

## Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

### Trust awarded £6.3million to prepare for winter

The Trust has been awarded a further £6.3 million by the Government to help prepare for winter. The funding will be used to create a new Same Day Emergency Care centre (SDEC) at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital which will help ease pressure on its A&E, and reduce hospital admissions. It will also enable the expansion of the current A&E to provide additional patient cubicles.

The announcement comes after the Trust was awarded £2 million by the Government in August, with the funding being used to convert the former Wrekin Midwife Led Unit at the Princess Royal Hospital into a Priorities Admissions Unit.

The new SDEC, which will be housed in a two-storey medical modular building, will be located outside the A&E department and is expected to be operational in the new year.

Nigel Lee, Chief Operating Officer at the Trust, said: **“This additional investment is very much welcomed and enables us to relocate our current SDEC to a purpose-built facility.**

**“Winter is always a challenging time as the demands on our services are high, and this year we are also in a pandemic which brings with it other challenges. This new facility will help to reduce pressure on our A&E and on our beds, and improve care for our patients.**

**“Patients seen in the SDEC will be treated and sent home the same day – avoiding the need for a hospital admission. Our current A&E is small, and so this funding will also enable us to expand the floor space by relocating our Fracture Clinic, and provide additional cubicles and waiting space for patients requiring treatment.”**

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital was one of 25 hospitals to receive a share of the funding announced by the Health Secretary Matt Hancock on 17 September to expand and upgrade A&E departments.

Mr Hancock said: **“We are investing £450 million to make sure our A&E departments are ready for winter. Hospitals around the country will be able to expand and upgrade to ensure they can continue safely treating patients in the coming months.”**

This winter is likely to be a very challenging period, and teams across the Trust are working closely with our partners across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales to ensure that we have winter plans in place and are as well prepared as we can be for the continued pressures we are all likely to face.

The Trust’s Flu Campaign was launched this month, and as part of the Trust’s own winter plans there has been joint working with ECIST (Emergency Care Improvement Support Team) to help the Trust to make improvements to patient flow through both our hospitals.

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## Cancer scheme shortlisted for national award

An innovative scheme at Shropshire's acute hospitals, which is designed to transform the lives of people living with cancer, has been shortlisted for a national award.

The **Living With and Beyond Cancer Programme**, which was developed by the Trust in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, has been shortlisted in the 2020 Nursing Times Awards. The Programme aims to enable and empower patients to recover as fully as possible and to live well with cancer throughout their treatment and beyond.

In collaboration with patients, SaTH has developed innovative tools to promote self-care and self-management to support recovery. These include a patient passport, 'Living Well with Cancer' events and online resources for patients to access advice and support from the comfort of their own homes.

Nationally, two million people live with and beyond cancer in the UK with more people surviving for longer. Due to the ageing population, as well as advances in treatments and earlier diagnosis, this figure is set to climb. A study by Macmillan revealed 1/3 of people living with and beyond cancer experience unmet needs at the end of their treatment. For 60% of people, these needs have not improved six months after treatment.

SaTH's programme aims to improve patient experience by ensuring patients have the information they need to help them manage their recovery. The team developed a 'My Passport to Living Well' document to act as a handheld record which patients can use to assess their own needs and be signposted to resources in place to support them.

The team also developed 'Living Well with Cancer' events in community venues across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales to bring care closer to patients. Sessions are open to all patients and carers at any time during and after their cancer treatment. Sessions are informal and interactive, enabling patients to learn from and share their own experiences, tips and advice. Developed with patients, these sessions are facilitated and led by trained patient champions.

During the coronavirus pandemic, when these sessions have not been able to happen, the team has set up virtual 'coffee and catch-up' sessions.

The partner of one patient who attended a Living Well with Cancer event said: **"We learnt so much from coming to the Living Well session and are more confident about what we can do to live well and stay well during our treatment and hopefully for the many years ahead of us. Thank you very much. You do a grand job enabling shared experiences to extend the lives and hopes of those with cancer, and their loved ones too."**

As an alternative to the community events, 'Living Well' videos have also been created to ensure all patients have access to concise, accurate information along with peer support and education. Patients and families can choose when to watch them, how often, what to do next and get inspiration for safe self-management.

Jessica Greenwood, Lead Cancer Nurse at SaTH, (*pictured right*) said: **"We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted in the Nursing Times Awards. This has been a fantastic collaborative effort. Our work has benefits for patients, family members, carers, cancer teams and other healthcare professionals.**

**"The programme promotes wellbeing and ensures that consistent high quality care and information is provided to everyone."**

For more information about Living With and Beyond Cancer please email [sath.lwbc@nhs.net](mailto:sath.lwbc@nhs.net)

The winners of the award will be announced on 14 October.



## New Vision and Values for the Trust

In partnership with our stakeholders over recent weeks, the Trust has now shaped our new Vision and Values. These provide a roadmap for us to deliver our vision **‘to provide excellent care for the communities we serve’** and help ensure that through our Values, we are:

- P**artnering: working effectively together with patients, families, colleagues, the local health and care system, universities and other stakeholders and through our improvement alliance.
- A**mbitious: setting and achieving high standards for ourselves personally and for the care we deliver, both today and in the future. Embracing innovation to continuously improve the quality and sustainability of our services.
- C**aring: showing compassion, respect and empathy for our patients, families and each other, caring about the difference we make for our community.
- T**rusted: open, transparent and reliable, continuously learning, doing our best to consistently deliver excellent care for our communities.

Our ‘PACT’ is our shared commitment to embrace and live these Values through our behaviours, both as individuals and in our Trust teams. We would like to thank all the GP practice team colleagues who kindly took the time to help us shape our Vision and Values.



**Our Vision: To provide excellent care for the communities we serve**



## Cancer appointments must not be missed, says senior health leader

Patients are being urged by a senior health leader at Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) not to miss their cancer appointments.

During the first Committees in Common Board Meeting of the county’s two CCGs, Dr Julie Davies, Head of Performance for NHS Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCGs, warned that patients who miss their cancer appointments pose a long term risk to their health.

Dr Davies said: **“Across the county, we have maintained good cancer appointment performance during the coronavirus pandemic and have seen a reduction of over 35% in patients who have been on the waiting list for over 62 days. This is very positive news and The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust continues to bring this waiting list down.**

**“However, we are experiencing a challenge with some patients who are reluctant to go back to hospital for either their cancer diagnoses or appointment. I want to reassure everyone that the county’s hospitals are safe to visit and that patients should attend their appointments.”**

Dr Julian Povey, Joint Chair of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCGs, said: **“It is extremely important that we are able to deliver cancer diagnoses and appointments in a timely fashion so that the best care can be provided to our patients.**

**“NHS professionals have worked hard to put in place the necessary infection prevention and control measures to ensure people can access essential services, seek medical help and attend pre-booked appointments safely during the pandemic.**

**“It is understandable to feel concerned during this time but if you have an important appointment scheduled, particularly where delay can pose a risk to your health, you must attend that appointment.”**

## **Continuity of Carer midwifery teams launch at the Trust**

The Trust is delighted to announce the launch of Continuity of Carer midwifery teams at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital, where designated teams of midwives will care for women at all stages throughout their pregnancy, birth and beyond.

Continuity of Carer is a key recommendation of NHS England's Better Births report and aims to make maternity care more personalised, informed and safe. The new way of working means that expectant mothers will know the midwives caring for them, increasing trust and communication.

To launch Continuity of Carer at the Trust two teams will initially cover set locations in Telford and Shrewsbury. Plans are in place to enable more women to access this model of care in the future.

Nicola Wenlock, Director of Midwifery at SaTH, said: **“It is clear that models of care where women know the midwife who is caring for them throughout their pregnancy journey have a positive impact on improving safety, clinical outcomes, as well as a better birth experience. This will also have an impact on reducing pre-term births, hospital admissions, and the need for intervention during labour. The launch of Continuity of Carer at SaTH has been a collaboration with the Local Maternity Service and Maternity Voices Partnership and our thanks go to them for the support.”**

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at the Trust, said: **“Knowing your midwife can make a big difference to the overall experience of pregnancy so Continuity of Carer at SaTH is great news for both expectant mums and for our midwives. Well done to everyone involved.”**

## **First SaTH patient receives plasma treatment in coronavirus trial**

The first patient in Shropshire's acute hospitals who has tested positive for coronavirus has been treated with plasma as part of a nationwide trial aimed at identifying effective treatments for the disease. The treatment involves the administration of 'convalescent plasma' which is taken from the blood of people who have had COVID-19 (coronavirus) and which may contain antibodies that their immune systems have produced in fighting the virus. The first patient at the Trust received convalescent plasma earlier this month.

Its effectiveness as a treatment for coronavirus is being explored as part of the [RECOVERY](#) trial which is being led by Oxford University. The RECOVERY trial also looked at the use of the steroid dexamethasone, which has been shown to reduce deaths amongst patients with severe respiratory complications caused by coronavirus and has been described as a “major breakthrough” in the treatment of the disease.

SaTH has been successfully recruiting into clinical studies looking at COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic. Eve Wilson, Deputy Head Biomedical Scientist for Blood Transfusion at SaTH, said: **“We were keen to support the Research and Innovation Team in providing a potential treatment for patients at SaTH who have COVID-19. SaTH, led by Mandy Carnahan from the Research and Innovation Team, in conjunction with NHS Blood and Transplant, joined the RECOVERY clinical trial in July. The trial consists of two units of convalescent plasma being given to selected patients receiving hospital treatment for COVID-19, one unit on day one and the second on day two. The Blood Transfusion Laboratory received a small stock of this new blood component at both the RSH and PRH sites at the beginning of August, and earlier this month the first patient at SaTH received the two doses.**

**“We are pleased to be playing our part in the crucial search for effective treatments for COVID-19.”**

The NHS is urgently appealing for more men who have had coronavirus to donate blood plasma as statistics show that men are far more likely than women to give a high antibody unit of plasma. For more information about the programme, including how to donate, visit [www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/covid-19-research/plasma-programme](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/covid-19-research/plasma-programme)