

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Additional imaging facilities in place

The Trust has secured additional imaging equipment to increase the number of patients who can be scanned, as SaTH continues to restore services following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SaTH is also looking at ways to further increase capacity for scanning over the coming months.

Already in place, or scheduled to be in place, are:

- ◆ A mobile MRI scanner, which was put in place at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on 5 October 2020, and will remain for three months.
- ◆ A mobile CT scanner, which was put in place at the Princess Royal Hospital also on 5 October 2020, and is expected to be in use until 2021.
- ◆ A mobile MRI scanner, which will be in place at PRH from November for three months.

In addition to this, the Trust also hopes to secure funding for further permanent CT and MRI units, which would come into service in the New Year.

As well as establishing new physical facilities for SaTH to provide better care during the winter, the additional scanners will allow patients from the Trust's routine waiting list to be scanned.

Nigel Lee, Chief Operating Officer at SaTH, said: **“Over the last few months we have had to make significant changes to the way we work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the temporary suspension of routine radiology services.**

“The addition of these new scanners will allow us to see many more people from our routine waiting lists needing ultrasound, CT and MRI scans as well as x-rays. This will help us to clear our backlog and return to the high performance we were achieving before the pandemic.”

To further speed up the recovery process of radiology services, SaTH is also working with system partners to provide additional appointment capacity. This may mean that some patients receive appointments to attend for CT and MRI scans, as well as chest x-rays, at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital in Oswestry. Patients are encouraged to accept these appointments as it may mean that they can be seen sooner than if they were to wait for an appointment at either the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or the Princess Royal Hospital.

It was recently announced that, in addition to the new scanning facilities, SaTH has been awarded £6.3 million by the Government to establish new physical facilities to help prepare for winter. This funding will be used to create a new Same Day Emergency Care centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to help ease pressure on its A&E, and reduce hospital admissions.

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New calming Sensory Carts to aid SaTH patients

Shropshire's two acute hospitals have taken delivery of two new Sensory Carts to help relax and calm patients living with dementia, and children with delayed learning – thanks to Captain Sir Tom Moore's incredible fundraising. Captain Tom's fundraising for NHS Charities Together has enabled the Trust to buy the advanced soothing Sensory Carts – one for the Children's Ward at the Princess Royal Hospital and the other for the Dementia Ward at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Designed specifically for older adults with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, the Sensory Cart is used for sensory therapy: this also makes them beneficial for children with learning

difficulties, to reduce stress and anxiety. By using lights, soothing sounds, and distraction techniques, the Sensory Cart can help patients to cope.

Jodie Frost, Play Specialist at the Trust, explains:

"The sensory trolley has a bubble tube, sensory lights, a projector, DVD player, TV and a Bluetooth speaker. With this new furniture, we can turn our patients' rooms into a sensory room. Time spent in a sensory room can help patients, from babies to special needs children, to improve their visual, auditory and tactile processing, as well as their gross motor skills.



"We are able to provide our patients with extra sensory stimulation and ensure we are meeting the individual needs of those in our care. We have used the trolley every day since it was delivered and we've had lots of smiles and giggles on the ward."

Karen Breese, Dementia Nurse Specialist at the Trust, said: **"Some of the patients living with dementia become anxious and distressed in hospital under normal circumstances. Add in the COVID-19 pandemic and we have seen a significant increase in many feeling even more confused.**

"The new Sensory Cart has the means to distract people living with dementia and keep them occupied. This helps towards adjusting to the strange environment and use of PPE."

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Services at SaTH, comments:

"COVID-19 has been challenging for all, in particular our adult dementia patients and children with delayed learning. They have been confused and unable to understand the constraints of the virus and to follow social distancing best practices.

"The Sensory Carts provide comfort and reassurance and have a calming influence on these patients, which helps them to face change. Another wonderful donation from Captain Tom's fundraising for NHS Charities Together."



Sharing the speak up message

Throughout October the Trust has been highlighting Freedom To Speak Up Month, and SaTH's Acting Lead Guardian, Chan Kaur, has been travelling around both hospital sites to share why speaking up is so important.

Chan said: **"As Freedom to Speak Up Guardians our job is to act in an independent capacity to support and help drive the Trust to make it a safer place for patients and staff as well as a more open place to work. We offer support and advice to those who want to raise concerns to ensure that any safety issue is addressed and feedback is given to the member of staff who raised it. We also ensure that there are no repercussions for those who have raised concerns."**

Allied Healthcare Professions Day celebrated across healthcare system

Healthcare providers for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales came together on 14 October to celebrate Allied Healthcare Professions (AHPs) Day.

AHPs are the third largest workforce in the NHS covering 14 different professions, 11 of which are represented by the Trust (SaTH), Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust (ShropCom), Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH) and Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT). AHPs, which make a huge difference to individual patient care and the health of the nation, work in these professions:

Art therapists	Orthoptists
Drama therapists	Osteopaths
Music therapists	Paramedics
Chiropodists/podiatrists	Physiotherapists
Dietitians	Prosthetists and orthotists
Occupational therapists	Radiographers
Operating department practitioners	Speech and language therapists

Local AHPs came together this year to record a series of short videos explaining who they are, where they work, what they do and what they would say to anyone considering entering their profession. It is hoped this collaboration will inspire the next generation and encourage young people to consider AHPs a career.

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at SaTH, said: **“Most of us will have seen an AHP at least once in our lives, so AHP Day is a great opportunity to reflect on the invaluable contribution these professions make to our health and wellbeing.**

“The importance of these roles has been particularly highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic where the teamwork and adaptability of our colleagues have shone through. Thank you for all that you do.”

Rachel McKeown, Director of Allied Health Professionals at MPFT, said: **“Our AHPs have been magnificent during the pandemic, stepping up to support each other and deliver care in innovative ways. Many were redeployed into other teams and services and have built new and enduring relationships with colleagues which will be important as we develop new expertise in supporting the recovery journeys of COVID-19 survivors.**

“Thank you everyone, and Happy AHPs Day.”

Claire Horsfield, Deputy Director of AHPs at ShropCom, said: **“AHP Day was created as an opportunity for Allied Health Professionals to celebrate, appreciate, inspire and connect. This year local AHPs have done just that, showcasing the fantastic services they offer to patient care on a daily basis.**

“It’s been a really tough year for everyone, which is why it’s so impressive that AHPs stepped up further during COVID-19 to work with other healthcare professions in transformative, collaborative and innovative ways. Thank you all, and have a great AHP Day 2020!”

Stacey Keegan, Chief Nurse at RJAH, said: **“The contribution of AHPs to our NHS cannot be over-emphasised. There is a huge variety of roles that comes under the umbrella of the Allied Health Professional title, and I think all of us will have received care from an AHP at one point or another.**

“They play a pivotal role in the patient journey at RJAH and I am delighted that we are able to celebrate their importance on AHP Day.”

