

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Trust's replacement Midwife-Led Unit opens its doors

The doors to the Trust's brand new, purpose-built modular Wrekin Midwife-Led Unit (MLU) at the Princess Royal Hospital opened at the end of April.

It replaces the previous unit which was more than 30 years old, and has been designed to provide the best possible antenatal, labour and postnatal experience for women with low risk pregnancies who have not experienced any complications. It also gives a modern and functional working environment for midwives.

The modular unit consists of:

- ◆ Three spacious en-suite birthing rooms, each with a pull-down double bed to enable partners to rest, and two rooms also have a birthing pool.
- ◆ Thoughtfully designed outpatient facilities with five consultation rooms.
- ◆ A new location, next to the Obstetric Unit, providing an appealing facility for mums wanting a midwife-led birthing experience, while enabling closer access to the Consultant-Led unit should it be required.
- ◆ Space for specialist midwives to work from, including for screening and practice development.



The new unit was made possible after £4million of capital funding was secured from the Department of Health and was designed with the leadership team from the Women and Children's Care Group at the Trust. It was provided by a specialist company that has worked with NHS organisations across the country.

In the new MLU, the Trust will continue to build on the many improvements that were recognised by the Care Quality Commission in their most recent inspection, including kind and compassionate care of patients by midwives and the inclusive service that plans and provides care in a way to meet the needs of the local people and communities we serve.

Along with the opening of the replacement MLU, homebirths in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin have also been reintroduced after being temporarily suspended at the start of the Coronavirus outbreak.



Nicola Wenlock, Director of Midwifery at the Trust, said: **"The new Wrekin MLU has state-of-the-art facilities, looks fantastic and our midwifery staff are delighted to be working in a purpose-built environment."**

"While expectant mums may be feeling anxious about their care during the COVID-19 outbreak, we remain committed to providing the very best care for them, and it's great to be able to do that from our brand new MLU."

Louise Barnett, the Trust's Chief Executive, said: **"Staff in our Maternity Services are working hard to provide the safest possible**

experience for expectant and new mums, and they are continuing to build on the improvements and examples of kind and compassionate care that were recognised by the Care Quality Commission in their most recent inspection."

GPConnect contact: Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Stretton House, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Telephone (01743) 492591 Email: alison.jones25@nhs.net Website: <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/gpconnect/>

Medical Director joins sporting stars to say: 'Show Racism the Red Card'

The Medical Director of Shropshire's acute hospitals has joined sporting stars such as Gary Lineker, Monty Panesar, Chris Kamara, Wes Morgan and Andy Robertson to call for racism to be given the red card in the NHS.

Dr Arne Rose, Medical Director at SaTH (*pictured right*), features in a new video released on 1 May by the charity **Show Racism the Red Card**. The video, which can be [seen here](#) follows the stories of frontline NHS staff as they recount their experience of racial discrimination at work.

The charity is dedicated to combating racism in society through education, and utilises the high-profile status of football and football players to publicise its message. After survey findings showed that 11% of people have experienced racist behaviour at work, it knew it needed to take action.

Arne said: **"Racism is, sadly, an ongoing issue in the NHS. At this incredibly unusual time, dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, we are all coming to appreciate how much value immigrants and people from different ethnic backgrounds bring to the NHS. Health Secretary Matt Hancock has told NHS staff that any patients wishing to be treated by a white doctor 'must be told no', and that management 'must and will always back you up.' That is absolutely my stance and the stance of my colleagues at SaTH."**

Yvonne Coghill, Director in the Workforce Race Equality Standard Implementation Team for NHS England, said: **"Since its inception in 1948 the NHS has been dependent on its BME workforce to deliver care and services to the population of this country."**

The project hopes to highlight that racism within the NHS remains an issue that cannot be ignored, with its survival dependent on its black and minority ethnic (BME) workforce. Yvonne added: **"We are proud that the NHS is one of the most diverse organisations in the country, with one in five of the workforce being from a background other than white British. The contribution that this group of people makes to enable our NHS to be the best healthcare organisation in the world cannot be underestimated, never more than now during the COVID-19 crisis. It is incumbent on all of us, whoever we are and whatever background we are from, to stand up to and call out any kind of discrimination or racism in our service."**

Of those reported to have experienced racism whilst at work in the NHS, 34% said the racism was frequent or regular, whilst 10% said it occurred weekly or even daily. And most worryingly, almost one in 10 (8.8%) of those who answered, left their jobs as a consequence of the racism they experienced.

Tosca Fairchild, Chair of Show Racism the Red Card and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, said: **"Racism is an issue that sadly continues to exist in today's society and the responsibility is upon all of us to challenge and fight it. As Chair of Show Racism the Red Card and Assistant CEO in the NHS, it is a privilege to bring the two organisations together in a collaboration to highlight and challenge racism in the NHS."**

"I have worked in the NHS for a long time and not only experienced racism myself but have also seen the devastating effects it has on hard working colleagues from a BAME background. The NHS is dependent on its workforce and simply cannot deliver the high quality care it does without its diverse workforce."

"We only need to look at the staff demographics being highlighted during COVID-19 to appreciate how diverse the NHS workforce is and how NHS staff from a BAME background contribute and dedicate their lives to the NHS - to care for the people of the United Kingdom; with some sadly paying the ultimate price and losing their lives. It is my hope that through this work, we will all challenge racism in the NHS, honour those who have lost their lives and remember them when the new normal is here. We must remember that the NHS needs its diverse BAME workforce. Remember that BAMEs working in the NHS contribute to the NHS. Remember that BAME staff in the NHS are humans. We are all humans. We are the human race. Show love not hate. Show racism the red card in the NHS."

Gary Lineker, former professional footballer and current sports broadcaster, said: **"It's easy to target and blame immigrants for the problems of this country, when we all know they've contributed a hell of a lot. Would the NHS survive without immigrants filling some of those jobs? Would we have enough nurses or doctors? No."**

Ged Grebby, Chief Executive at Show Racism the Red Card, said: **"SRtRC is dedicated to tackling racism and promoting change in society through education. With this short film, we're hoping we can again contribute to a discussion around combating rife racism in society - this time in the NHS. With BAME communities forming part of the backbone of our Health Service, and with the Health Service being integral to our society, we felt compelled to raise awareness around the discrimination suffered here."**

Wes Morgan, Captain of Leicester City, added: **"The NHS is one of our most treasured British institutions and I am sure all would join me in thanking NHS workers for their heroic efforts both before and during the current COVID-19 crisis. NHS workers, like all of us, should not be subject to racism and deserve a workplace that is free from prejudice. Let's all join together to Show Racism the Red Card and support our key workers."**

Ged added: **"We were delighted to have the support of the NHS to produce this short film - and it's particularly pertinent given the current pandemic. We hope we can encourage a model of good practice that can be adopted in wider society."**



SaTH Midwife scoops national award

A midwife at the Trust has won a national award for her work in helping colleagues to support each other.

Rebecca Davies, Labour Ward Coordinator at SaTH, was named the Gabby Dowds-Quinn Members' Champion at this year's Royal College of Midwives (RCM) annual awards, held on International Day of the Midwife on 5 May. The awards were held virtually because of restrictions put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic.



Rebecca (pictured left), said: **"It was an overwhelming feeling of gratitude, winning the award amongst such tough competition.**

"It has not been without its hard work and effort, not only from me but from the recently reformed RCM Committee, who have been totally supportive and committed to the challenges which we undertook."

Speaking on 6 May Rebecca said **"Yesterday we celebrated all things midwifery and how we support one another. I'm looking forward to the challenges ahead as I continue as Joint Staffside Chair and RCM Workplace Representative and Branch Secretary. I will be retiring as Labour Ward Coordinator in July this year after 30 years' practice as a clinical midwife**

and as a Registered Nurse before that. I am proud to work for SaTH."

Rebecca was presented with the award for turning the local branch of the RCM into a flourishing community.

Gill Walton, Chief Executive of the RCM, said: **"The Members' Champion award is hugely important because it gets right to the heart of RCM membership: colleagues supporting each other.**

"This year's award is particularly poignant as it is made in the name of one of our own colleagues, herself a passionate fighter for RCM values, whom we sadly lost earlier this year. Rebecca Davies embodies that same spirit, working hard for fellow midwives and Maternity Support Workers (MSWs) and leading by example."

Rebecca received the award, which is sponsored by Thompsons Solicitors, in a virtual ceremony on International Day of the Midwife. The fellow midwives and MSWs who nominated her called her a positive role model who has the respect of those around her. She led work to negotiate enhanced contracts for MSWs and secured greater support for community midwives.

Nicola Wenlock, Director of Midwifery at SaTH, said: **"This is fantastic news and a well-deserved award for Rebecca. She epitomises everything we want to see in our maternity service and I am delighted that she has been recognised at a national level."**

Maggie Bayley, Interim Chief Nurse, added: **"I would like to add my congratulations to Rebecca for this richly-deserved award. Colleagues supporting each other help to drive positive change. I am delighted for Rebecca."**

Knitted kindness heart to be gifted to patients at end of life and their families

Kindness hearts, knitted by volunteers and donated to the Trust, are to be gifted to families whose loved ones are receiving end of life care. When the End of Life Care Team (EOLC) at SaTH was made aware that knitters across Shropshire and Mid Wales were making hearts in all sorts of colours, they wanted to use them in a way that would bring comfort to patients and their families at the hardest of times.

The hearts will be presented in pairs – one to stay with the patient, and the identical one will be given to the patient's family as a keepsake, along with a card that has been created by the EOLC and bereavement team and funded by SaTH Charity.

Debbie Snooke, End of Life Care Specialist Nurse at SaTH, said: **"One heart will stay with the patient and the other will be given to the patient's family, if they would like it, to bring them some comfort. A very close friend who had just lost a family member said she was comforted by the concept of one staying with her relative and the other staying with the family. These are small things that can make a big difference."**



Jules Lewis, End of Life Care Facilitator and Lead Nurse at SaTH said: **"We have received so many kind donations of knitted hearts and we would like to thank everyone who has sent them to us. We have received donations from the Love in A Box Sewing Group, and many staff members have also got in touch as they, or family members, are making these hearts to donate to us. It is Dying Matters awareness week from 11 May, which aims to help people talk more openly about death, bereavement and making plans for the end of life, so we are thinking of continuing this as it's such a lovely idea. We are hoping that we could put them in the Swan Box so staff can give them to families to place with their loved one and have the other as a keepsake."**

Julia Clarke, Director responsible for SaTH Charity, said: **"I was so touched when I saw that so many people were knitting these lovely hearts, that I made our EOLC team aware of them. They have done a wonderful job sharing these hearts with patients and their families. We hope that it will bring families some comfort at such an incredibly difficult time."**

SaTH training external healthcare professionals on how to fit face masks to give protection against coronavirus

The Trust is helping to protect frontline staff at other healthcare organisations across the region by providing training on how to correctly fit single-use respiratory protective equipment.

Five people from private sector healthcare operators attended a training session at the Princess Royal Hospital in early May to learn how to correctly fit a mask to a person's face to ensure it is adequately sealed to give protection from viruses such as COVID-19.

The training took place at PRH so that healthcare workers external to the Trust, such as those working in people's own homes, could receive the training at the earliest opportunity at a time when external training is harder to source.

The partnership working has been praised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.

Karen Carter, Adult Social Care Inspector at the CQC, said: **"We are very grateful to all the agencies involved and particularly the staff at the Princess Royal Hospital for offering this training; it is a shining example of people coming together during difficult times."**

A face fit test is carried out to ensure a mask protects the wearer, and SaTH has over 70 fully-trained mask fit testers.

Kath Titley, the Trust's Health and Safety Team Manager, said: **"Under normal circumstances the people we trained on 6 May would have gone through an external training provider that specialises in this sort of training. These however are not normal circumstances and we all need to work together to ensure everyone is kept safe in a timely manner."**

"The session we ran has been formed as part of our COVID-19 response and includes a hands-on approach, whereby people are taught how to do a fit test before undergoing supervised practical sessions. The session focused on using FFP3s to protect healthcare workers against coronavirus."

"I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to help others. We are, after all, one health and care team and we are all in this together."

Nigel Lee, Chief Operating Officer at SaTH, said: **"Our Health and Safety team have played a vital role in ensuring the safety of our staff during the coronavirus pandemic. Despite being a small team they have pulled together during this difficult time to operate 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, and this is another example of the team going the extra mile."**

SaTH was alerted to the possibility of training external healthcare professionals following a conversation with Karen Carter, Adult Social Care inspector at the CQC.

Karen said: **"In such highly pressured times, I was determined to help the adult social care sector as much as I could. We have regular contact with our services to offer support during the pandemic and when I heard the registered manager was having trouble accessing external training, I wanted to assist."**

"It was great to be able to get involved in cross-sector and cross-organisational working to enable these staff to access the necessary training needed to keep people safe. We escalated the issue to Shropshire Council who kindly told us to contact the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group who put us in touch with the Trust."



Trust celebrates International Nurses Day

As the world celebrated International Nurses Day on Tuesday May 12, the Trust said thank you to its own nurses for the care that they provide.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive at SaTH, said: **"This year's International Nurses' Day comes at a remarkable time as the frontline charge against the COVID-19 pandemic continues. SaTH's nurses demonstrate the true mettle that lies at the heart of their profession and it is fantastic to have this opportunity to show our appreciation and to say thank you for all that they do to care for patients."**

Maggie Bayley, Interim Chief Nurse at SaTH, said: **"Nursing staff make up more than 50% of our workforce and they truly are the cornerstone of the NHS. SaTH's nurses are dedicated, selfless and compassionate and their commitment has been demonstrated more than ever over the last few months as we all fight COVID-19 together. Our nurses continue to work tirelessly, and I'm proud of the values, professionalism and caring they have shown."**

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The World Health Organisation has also designated 2020 as the first ever global Year of the Nurse and Midwife, to mark what would have been Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday.