

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

22/12/2020

This is my final Chief Executive Connects of 2020 and I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone reading. This has been an incredibly challenging year; a year like no other. However, the way in which we have pulled together in order to face the challenges that the year has posed us has been unlike anything I have seen in my career previously. From our primary care teams working in the community, to everyone in our hospitals, to our laboratories and our office-based staff, to members of the public in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan who have followed the guidance to keep each other safe, everyone has had a part to play this year and for that I am most grateful. [You can watch a full Christmas message from myself and Charles Janczewski, our Chair, here.](#)

You will have seen news of the lockdown that Wales entered over the weekend and the changes this has made to everyone's Christmas plans. I appreciate how difficult this news will have been for many, as the prospect of not seeing all of your loved ones at Christmas is a bitter pill to swallow. But when I think of my colleagues who will be working tirelessly to care for you over the Christmas break, and afterwards in January when the effects of not locking down would have been truly felt, I do welcome the news; I know it is for the good of us all, even if it does not feel like it right now.

We have seen the devastating consequences of this virus so much already and many of us have lost someone to it or know someone who has been affected by it. Last week, we held a *Time to Reflect* service, and launched our reflection wall for 2020, [which you can see here.](#) I also hosted a live Q&A session yesterday about the position of the UHB which you can catch up with in the [StaffConnect app.](#) I hope to do more in the near future so please join me at the next one if you are able.

However, the benefits of the new regulations will only be felt if we all stay home to save lives. The sacrifices made by so many this Christmas will be undone if others flout the regulations. So please only mix with one other household and only do so on Christmas day, continue to wear your mask, wash your hands and maintain social distancing, and definitely do not attend events such as house parties. As I have written repeatedly, your actions this Christmas could determine who is around the table for Christmases to come.

Thank you in advance for helping all of us in the NHS provide the best possible care by simply following these regulations.

Len Richards
Chief Executive

Vaccination Update

Our COVID 19 vaccination programme is going well so far and as of Sunday evening we had delivered 3069 vaccines to front line and care home staff.

We are receiving enquiries from members of the public to ask when they will be eligible and I just want to please ask that people are patient while we plan this programme. Our current priority cohorts are frontline healthcare staff and care home staff, and we are also prioritising care home residents and over 80s as per national guidance.

Members of the public under this criteria will receive a letter inviting them to contact our booking centre to book an appointment so please wait until you receive this letter. We only have small quantities of the vaccination at the moment and so can only offer appointments based on what we have each week.

At present we are only able to offer appointments at one of our vaccination centres but we are working towards opening our other centres and being able to vaccinate in care homes and other vulnerable people at home through mobile vaccination teams. We will keep you updated when these are ready to go.

Christmas gifts

It's that time of year when patients often show their gratitude for staff through giving gifts. Receiving a bunch of flowers, a box of chocolates or some biscuits is always a great feeling, but this year we must be very wary of also passing on COVID-19.

Our employees have given so much this year and are fully deserving of these tokens of appreciation, but with recorded cases of Covid-19 across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan at record highs and our health service under critical pressure, preventing the transmission of the virus must be our priority. The best gift that the community can give to our staff this Christmas is simply doing everything they can to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

I would urge those who would like to give a gift to keep social interaction to a minimum, wash their hands, maintain a safe two-metre distance and wear a face covering when needed.

People may also want to consider making an online donation to [Cardiff & Vale Health Charity](#), which helps to provide rest and recuperation areas, refreshment facilities and other enhancements that make areas more comfortable for staff, and supports initiatives for the wellbeing of our staff. In addition to considering infection, prevention and control, I'd also remind colleagues of their responsibilities under our Standards of Behaviour policy when it comes to receiving gifts. [You can find out more about giving and receiving gifts on our website.](#)

Executive Team changes

Following the news that Martin Driscoll will be leaving the UHB I am delighted to announce that I have appointed Dr Stuart Walker as Deputy Chief Executive and Rachel Gidman as Interim Executive Director of Workforce and Organisational Development. Stuart has been Executive Medical Director since July 2019 and Rachel has worked in the UHB for many years most recently as Assistant Director of Organisational Development which she was appointed in 2017. They will be starting their new roles in February after Martin leaves us for his new opportunity in Welsh Water. I am sure you will agree Martin has made a big difference in our Executive Team and he will be missed and we wish him well in his new role.

Stuart is a cardiologist by specialty and has over 30 years' experience working across a number of disciplines including medical leadership within an acute trust offering regional specialist services and also in a community and mental health trust. In the relatively short time he has been with us he has made a significant impression across the broad agenda that we have faced and I am particularly impressed by his leadership capability and the multi-disciplinary way in which he approaches his work. I think his input to the Quality & Safety agenda alongside that of Ruth Walker and the team has taken us to a new level and I am really looking forward to the year ahead where lots of this work comes to fruition. Stuart will now deputise for me when I am on leave and he will also develop a portfolio of work in that Deputy Position, his leadership will be very welcomed to this role.

Rachel has been working in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board for many years and her career has been diverse, having started in a clinical role and then progressing as Head of Nurse Education and LED. In 2017 she gained the role of Assistant Director of Organisational Development. Rachel is an enthusiastic and driven individual who invests in people to make a difference in Healthcare. Her drive to facilitate key initiatives such as Amplify and the Apprenticeship Academy, as well as her strategic experience in designing and delivering the Workforce and Organisational development plan for the Dragons Heart Hospital will give a great foundation for her new interim role on the Exec Team.

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating both Stuart and Rachel on their new roles.



Working from home

The Digital Health & Intelligence Team are continuing to enable as many staff to work from home as possible, which was a theme that came up in my live Q&A session on Monday. A significant step forward in progressing this is the tireless work the team is doing to make Office 365 available to all staff. Microsoft Teams has been available for some time now, but the intention has always been for this to be part of the full Office 365 suite.

In the past few days, more than 4,000 members of staff have been moved onto the full Office 365 product, and a further 1,800 are being moved in the next couple of days. All remaining 8,000 staff will be moved to O365 by 21st January. You'll receive an email to confirm that your 'move' to Office 365 is complete, which will include links to guides that show you how to get started with using email and your calendar on your smartphone and mobile devices.

In addition, you will be able to log in to Office 365 on your home PC, and this will enable you to use Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint as well as new applications like SharePoint and One Note. You'll also have cloud-based storage in your own NHS Wales 'One Drive'.

In the New Year, we hope to be able to use some of the authentication and security functions in O365 to enable staff to securely access clinical applications such as the Welsh Clinical Portal or CAV Portal from their personal devices. In the meantime this requires the use of the remote desktop function on a Cardiff and Vale UHB laptop, or to use the apps in Blackberry Good which many staff can still access.

[Visit our website for more information about the roll out of Office 365.](#)

Video Consultations

One of the major developments we've seen in 2020 has been the introduction of videos consultations, which have really been embraced by both patients and staff.

The NHS Wales Video Consultation Service has not only provided a valuable, safe option for continuing to see our patients face-to-face throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has also given patients greater flexibility in how they attend their appointment, reduced traffic in and around our sites, and delivered significant environmental benefits locally.

Since we launched the service in April, we have conducted around 15,000 consultations by video, which we estimate has prevented in excess of 150,000 miles of travel to hospital for our patients. It adds up to around 41 tonnes of CO2 emissions having been avoided in and around local hospitals.

Providing care closer to home. We are continuously looking to develop and improve the service for our patients and staff, and have recently published guidance for staff on how they can effectively use the service from their homes, which is available on the [Attend Anywhere](#) pages on the intranet.

Welsh Clinical Portal App

The Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP) Mobile App, developed by NWIS has been live across the Health Board since July 2020 for all Junior Doctors and Consultants. Since this time, the app has also been made available to both Pharmacists and Nurse Specialists. At the moment, we are the biggest users of this App in Wales. Over 329 Cardiff and Vale staff are benefitting from functionality including:

- Diagnostic result visibility
- Dashboard 'My View' including count of Referrals, Inpatient Discharge Letters awaiting signoff (where applicable) & Results for signoff (where applicable)
- Patient search,
- Clinician, Specialty, Ward inpatient and outpatient lists,
- Patient to-do lists,
- Patient handover text.

If you haven't begun using the mobile app, and would like to get started, please download it via either the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Store (Android Devices) to register your interest.

We will action your request the next working day and send you instructions on how to begin using the app. For any queries on any of the above, please contact the WCP team on wcp.project.cav@wales.nhs.uk

ICF Capital Small Grants Scheme For Care Homes

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to progress, the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership recognises the significant challenges Care Homes are facing on a daily basis. To help alleviate some of the burden, we are offering Care Homes in our region an opportunity to apply for funding to be used to enable refurbishments, equipment or adaptations required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that will reduce loneliness, isolation of residents and enable safe visiting in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The deadline for applications is 4.30pm on Sunday 10th January 2021. Work that has already been completed, and meets the aims of the grant, will be eligible as long as invoices were generated during financial year 20/21.

[Apply here.](#)

Supporting Active Travel in the Vale

As part of our involvement with the Vale Healthy Travel Charter, we are working with Sustrans Cymru and a range of other partners as part of Welsh Government's Active Travel Network Map consultation (ATNM). The ATNM is a plan of routes that will be used to inform where improvements to walking and cycling could be made within the Vale.

To design a network that works for everyone, the Vale of Glamorgan Council are seeking the views of as many people as possible, particularly those who don't currently walk or cycle. This will help ensure that any routes built for walking and cycling work for the whole community.

You can share your thoughts on active travel infrastructure in your local area by using our easy online mapping tool. Simply click on the map to leave a comment:

<https://valeofglamorgan.commonplace.is/>

UHW Lakeside Wing – go 'Behind the Build'

Each week, I've introduced you to key members of the project team behind the UHW Lakeside Wing who are helping keep the project on track and within budget. This week is no exception, meet Norman Mitchell from our Capital, Estates and Facilities team who is the Project Operational Lead (Hard Facilities Management) for the Lakeside Wing. From everyone working on the Lakeside Wing, we wish you a peaceful and safe Merry Christmas.



Other news and events

65 years as the Capital of Wales

On Monday, Cardiff celebrated its 65th anniversary of being the capital city of Wales. It's a privilege to operate in our capital and something to be really proud of, which is why we're refocusing our efforts to celebrate our heritage, culture and the Welsh language through our [Meddwl Cymraeg – Think Welsh campaign](#).

Admiral Insurance Spread some Festive Cheer

The Claims Complaints team at Admiral Insurance have recently raised £1,570 after deciding that they wanted to give something back to their local NHS charity this Christmas and help those most in need. [Read more here.](#)

Virtual Challenge to the North Pole

The multidisciplinary team of therapists, nurses and doctors, at Rookwood Hospital and supporters of the appeal including some fabulous fundraising volunteers have recently raised a fantastic £1,276 for the Prop appeal. [Read more here.](#)