

Chief Executive CONNECTS



16th September 2020

Dear Colleague,

This week I'm sure you will have all felt the impact of the local lockdown in Caerphilly and the request for us all to wear facemasks while on site in certain communal areas. There is no escaping the fact that with the flu vaccination programme about to be launched, winter is fast approaching and things are starting to ramp up.

This week we made a number of significant announcements. We officially launched the Major Trauma Centre as part of the Major Trauma Network, as well as a 400 bed temporary surge hospital to be built onsite at UHW to enable us to cope with a second wave of COVID-19 and winter beds.

In June, we had details from Welsh Government on the modelling predictions of a second wave and like all other health organisations globally, we have been putting plans in place to ensure that we are as ready as possible. The building of a temporary surge hospital will enable us to be prepared, providing the intense and clinically challenging treatments and rehabilitation that those who experience the ill effects of COVID-19 need.

We are aligning our operational and recruitment plans with the modelling predictions and trajectory of the virus, which means we will continue with our plans to de-commission the Dragon's Heart Hospital seamlessly with being able to accept our first patients at the surge hospital. Many of you will remember that we already have built in additional capacity across our whole UHB estate in order to provide further bed capacity and meet the demands of both COVID-19 and winter.

Yesterday, I attended a COVID-19 feedback session which was attended by around 120 staff. This was an opportunity to thank staff for their work during the pandemic, as well as a chance for staff to give feedback regarding lessons learnt from COVID-19 – thank you to everyone for their contributions.

I recognise that many staff and patients are already feeling fatigue by what lays ahead. But we are all in this together and it is important that as we build up our resilience towards the peak around December time, that we continue to take personal responsibility, wear masks where appropriate, socially distance and keep ourselves updated on the latest Welsh Government Guidance.

Please, listen and act on the latest guidance in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep your patients, families and colleagues safe.

Major Trauma Network goes live

Monday saw the official launch of the South Wales Major Trauma Network which will treat seriously injured patients from across South and West Wales and South Powys.

We held a virtual launch event where speakers from each part of the patient journey were invited to speak and the network was officially launched by Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething.

UHW is home to the Major Trauma Centre which is the first one in Wales and this is a milestone for patients who require major trauma care in the region. The role of the Centre in caring for seriously injured patients is key as part of the wider network in delivering improved outcomes and survival rates for patients across the region.

At the Centre patients will receive 24/7 consultant led lifesaving interventions and treatments and benefit from the right care in the right place. They will have access to experts including specialist nurses and therapists to get them back to the best possible health, and enabling treatment and recovery to take place closer to home as they move through the Major Trauma Network pathway. The Major Trauma Network has Major Trauma Units in each Health Board area so that patients can continue their recovery journey closer to home. Swansea Bay UHB will also provide the plastics and burns expertise as part of the service.

The team has worked tirelessly to get to a go live stage and there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to deliver this vital service especially with the huge challenges more recently with the COVID 19 pandemic. The team also learnt from Major Trauma Centres and Networks across the UK to develop the right service for our population. A big learning point was the inclusion of rehabilitation and therapies to enable a patient to get back to their former selves as much as possible and this is a big component of what the network will offer in each Health Board area.

I would like to thank Cardiff and Vale colleagues and those across the network who have worked collaboratively with us. It has been a fantastic opportunity to work together and we look forward to this continuing as we develop and improve care for the patients within the network region.

You can watch the virtual launch event online here:

[\(Watch with English subtitles\)](#)

[\(Watch with Welsh subtitles\)](#)

[\(Watch with no subtitles\)](#)



Surge inpatient facility announced

On Monday, Health Minister Vaughan Gething announced £33m in funding for a new facility at University Hospital of Wales to manage any potential increases in COVID-19 cases this winter. The new facility will be a modular build next to the main hospital and will offer 400 additional beds.

The announcement follows the news that Dragon's Heart Hospital at the Principality Stadium will begin to be decommissioned. The new build will take shape simultaneously as Dragon's Heart Hospital is decommissioned.

The funding announcement is welcomed and will support our planning for increased capacity in response to current modelling predictions and anticipation of a second spike in COVID-19 cases and hospital admissions.

As a health service we will take on board all of the learning from Dragon's Heart Hospital in terms of design and clinical requirements for a surge hospital and work to the national modelling requirements.

Update on face coverings in healthcare settings

Following the updated guidance on face coverings in public places (*Face coverings: guidance for the public* [Welsh Government](#) Sep 2020), staff, patients and visitors **must** wear a face covering in all indoor public places around all health premises. This includes all corridors, waiting areas, concourse, reception areas, restaurants and shops at our hospital sites.

Face coverings will not be needed in office environments (to include open plan office spaces) where 2m social distancing can be maintained. Where you cannot maintain this distance a face covering must be worn. You must also wear face coverings in corridors and stairwells in our offices, such as Woodland House. Please note that the wearing of face coverings is not a substitute for 2m social distancing and this should be observed wherever possible.

There is an expectation for people to have their own face coverings as they need to be worn in all public places. However, if members of staff, patients and visitors do not have access to a face covering these can be provided in the immediate term. If you use a single-use face covering please dispose of it appropriately in a bin or discard when you get home.

We understand there will be occasions where people are exempt from wearing face masks due to a health condition. We would ask staff and the public to be mindful of this and our values and behaviours when challenging individuals who this may apply to.

Our staff must remember to wear the correct fluid repellent mask (not face coverings) when caring for patients in the clinical settings.

Beat Flu 2020/21

Next week will see the launch of the annual Beat Flu campaign which will run through the autumn and winter season. As ever, the aim of the campaign is to reduce the impact of flu on the population of Wales by encouraging those who are eligible for a free annual flu vaccination to get vaccinated in a timely way.

Staff vaccination programme

Protecting our health and the health of those around us is more important than ever this year and getting a flu vaccine is a key part of this.

[Clinical Board Flu Leads](#) across the Health Board have worked hard to prepare for this year's staff flu vaccination to ensure the vaccine is available to our staff as early as possible. Many staff across all areas of the Health Board have volunteered to undertake the role of Flu Champion in their clinical areas to improve access for staff to obtain their flu vaccine.

The Chief Medical Officer has emphasised the importance of healthcare staff accessing the flu vaccine in a timely manner this year. We would like to see front line staff working in areas where our most vulnerable patients are cared for, getting their flu vaccines as a priority. We all have a duty of care to ensure we do everything we can to protect ourselves, our patients, our colleagues and our families this winter as flu circulates alongside COVID-19 in our communities.

From **23rd September**, the flu vaccine will be available to 'Flu Champions', enabling them to offer vaccinations to all health board staff. I would encourage all staff to identify the 'Flu Champions' in their area to check their availability and arrange for a vaccination to be administered.

We plan to hold a drop-in flu immunisation session for staff later this month (dependent on evolving public health advice) and will share further detail as soon as it is available.

Flu vaccinations in the community:

The Health Board works closely with our partners in Primary Care to ensure that individuals identified as being most at risk of experiencing complications from flu can access free flu vaccinations across Cardiff and the Vale, in their GP practice.

In addition to healthcare workers, the eligible groups identified this year are:

- Children aged two and three (age on 31 August 2020)
- Primary school aged children
- Pregnant women
- People aged 65 and over
- People from 6 months of age with long term health conditions
- Adults with a BMI of 40 or above
- Care home staff with regular client contact and domiciliary carers
- Carers
- People living in Care home or other long stay facilities
- Members of Voluntary Organisation

- Community First Responders
- Household contacts of people on the NHS Shielded List

Individuals aged between 50 and 64 years of age will only become eligible for a vaccination in November, dependent on additional vaccines being made available.

Individuals falling into one of these groups can access flu vaccinations from their GP surgery, Community Pharmacy, or school as appropriate.

Children 2, 3, & 4 years of age and those home educated can access the flu intranasal vaccine from their GP. All primary children will be offered vaccination in school by the school/ immunisation nursing team.

For further information on this year's flu vaccination programme click [here](#) or visit: www.beatflu.org



Marking World Patient Safety Day

Thursday marks World Patient Safety Day and once again this year we will be marking the occasion across Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. We have a proud record and are seen as an organisation that puts safety and quality at the forefront of what we do.

The aim of the day is to increase staff and public awareness of measures that can be, and are being taken, in the interest of both staff and patient safety. The slogan this year is 'Safe health workers,

safe patients' and relates to how health worker safety is a priority for patient safety. Our staff are our most important asset and evidence shows that happy staff means a safer environment.

The global pandemic has presented health services with major challenges and put health workers at great risk. The pace of change has been quite significant and we are tremendously proud of the continued dedication, perseverance and hard work from all our staff. We also recognise during these difficult times the contribution of our local authority and third sector partners that has enabled us to continue to deliver high quality services, we are indebted to them.

As a tribute to World Patient Safety Day in the fight against the pandemic, our Health Board and local councils are lighting up some key sites in orange on Thursday evening as a reminder to our wider community that by following coronavirus guidelines you can help us to care for you. These sites include; UHW, UHL, City Hall and St David's Hall in Cardiff, the tunnel between Broad St and Hood Rd in Barry, as well as Barry Memo Arts Centre. This is not a time to be complacent - a rise in COVID-19 hospital admissions would put our services at significant risk.

The hard work doesn't stop here, this World Patient Safety Day we're hosting a virtual Quality, Safety and Experience Event, and a range of online seminars for staff on patient safety topics. These will help us develop our vision for the future. I'd encourage staff members across the Health Board to take advantage of these opportunities. More information is available via the homepage of the staff intranet.

Thank you to staff across the health board and to the wider public for your continued support, understanding and co-operation.



Significant technology investment for NHS Wales' intensive care patients

Hospitals in Wales are to benefit from a new high-tech digital-monitoring system for seriously ill people in intensive care units following a £13 million technology investment.

Following a pledge by Minister for Health and Social Services, Vaughan Gething, to accelerate digital improvements for critical care, the NHS Wales Informatics Service has signed a £13 million contract with the supplier ASCOM.

The seven-year agreement for ASCOM's Digistat software delivers a managed service and provides a technical platform to develop the all-Wales Intensive Care Information System. Funding is provided by Welsh Government, Health Boards and the Critical Care Trauma Network.

With increasing pressure on intensive care services, the new system will reduce administrative pressures placed on NHS Wales staff and will free-up more time for patient care. More than 10,000 people are admitted for critical care in Welsh hospitals each year.

Automation will make real-time information available across a range of devices, forming part of the patient's digital patient record, streamlining care processes.

Information will also be collated in a dynamic database, which can also be used to benchmark against other healthcare systems and provide a platform for research and potential implementation of artificial intelligence-driven improvements in daily care.

Virtual Hearth Gallery launched

I was very excited to see the Health Board's arts team launch the Virtual Hearth Gallery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hearth Gallery sadly had to close. However, now, as we look at beginning to safely open the physical space again we also must pay consideration to those who will not be able to visit it in person.

The Virtual Hearth Gallery is a new, online space for people to enjoy the fantastic pieces contributed by our network of artists from the safety and comfort of their own home.

The virtual space also works to make the gallery even more inclusive as it is accessible to hospital inpatients in sites other than University Hospital Llandough as well as those unable to leave their wards.

The virtual gallery is hosted on an online platform, which allows users to move around a 3-dimensional space with full control. Instructions on how to move around can be found each time you enter the virtual space.

[Click here](#) to view the current exhibition: the fantastic *With Thanks* exhibition, which is a stunning collection of pieces donated by the people of Cardiff and Vale to say thank you to NHS staff and key workers for their heroic efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Community Midwives celebrate win

I'm pleased to let you know that our Community Midwives have won the Wales and South West England Maternity and Midwifery Festival Team Award.

The award is testament to the hard work and dedication of all the members of the team during very challenging times. To win the award, the team demonstrated that they have excellent inter-professional working, that they can and have transformed services, while being innovative, in the maternity unit, community or home.

To have achieved this over the COVID period is extraordinary and a real recognition of the great contribution they make to the service. Community Midwife, Julie Daly, will be receiving the award on behalf of the team at the online ceremony on Wednesday 15 September. The award presentations take place from 16.15pm. Staff are welcome to join in the awards, please [register your place at the festival here](#). Read more on our [website](#).

WALES & SW 2020
MATERNITY
& MIDWIFERY
FESTIVAL AWARDS

Knit a Rainbow for the NHS – Christine Kerr

On behalf of the Health Board and Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, I would like to say a huge thank you to Christine Kerr who decided to do her Knit a Rainbow challenge, all in aid of helping the staff of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Christine also encouraged other people to get involved to help her rainbow grow, and enlisted the help of tight-knit volunteering team; Julie Eyre, Jean Walker and Trish Williams.

During lockdown, Christine was part of the vulnerable to COVID-19 group due to her underlying health conditions. Despite being in isolation, Christine wanted to show her support for the NHS staff tirelessly working across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan so decided to start fundraising. Christine decided that she would knit a rainbow from Dingle Park in Penarth all the way to the University Hospital Llandough, a total length of 1.5 miles!

We are so grateful of this act of kindness, and on behalf of all the NHS teams here in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, we thank Christine and everyone who helped her from the bottom of our hearts for their inspiring kindness and generosity.

You can help them raise even more by contributing to Christine's page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Christine-Kerr4>




James Sommerin book supporting our Health Charity

As I'm sure you'll remember, Michelin-starred Chef James Sommerin and his family prepared and donated 27,000 delicious meals for our staff during COVID-19. The family have now generously published a book, with the help of Away with Media, which will be sold to raise money for our Health Charity.

The book features photos and comments from our staff and also includes mouth-watering recipes provided by the Sommerin family for the dishes that staff ate during lockdown.

The book is now available for pre-order for delivery in October, you can purchase a copy here:


www.awaywithmedia.com/buy-books/nhs




Cardiff & Vale
Health Charity
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A
LITTLE
HELP
FROM
MY
FRIENDS


JAMES, LOUISE &
GEORGIA SOMMERIN




A book that will raise vital funds for Cardiff & Vale Health Charity is now available for pre-order.




It charts the remarkable story of Michelin-starred chef James Sommerin, his wife, Louise, and daughter, Georgia, who donated 27,000 meals to staff during the Covid-19 outbreak. The book also features recipes for the delicious meals they provided to staff.





£12.85 of every £15 book goes to charity – with the publishers and Sommerins all working for free.



Pre-order TODAY online at:



www.awaywithmedia.com/buy-books/nhs



Executive Director of Finance, Bob Chadwick retires

Last week, we said goodbye to our Executive Director of Finance Bob Chadwick. For those of you who knew Bob he was an incredibly experienced finance director and served Cardiff and Vale well over the past 5 years. Bob was also a real character and despite living in Cardiff for a long period, has always maintained his northern roots. I would like to personally thank him for his professional expertise, wise counsel and calm disposition. He will be missed. I would also like to take the opportunity to wish him well on his impending nuptials this week as he gets married to Annie on Thursday. I wish him every success in a long and happy retirement and marriage!

Chris Lewis is currently acting Executive Finance Director while we recruit to the position permanently. We have had a good response to Bob's replacement so far and the interviews will be held in October 2020.



HSJ Value Awards – entries open

This year has been a really challenging year, one of the toughest of our careers for health professionals. In the wake of the pandemic, more than ever, our teams have risen to the challenge in finding better ways of working to improve patient outcomes and experiences.

The HSJ Value Awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise the NHS teams and initiatives transforming clinical and back-office operations to improve efficiency, reduce variation and drive better patient outcomes.

I would like to encourage teams across the Health Board to apply and showcase some of your fantastic work. You can apply [here](#).

Old website to be removed

You will hopefully by now be aware that a new website was launched for the Health Board last month. Alongside NHS organisations across Wales, we have moved our website to a more modern platform that offers greater web accessibility, in addition to a range of other benefits such as making the website far easier to navigate using smartphones and tablet devices.

With the new website up and running, the time to wind down and remove the old site is fast approaching. Recent visitors to the site may already be aware that the site will be removed from public view on Thursday 1st October. If there is information on the old website that you need, please access and make a copy of it at the earliest opportunity.

You can visit the new website at cavuhb.nhs.wales. Training for services to be able to update their own content will be made available soon. In the meantime, requests for updates can be made via [email to the communications team](#).

HCRW Conference

The role of research in global efforts to identify effective treatments for COVID-19 has been well documented, and I have been proud of the contribution that research staff here at Cardiff and Vale UHB have been making to important findings throughout the pandemic.

I'm sure the exceptional work of our staff will be featured in Health and Care Research Wales' upcoming digital conference on Wednesday 7th October.

The conference will be focusing on how Wales has supported UK-wide and international efforts in the fight against COVID-19 and how health and social care research happening in Wales is making an impact beyond its borders.

You can register for the event and view the exciting list of speakers on the [Health and Care Research Wales Conference Website](#). Registration closes on Friday 25th September.

New iPads for your wellbeing

I have discussed the topic of employee wellbeing regularly in my recent blogs. 2020 has been a tough year for us all, and it's important that we focus on our own wellbeing so that we are able to keep ourselves fit, well and ready to continue providing care for our patients.

I was pleased last week to hear that Barclays had made a generous donation of 20 new iPads to the health board to support employee wellbeing. Our Employee Health and Wellbeing Service will use the tablets to implement a range of activities to support employees, such as assisting those engaged in counselling and occupational health consultations to access online support and resources, and enabling staff otherwise unable to get online to attend virtual wellbeing activities such as wellbeing Q&A sessions.

The iPads will also be put to good use as part of the upcoming flu campaign, as vaccinators will use the devices to input real-time data into the Occupational Health database, enabling the team to avoid duplication, making the data entry more efficient.

You can [find out more about the donation of iPads here](#).



And finally...

I was delighted to read a comment from one of our patients that they were “made to feel like royalty” on a recent visit to our Eye Clinic.

I am hugely proud of the outstanding care that departments right across our health board offer to our patients, and enjoy nothing more than reading the many kind comments and compliments that we receive about the positive experiences they have with us, sometimes in the most challenging of personal circumstances.

2020 has been a difficult year for us all so far, but you have all continued to do a fantastic job in caring for our patients, and I want to thank you all for your incredible contributions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Richards'.

Len Richards,

Chief Executive