

## Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

### Scanners for AAA Screening Team after charity boost

A charity has presented the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening Team at the Trust with funding for two portable ultrasound scanners which could save men's lives. The League of Friends of Shrewsbury Hospital has provided £34,000 for the two scanners for the service which is provided by SaTH and the National Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (NAAASP).

The new equipment has already been used for the initial scans of 1,223 men and 9 of these men have been found to have AAAs. It has also been used for follow-up scans on those men who continue to have the growth rate monitored. It is the second time the AAA team has been able to buy two new portable ultrasound scanners thanks to the generosity of the League of Friends.

A simple ultrasound test is performed to detect an AAA, which is quick, painless and non-invasive, and the results are provided straight away. It is part of a dedicated NHS programme to reduce the number of premature aneurysm-related deaths through early detection, monitoring and treatment.

Across Shropshire, screening is delivered by SaTH's technicians in community settings such as GP practices, clinics and at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital.

SaTH's AAA Programme Coordinator, Jessica Smith (*pictured far right with members of the AAA screening team and Sue Hurdiss from the League of Friends*) said: **"We are so grateful for the support from the League of Friends; their valuable work encourages and inspires us in our roles, and their generosity has enabled us, once again, to offer a top quality service."**

Vascular Specialist Nurse at SaTH, Tracey Reece, said: **"The NAAASP service is a valuable screening programme which finds aneurysms that would probably go undetected.**



**The men we see in clinic are extremely glad that they attended their appointments and are reassured that they are being looked after."**

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## Clinical COVID-19 vaccination trial for pregnant women starts

A world-leading clinical COVID-19 vaccination trial for pregnant women has started at the Trust with the first two volunteers recruited.

The Preg-CoV study being carried out at SaTH will look at the best COVID-19 vaccine dose interval for pregnant women with the results helping researchers understand how the vaccine works to protect pregnant mothers and their babies.

The research team is now looking for other mums-to-be to sign up for the study at the Princess Royal Hospital, 1 of only 14 National Institute for Health Research sites across the country.

Dr Will Parry Smith, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, and Dr Adam Gornall, Consultant Obstetrician and Specialist in Maternal and Fetal Medicine, are leading the study at the Trust, along with Helen Millward, Research Midwife, and the wider research team.

Dr Parry Smith said: **“It is great to get the study underway and have our first volunteers vaccinated. The Preg-CoV study is a nationally important trial with real benefit for our patients locally.”**

Participants will need to be between 18 and 45 years old, have no health conditions and be between 13 and 34 weeks pregnant on the day of vaccination. The Preg-CoV study, which is backed by £7.5 million of government funding and led by St George’s, University of London, will provide vital clinical trial data on the immunity response to vaccination at different dose intervals – either 4 to 6 weeks or 8 to 12 weeks.



*Pictured from the left are Helen Millward, Research Midwife, Jess Herrington, Research Midwife, and Julie Summers-Wall, Clinical Trials Data Co-ordinator*

## Five stars for catering at the Princess Royal Hospital

Following a recent Environmental Health Officer’s (EHO) inspection of the main kitchen, the restaurant and ward 6/7 kitchen at the Princess Royal Hospital, the Trust is very pleased to report that the Food Safety Rating awarded has been maintained with the highest level of 5.

The inspection required the Trust to provide assurance on compliance, including the Food Safety Management System, food allergies to include compliance with Natasha’s Law, cleaning, training, COVID-19 controls for the restaurant, and progress on ward kitchen refurbishments.

The EHO noted that the Trust had carried out a review of the HACCP Food Safety Management system and that controls were in place.

The EHO was also pleased to see the improvement of the structure to the ward kitchens following their refurbishment. Trish Purfit, the Trust’s Senior Catering Manager, said: **“I am very proud of the team and I congratulate them all for their hard work and dedication to keeping the service at such a high level.”**

## Cardiology services to be centralised at the Princess Royal Hospital

Inpatient cardiology services are to be temporarily centralised at the Princess Royal Hospital.

Currently there are 24 cardiology inpatient beds at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital but these will be relocated to the Princess Royal Hospital in early 2022.

The move will centralise the highly skilled Cardiology Nursing Team in one location, with the Trust's cardiology patients seeing an increased level of care and a reduction in the length of stay for patients requiring intervention.

Challenges faced by staffing shortages of cardiology medical and nursing staff led to the proposal to switch all cardiology services to the Princess Royal Hospital. The move has been approved by the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, the SaTH Board, and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee following extensive consultation.

The centralisation will be a temporary change and, as and when the Hospital Transformation Programme progresses, services will be relocated to a new facility at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

## Booster programme set for lift off in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

The COVID vaccination booster programme in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (STW) is set for a dramatic acceleration. Local health and care leaders have set a goal of jabbing up to 160,000 people by New Year's Eve – including offering a booster to the 137,000 people aged 18 and over who will be eligible before the end of the year.

It is part of a national drive to see all of the 18 million eligible over 18s across England offered a jab by 31 December in order to maximise immunity ahead of an anticipated COVID wave in January brought about by the Omicron variant.

STW has been vaccinating in excess of 3,000 people a day in recent weeks, but that number is rising fast as a result of increasing capacity in community pharmacies, a scaled-up programme in the GP-led Primary Care Networks and extended opening hours in the region's hospital hubs and vaccination centres.

Angie Wallace, Senior Responsible Officer for the COVID-19 vaccination programme in STW, said: **"This is an ambitious programme but we are confident that we can deliver it. Our vaccination team and all of our health and care partners are working incredibly hard to increase vaccination provision to ensure that everyone who is eligible is protected as quickly as possible across our communities.**

**"Everyone aged 30 and over is able to book their booster jab via the National Booking System and that will be extended to everyone aged 18 and over from 15 December. People will be able to access walk-in clinics as well, but pre-booked slots will be prioritised and we would urge people to book if possible in order to guarantee their jab.**

**"All the evidence shows us that Omicron will be the dominant strain in all areas within a matter of days. Unvaccinated people and those who have had just one or two doses do not have sufficient protection – the clinical evidence shows that people need a booster jab to improve their chances of having good immunity against suffering with symptoms.**

**"Over 18s are eligible for a booster three months after their second dose, and can actually book a slot two months after that second dose. I would encourage everyone who is entitled to take up the offer as soon as they can."**