

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Trust welcomes Government funding to progress hospital reconfiguration

The Trust has welcomed the announcement that Government funding is being made available to move forward with plans to transform hospital services for the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid Wales.

Health Minister Edward Argar MP confirmed earlier this month that £6m of funding has been approved in principle for the Trust, to develop plans for the Hospitals Transformation Programme and to produce an Outline Business Case.

Welcoming the news Louise Barnett, Chief Executive at the Trust, said: **“We welcome the announcement from the Department for Health and Social Care that £6m of funding has been approved in principle for the Hospitals Transformation Programme. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners and local MPs as we further develop our plans.”**

The Hospitals Transformation Programme will deliver safer care and better outcomes for our patients, reduce cancellations of planned care and also reduce the amount of time people stay in hospital.

SaTH patients in national COVID study

Five patients at the Princess Royal Hospital and seven at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital have been given REGN-COV2 antibodies as part of the COVID-19 RECOVERY trial.

RECOVERY is a national trial led by the University of Oxford. The Trust joined the study in March and since then the team has recruited 86 patients into the trial. This study is currently trialling Azythromycin, Convalescent Plasma, REGN-COV2 and Tocilizumab as treatments.

In June, the national study team announced dexamethasone would no longer be offered as part of the trial as it had been proven to be effective in reducing death by a third in hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19. This medicine is now offered routinely to these patients.

Kelly Hard, Research & Innovation Manager at SaTH, said: **“We are seeing real time benefits for access to treatments for COVID-19. Implementation into practice from research can usually take years, but this is a prime example of how quickly it can happen.**

“It has been a real joint effort with the research team, medical and nursing staff from ITU and respiratory wards, and pharmacy across both sites, as well as with the patients and families who have agreed to participate. As we are seeing increased numbers of positive cases it is even more important to be able to offer our patients access to these treatments.”

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Mid Wales business raises almost £60,000 for NHS Charities Together

A mid Wales-based business has donated almost £60,000 to NHS Charities Together, just days after it was announced that the Charity had allocated a further £143,000 to the Trust for COVID-19 recovery projects.

Bettws Hall Sporting Estates successfully raised £59,185 for the charity that was also wonderfully supported by Captain Sir Tom Moore and his walk for the NHS, through a raffle to win a day's shooting at the prestigious Vaynor Park in Powys.

The family-run business launched the ambitious fundraiser in April with the target of £50,000, but after 186 days of campaigning they smashed their target. Gwyn Evans, Managing Director of Bettws Hall, said: **“We were clapping for our carers one Thursday evening and could see our community spirit was strong.**

“We thought that there must be something more we can do for our heroes on the frontline, so we decided to donate a day at one of our six estates for a full team. We did not ever imagine exceeding £50,000 when we first conjured up the idea back in April.”

The fundraiser came to an end on Friday 23 October when the draw was made for the winning ticket at 4pm by Amazon's Alexa, two hours prior to the Welsh lockdown. In attendance were Russell George AM, Cllr Gareth Pugh, Rosemary Harris (Head of Powys County Council) and Richard Jones (Head of Internal Communications at SaTH). All guests gave a brief speech (*pictured right*), with Richard telling those present how NHS Charities Together funding has already benefited staff and patients at SaTH.



The Trust's End of Life Care Facilitator Jules Lewis also spoke via a video link to explain how her team has benefited from NHS Charities Together funding, enabling them to launch an Emotional Wellbeing Support Programme for colleagues.

Jules said: **“The money you have raised is making such a difference as it really helps support our staff so they can support our patients. Thank you so much, it means the world to us.”**

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Services and the SaTH Charity lead, added: **“I would like to add my thanks to the team at Bettws Hall, as well as all their clients and supporters for supporting the NHS and fundraising for NHS Charities Together.**

“As a Trust we get allocated money from NHS Charities Together and this has already been used to fund some really great projects, making a massive difference to staff wellbeing which indirectly has a positive impact on our patients.”

Examples of where NHS Charities Together money has been spent at SaTH includes: green spaces at both hospitals (including the recent delivery of 34 more picnic benches to add to those already in place), a selection of two-way radios for theatre staff to communicate while wearing PPE, the development of the Hamar Centre Counselling Service, water fountains and dementia-friendly sensory trolleys.



Award-winner Dr Kevin Eardley to highlight plight of the homeless

Dr Kevin Eardley, Consultant Physician and Nephrologist at the Trust, has been presented with a Special Award by the Mayor of Shrewsbury for highlighting the work of Shropshire man William Farr. Kevin (*pictured right*) was presented with the award by outgoing Mayor Phil Gillam, who attended last year's William Farr Memorial Lecture.



This year's lecture will focus on issues which impact on the homeless.

Kevin said: **“Most know very little, if anything at all, about the man. However, Shropshire born William Farr’s life and achievements are so remarkable they need recognition and celebration. To this end I have organised a number of events in his name, one of which is an annual lecture. In 2019, the Shrewsbury Mayor attended. This event highlighted Farr’s work with his close friend and collaborator Florence Nightingale. She was reliant on Farr for turning data she brought back from the Crimean War into information. This showed that more soldiers were dying of hospital-acquired infections due to poor sanitation than of wounds sustained in battle.**

“We also took the opportunity to highlight work done in our communities and hospitals today in support of our veterans and serving armed forces personnel. The Mayor thoroughly enjoyed the evening and I recently received one of the Mayor’s special awards for which I am very grateful.”

This year's online lecture will take place at 7pm on 2 December.

Kevin said: **“During his life, Farr was a social reformer and used statistics to expose health inequalities, and in so doing helped to identify opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable in society. Farr was born into extreme poverty but thanks to the benevolence of Shropshire individuals, including clinicians at the Salop Infirmary and the wider community, he realised his full potential.**

“Shropshire people continue today to work to improve the health and wellbeing of the vulnerable in our society and this year we will have speakers from The Shrewsbury Ark, the Prince Rupert Hotel in Shrewsbury, Barnabas Communities Project and Food Bank, Riverside Medical Practice, and national charity for the homeless, Pathway.”

To join the virtual lecture on 2 December, please copy and paste this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82002192003> or visit Facebook (@ShropshireWilliamFarr) or Twitter (@ShropWillFarr)

Livestock auction raises money for Intensive Therapy Unit at SaTH

The Trust has received a donation from Shrewsbury livestock auctioneers Halls to support the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU) at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Farmers across Shropshire generously donated sheep and calves to be sold to raise funds for the ITU, raising £3979 for the Trust. The auction was held in June at Halls in Shrewsbury, at one of the first livestock auctions to take place following the first Coronavirus lockdown. The money has been donated to the ITU at RSH to provide urgent support to the department.

James Evans, Director of Halls, said: **“This has been an incredibly difficult year for many of us and the NHS has done, and continues to do, tremendous work in the fight against Coronavirus. It is great to be able to give something back. We’d like to thank all of our vendors for their kind donations and continued support this year.”**

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Services at the Trust, said. **“The support from Halls will make a big difference to our ITU team at RSH. The department has been under huge pressures throughout the pandemic and this money will go towards helping to ensure we have funds in place to support them. I would like to express my thanks to Halls and to everyone who kindly donated livestock to raise the money for the Trust.”**