

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

16/03/2021

On 23rd March 2020, the first UK-wide lockdown was announced with the nation told to Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives. The response to COVID-19 mobilised every part of our health service in a way unlike anything seen before in the history of the NHS. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board staff had to adapt quickly and think differently to keep ahead of the virus, working in new and unfamiliar ways. Across the Health Board, every one of a member of staff, from every directorate has their own story to share about working life during COVID-19.

Critical Care and B7 respiratory ward staff worked long hours wearing hot and uncomfortable PPE, housekeeping teams worked around the clock cleaning hospital sites numerous times throughout the day, laboratory staff were inundated with samples that had to be rapidly tested for COVID-19. These are just some of the stories as our staff came together to face ways of working that were immensely challenging. The selfless contribution of our staff was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020, which included Paula Jane Gallent a Ward Sister who was awarded an OBE for her services to the NHS during COVID-19.

However, in these dark days there continued to be signs of hope with staff and our community going above and beyond to ensure services adapted so patients received the care they needed. We saw protected 'green zones' established to allow urgent surgeries continue and our services moved online with the launch of video consultations.

GP Practices, Dentists, Optometrists and Community Pharmacies adopted new approaches to extend services within the community and support our hospital sites.

Examples of this included 92% of emergency eye care problems being treated in the Cardiff and Vale communities, reducing the need for patients to attend hospital.

A central part of our response to COVID-19 was adapting our services to allow social distancing measures to be followed, which caused us to rethink the way patients could access emergency treatment. As a result, we launched Wales' first 'Phone First' system for emergency and unscheduled care, CAV 24/7 in August 2020.

It is difficult to fit the events of the past year into just one week, but from 22nd – 26th March we will reflect on the resilience and amazing efforts of our staff, partners and the community of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. We will also be commemorating and reflecting on the tragic loss of life that we have all been affected by this past year, including that of healthcare staff across NHS Wales and in our own Health Board. So please join me in saying a heartfelt thank you to the communities of Cardiff and the Vale, along with every single member of staff, across every team, department and directorate in Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board. Diolch yn fawr, thank you.

If you would like to share a photo or artwork to include on our Thank You Wall, please send your messages and photos to: uhb_video@icloud.com

Len Richards
Chief Executive

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

We continue to make good progress with the COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Programme; to date, we have vaccinated nearly 196,000 people (40% of our total population). We are continuing to invite priority group 5, age 65-69 to their GP Practice, and priority group 6, 16-64 with underlying health conditions and unpaid carers, and Priority Group 7, age 60-64, to a Mass Vaccination Centre.

Last week, we held a successful partnership vaccination clinic with British Association and Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) at the India Centre in Splott to vaccinate the local community. The Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething, received his vaccine at our Barry Mass Vaccination Centre and also encouraged others within the Black and Asian Minority Ethnic communities to come forward to receive their vaccine when invited. Our Mobile teams have started to vaccinate the homeless community and we also continue to offer second doses to those in our adult care homes across the region.

In the week ahead, our vaccination programme team is undertaking workforce and operational planning for the new Bayside Mass Vaccination Centre, due to open later this month. Our Mobile Vaccination Teams are continuing to visit care homes where they will be administering the second dose of the vaccine to patients and staff. GP Practices will continue offering appointments to priority group 5, age 65-69 with over 4,000 vaccinations again expected to be delivered in primary care this week. They have delivered first doses to 81% of this cohort, and are on track to complete them by 22 March

Our Mass Vaccination Centres in Pentwyn and Barry will be delivering the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine to priority group 6, age 16-64 with underlying health conditions that could become seriously ill from Covid, and unpaid carers. Second doses of the Pfizer vaccine will continue being delivered at the Mass Vaccination Centre in Splott and the satellite clinic at UHL. We have now delivered 40,824 second doses of the vaccine.

We are aware of the concerns around the Oxford Astra Zeneca Vaccine and are listening to the advice of the WHO, MHRA and Welsh Government and will continue to deliver the vaccine as the safety of the vaccine outweighs the concerns being reported. Chief Medical Officer for Wales Frank Atherton said, "I received my vaccine last week and I would encourage everyone who is invited to get theirs too. Tens of millions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been safely given in the UK. The evidence available does not suggest the vaccine is the cause of blood clots, as being reported elsewhere. People's safety will always come first and we continually and closely review all vaccine reports."

COVID-19 tests now open to people in Cardiff and the Vale with a wider range of symptoms

The Cardiff and Vale Test, Trace, Protect Service is now advising residents to book a coronavirus test if they have any one of a wider range of symptoms. The change will help identify cases of new variants of COVID-19 and identify people who may be at risk of passing on the disease to others without knowing.

As well as the three most common symptoms of COVID-19 - a fever, a new continuous cough or a loss/change of taste and smell - people are now able to get a test if they have any of a new list of other symptoms too. These are fatigue, myalgia (muscle ache or pain), a sore throat, a headache, sneezing, a runny nose, a loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea.

In line with the recent Welsh Government announcement, the service will also be offering all close contacts of those who have tested positive a test, rather than asking them to wait until they develop symptoms, and offering tests to anyone who has had a change in their symptoms following a previous negative test result.

Residents of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan can access a test at any of the regional testing centres, or by using a home test kit. Tests can be booked [online](#) or by calling 119. When booking a test online due to having one of the wider range of symptoms residents should select the option "you have been asked to take a test by your local council".

Bevan Exemplar Showcase

Until March 31st, there will be a series of showcase sessions hosted by our colleagues in the Bevan Commission, each with a unique mix of Bevan Exemplar projects from a wide variety of organisations and specialities. I am very proud that we as a Health Board have six Bevan Exemplar projects being showcased:

GENOTIME: Genetic innovation for intellectual disability / developmental delay
Evaluating novel laboratory testing to understand the impact on diagnosis time and patient experience by Sian Corrin [Session 3: Wednesday 17th March 2021, 09:30 – 11:00](#)

Podiatry: Accessible Care for Everyone
Providing low cost routine and simple foot care for patients who don't meet guidelines for podiatry by Maureen Hillier & Sally Mogg [Session 4: Friday 19th March 09:30-11:00](#)

Let's talk About Porphyria: Better Conversations, Better Experience, Better Outcomes
By Alana Adams [Session 5: Wednesday 24th March 15:30 – 17:00](#)

Foodwise in Pregnancy

Improving access to evidence based nutrition and healthy weight gain information in pregnancy and practical support to enable healthy lifestyles by Lisa Williams [Session 5: Wednesday 24th March 15:30 – 17:00](#)

VIVID ™: Video-supported consent for a Visually-aided Informed Decision

Using digital animation to help explain complex procedures to patients to help their understanding and enable them to give informed consent by Ghali Salahia [Session 7: Monday 29th March, 15:30 – 17:00](#)

GENESIS: Genetic screening for abnormalities in suspected miscarriages

Using prenatal testing in cases of recurrent miscarriage to deliver an accurate genetic result and provide important information for medical management, including treatment decisions, reproductive counselling and supporting patient care by Anna Barrett [Session 7: Monday 29th March, 15:30 – 17:00](#)

Join us at the Shaping Our Future Clinical Services engagement events

You may be aware that our engagement period for our Shaping Our Future Clinical Services has begun. It will run until Monday 19th April 2021.

We need to rapidly evolve to best serve the needs of the public and ensure that we're able to offer sustainable health services for everyone, no matter who you are or where you live. To help shape our future clinical services, we want to hear your views on our vision.

Due to ongoing limitations to face-to-face meetings presented by the pandemic, all of these meetings will be held online via Zoom, hosted by the South Glamorgan Community Health Council (CHC).

[Sign up to one of our events here](#) and we will email you the access details on the day of the event. Welsh language simultaneous translation is available for these events.

This is your chance to have your say on future clinical services are delivered in hospital, in the community and even in your home.

[Find out more about our proposed transformations here](#)

Have your say on the future of our clinical services...

Our next online public engagement event is Monday 22nd March 2021, 7-9pm

Find out more and sign up to an event:

www.shapingourfuturewellbeing.com



Children's Hospital for Wales Completes First Cleft Lip and Palate Surgeries

On 6th March 2021, the first three cleft lip and palate surgeries took place at Children's Hospital for Wales in Cardiff. This was a historic moment both for the families involved and the staff on the many teams that worked together to make this possible.

Prior to this, all cleft lip and palate surgeries for south Wales had been undertaken at The Welsh Centre for Cleft Lip & Palate at Morriston Hospital, Swansea. However, the COVID-19 pandemic offered the opportunity for the Children's Hospital for Wales to collaborate with Morriston Hospital on a temporary arrangement to improve access to these life-changing surgeries

There has been a significant challenge to operating theatre capacity since the start of the pandemic and a decision to temporarily relocate some surgeries to Children's Hospital for Wales required a multi-disciplinary collaborative effort between Health Boards, Clinical Boards and staff.

Our team aim to carry out operations on three children each weekend, which will ensure no child has to wait longer than absolutely necessary for the surgery they need.

The adaptability and flexibility of our staff in taking this on has been a credit to all.

Staff awarded for Welsh Language work

Last week, our Interim Director of Workforce and Organisational Development, Rachel Gidman and Welsh Language Officer, Jessica Sharp caught up with the winners of our new Welsh Language Awards, which we awarded for the first time on St David's Day.

Lorraine Coultis, Dr Hywel Roberts and Lorena Garcia-Wright were each chosen for the awards for their efforts in promoting, progressing and celebrating the Welsh Language in the Health Board.

It's one of a number of initiatives that have been implemented in recent months as part of the Health Board's new Meddwl Cymraeg – Think Welsh campaign, which encourages employees to put the Welsh Language at the forefront of their thinking, and consider how they can contribute to making services more accessible to Welsh speakers.

We know that providing our services in Welsh can significantly enhance care for our Welsh speaking patients, and is something I want to see increasingly become an important part of our Health Board's identity, and it's the outstanding efforts of people like Lorraine, Dr Roberts and Lorena that will really drive that forward.

I'd like to thank Rachel and Jessica for recognising our staff in this way, and our Health Charity for sponsoring this initiative.



Health Charity meets Prince William

Staff from eight NHS health boards and trusts across the UK were honoured to speak by phone with HRH The Duke of Cambridge in his role as Patron of NHS Charities Together. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge became joint patrons of NHS Charities Together in December 2020.

Prince William spoke on the phone (on Tuesday 09 March 2021) to Simone Joslyn, Head of Arts and Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, about the Health Board and the Health Charity's response to the Covid-19 effort by utilising NHS Charities Together funds.

Simone said: "I was delighted to speak to His Royal Highness last week, he was very interested to hear about the response of staff to the pandemic over the past twelve months and he asked me to pass on his and Catherine's thanks to everyone within Cardiff and Vale University Health Board for their efforts during such a challenging time.

"It was a pleasure to inform the Duke of Cambridge about the efforts of our exceptional staff and how NHS Charities Together funds has supported patients and clinical projects and services." [Read more.](#)

Live Q&A with me, this Friday

I will be holding the fortnightly Q&A session live via Microsoft Teams on Friday 19th March, between 12pm – 1pm.

All Cardiff and Vale UHB employees are invited to submit questions that they'd like Len to answer ahead of the event by emailing them to news@wales.nhs.uk, with the subject 'Ask Len'. We kindly ask you submit any questions by 10am on Wednesday. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions live at the event.

[Join the Microsoft Teams meeting on Friday at 12pm using this link](#)

Take part in the Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS)

Led by the [Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity \(CoDE\)](#) and being conducted by Ipsos MORI, this is the UK's first and largest survey of its kind to document the impact of Covid-19, and the lockdowns, on the lives of 17,000 people from ethnic and religious minority groups.

The [EVENS survey is now open](#) and we are recruiting participants from ethnic and religious minority groups who are aged 18 or over and living in England, Scotland and Wales.

Other News and Events

Updated tearoom gives time-out for staff

Through the Covid-19 Charitable Funds Application process, Cardiff & Vale Health Charity has recently supported a bid for funds from St. Mary's Pharmaceutical Unit and Clinical Engineering for new furniture to improve their break/tearoom area.

[Read more](#)

Outside play area at Teddy Bear Nursery

Through the Covid-19 Charitable Funds Application process, Cardiff & Vale Health Charity has recently supported a bid for funds to help the Teddy Bear Nursery at University Hospital Llandough (UHL) with their garden project, linked with bringing the inside activities outside.

[Read more](#)

Enter the Health Charity Easter Raffle.

[Click here for more information.](#)