

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Hospital nursing teams celebrated

Nursing teams and the care they provide for patients at SaTH were celebrated on 12 May to mark International Nurses' Day (IND).

This year, as well as showcasing the nursing profession to encourage others to join, IND recognised the contribution made by nurses in all roles, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has meant that nursing teams have had to change the way they work to care for patients and their families at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital. Some also stepped out of non-clinical roles to return to frontline nursing.

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at the Trust, said: **"I have been in nursing for nearly 30 years, and I have never been prouder to be a nurse. I would like to thank our nursing teams for the courage and resilience they have shown during COVID-19, and for the compassionate care they give to our patients, and their families, every day.**

"COVID-19 has shone a light on the nursing profession and the vital contribution and positive impact that nurses make, and I hope that it will inspire others to join a very rewarding and valued profession. Thank you, too, to those who support our nursing teams to do their jobs every day."

Hospitals celebrate ODPs working in theatres

Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) support the anaesthetic, surgery and recovery teams – and care for patients undergoing surgical procedures – every day at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital.

During the pandemic, they saw their roles change with many being re-deployed to support their critical care colleagues looking after patients with COVID-19 when some theatres were turned into extra Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU) space.

National ODP Day was held on 14 May, a day to highlight the contribution ODPs make every day and showcase their profession and the important role they play in patient care.

Mark Cheetham, Medical Director for Surgery, Anaesthetics and Cancer, said: **"Today we highlight the invaluable work our ODPs do every day – supporting colleagues and helping to care for our patients at each stage of their journey through our theatres.**

"I am incredibly proud of how they adapted their roles during the pandemic to work in different areas, using their skills to help care for patients in our ITUs during what was a very challenging time, and I would like to thank them all. I hope this will encourage others considering working in the NHS to pursue a varied and very rewarding career."

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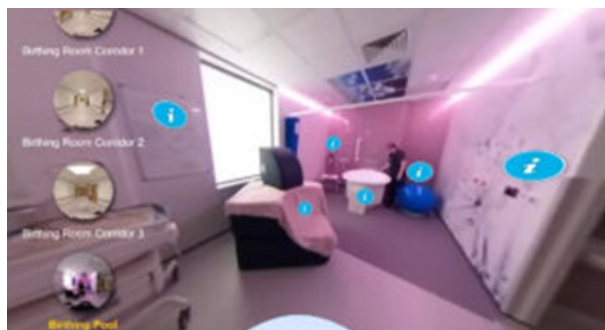
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Maternity virtual tour launched

The Trust is inviting people to explore its Midwife-Led Unit (MLU) from the comfort of their own homes via a new virtual tour.

For those who have booked, or are hoping to book, to have their baby under midwife-led care at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, the 360° interactive tour showcases the facilities offered at the unit, which opened in April 2020.



Created with input from the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP), maternity service users and midwifery professionals, the tour of the MLU provides a completely interactive look at the unit. Information points can be expanded to provide more detail about facilities within the unit's birthing rooms, including birthing pools and modular sofas.

General information is provided on every aspect of a service user's experience, from how to get to the MLU to café opening times on site.

To view the 360° virtual tour of the MLU, visit www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/maternity/360tour. Further tours for the Trust's Delivery Suite, Postnatal and Antenatal areas (including triage) are in development and will launch in the coming weeks.

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at the Trust, which runs the service, said: **“Every experience of having a baby is unique and preparing for giving birth can sometimes be daunting for women and birthing partners. We hope this virtual tour will help mums-to-be and their families to feel supported, prepared and empowered.”**



Emily Evans, Service User Chair for the MVP, said: **“I'm really proud of the work the MVP and SaTH have carried out together on the virtual tour. It's great for people to be able to look round the unit and familiarise themselves with it during their pregnancy from the comfort of their own homes.**

“The MVP is confident the tour will help people feel more reassured and relaxed about what to expect and what facilities are available at the great new unit.”

Elinor Hughes, a service user from Gobowen who is expecting a daughter in October, said **“The new virtual tour is a really useful tool for me and my husband to explore the MLU, particularly at a time when we are trying to stay at home as much possible.**

“I feel more prepared knowing what the room I hope to give birth in looks like and more comfortable during a time that can be full of uncertainty.”

NHS Charities Together donate £220k to Shropshire charities

NHS Charities Together, the charity founded by Sir Captain Tom Moore, has offered support worth £222,766 for third sector organisations in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin to support those leaving hospital.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust Charity (SaTH Charity), the lead charity for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, invited bids from 200 local groups and charities to demonstrate how they could reduce hospital admissions and assist early supported-discharge, and to support vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Bids could include managing the transition of the elderly from hospital to home, mental health support, supporting vulnerable members of the community, and end-of-life care - work that helps to significantly reduce stress on the NHS and provide the wrap-around provision for patients.

SaTH Charity received 28 bids and these were evaluated by a Partnership Panel with representatives from local NHS organisations, local authorities, HealthWatch and the voluntary sector. In late May NHS Charities Together approved nine grants based on their ability to deliver the NHS Charities Together aims.

Successful bids include supporting the homeless to have better access to GP care to avoid hospital admissions, funding for a local dementia group to provide a support network and support for priority groups to access community green space to achieve better health and wellbeing. Successful bids have been offered to STAY Telford, Telford MIND, The Ark in Shrewsbury, Connect for Life, Shropshire Rural Communities Charity, Energise Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, Telford and Wrekin Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), Donnington Community Hub, and Sutton Hill Community Trust.

Julia Clarke, Director of Corporate Services and lead director for SaTH Charity, said: **“We are pleased with the outcome of the bidding process and the opportunity to work collaboratively with third sector organisations that provide such valuable support to our ICS, knowing that they will make a big difference to the care that we can provide to service users in our local areas. No one wants to be in hospital if they can help it, and therefore it is very important that we support organisations to avoid or reduce that wherever possible, or help people in their homes when they return from hospital.”**

Emily Bell, Chair of Trustees at Shrewsbury Ark, said: **“This grant ensures that the most vulnerable members of our community will have regular access to the healthcare that they need, in a safe and familiar environment. It enables healthcare professionals to assess their (often complex) physical and mental health needs from a holistic point of view, with a joined up approach to what happens before and after a hospital admission. In doing so, this grant will not only benefit the individuals who use the service, but it will also help to alleviate the many complex and time-consuming issues that occur when members of our homeless community are admitted to hospital.”**

Debbie Gibbon, CEO of Telford and Wrekin CVS, said: **“Telford and Wrekin CVS and Taking Part are delighted to have received grant funding from NHS Charities Together. The grant will complement the community-based Wellbeing Independence partnership by supporting people to live more healthily across Telford. The Wellbeing community health programme will reduce pressure on NHS services through its focus on early interventions and communication, supporting discharge into the community and improving people’s health. We will work closely with other partners who have received a grant.”**