



Dear Colleague,

22/08/2022

Last week I thoroughly enjoyed a visit to Cardiff Edge Life Sciences Park in Coryton which will be home to a national genomic health, research and innovation hub. Welsh Government has funded this new state-of-the-art centre which will bring together Cardiff University's Wales Gene Park, the All Wales Medical Genomics Service and Public Health Wales' Pathogen Genomics Unit. This new facility is set to open next year and will be a huge step towards driving forward innovation in precision medicine, which will in turn bring huge benefits for the future health of the Welsh population, as well as the economy.

Thank you to also to Mr Ravi Nannapaneni, Consultant Neurosurgeon, for inviting me to visit the Neurosurgery Department at B4 in UHW last week to join him, Mr John Martin, Clinical Director Neurosurgery and the team who are treating and looking after many patients with highly complex needs, both with acute and longer term care. As the only Neurosciences Department in Wales it was a great opportunity to see the work the team are doing to provide services for this cohort of patients but also to understand some of the challenges the team are having to navigate and reflect on opportunities to resolve a range of issues.

I also had a really interesting meeting with Dr Karen Pardy, Community Director for Cardiff

South West Cluster who kindly invited me to visit Lansdowne Surgery in Canton to hear about the work they are doing with social prescribing in their local community alongside work with colleagues from general paediatrics within the acute setting to build relationships and share expertise and best practice. Great to see such effective collaboration.

Please be aware that Royal Mail services will be affected by strike action on 26 and 31 August and 8 and 9 September. They will be prioritising the delivery of medical prescriptions and of COVID test kits where they can but, please plan ahead if you rely on their services. [For more information, read here on their website.](#)

I want to end by mentioning a former patient Margaret Perkins who was admitted to the Major Trauma Centre at UHW with a traumatic brain injury following an accident at a restaurant in the city-centre last year.



Having spent 12 days in ITU, Margaret, who has made an incredible recovery, wanted to personally thank the teams who supported her during her time in hospital. Reliving her journey, Margaret met the Senior Nurses of the Emergency Unit and Major Trauma Centre, as well as Jamie, the healthcare support worker who was by her side when she was first admitted.

During her visit Margaret commented “There is not a word that is big enough to express my thanks and gratitude to the teams who helped to save my life that day and those who continued to support me throughout my recovery. I wanted to come and say thank you in person, to meet the teams who provided me with exceptional care – without them, I wouldn’t be here.

“From the EMERTS staff, through to EU, Major Trauma, Intensive Care, B4 Neuro and everyone who supported my recovery, thank you will never be enough,”

It was a great opportunity for the teams at each stage of the patient journey to see Margaret, hear her recovery story and see the progress she has made. This is just one example of the incredible work you all do to make a difference to patients. Thank you to Team CAV, who continue to deliver high quality patient care in exceptionally challenging times. I hope that stories like this bring a little sunshine into your day as we are all reminded of the amazing achievements that are delivered despite all the challenges. Thank you and well done to everyone.

Celebrating our colleagues from South Asia

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has proudly supported South Asian Heritage Month which ran from 18th July to 17th August.

Now in its third year, South Asian Heritage Month commemorates, marks and celebrates the cultures of South Asian nations – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Chaplain Sangkhuma Hmar and Youth Board member Athika Ahmed spoke about what the month means to them and why it’s important we all learn about different cultures and heritages. [You can read about Sangkhuma and Athika here.](#)



Pictured is Suzanne Rankin (CEO), Rachel Gidman (Executive Director of People & Culture), Charles Janczewski (Chair of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board), Glynis Mulford (Co-chair of OneVoice), Andrea Liu (Co-chair of OneVoice). One Voice is one of the Health Board’s lived experience networks and aims to give a voice to colleagues from Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority groups.

NHS Wales Awards 2022

Congratulations to our staff at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Health who have been shortlisted twice in the NHS Wales Awards 2022 for the following awards:

Enriching the wellbeing, capability and engagement of the health and care workforce

- Virtual remote occupational skin health clinics for Cardiff and Vale UHB staff: 2-year experience and lessons learnt.

Delivering higher value health and care

- Supportive Care: a Value-Based Approach to Palliation in Advanced Heart Failure.

The Awards recognise how innovative ideas for change can make a significant difference to the patients who need care, the organisations who provide care, and the health and care system as a whole.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 10 October 2022. For a full list of finalists please visit www.nhsawards.wales.

Musical memories made at Health Charity's outdoor cinema events

On Sunday 14th August, Cardiff & Vale Health Charity hosted an [outdoor cinema event](#) at Our Health Meadow.

Despite the soaring temperatures of the heatwave, many came along to enjoy the three free films on offer throughout the day. At 10am we kicked off with some Disney magic and watched Encanto, followed by the story of P. T. Barnum in the Greatest Showman, and finished with a hearty sing-a-long to Mamma Mia.



Thank you to everyone who came along, donated, and baked in the heat with us; the ice lollies were the most popular snack of the day! A big thank you to our sponsors Advantage Healthcare, M & M catering equipment, and Willmott Dixon.