients using the new equipment."

"The investment has meant we can expand our service to meet the current best practice standards, and in turn, enhance our standard of care for patients by reducing the likelihood of post-operative complications and improving rehabilitation."

