



Dear Colleague,

27/06/2022

Thank you to all if you have been working hard through the hottest part of the year we've had to date. While the warmer weather has been welcome for many who will be enjoying the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the sunshine, it's not always easy for those of you working in higher temperatures.

It's important to remember the ways in which you can be sun safe and protect your family and loved ones too. Using high protection sunscreen, staying hydrated with plenty of fluids and staying in the shade where possible can all help you in the warmer weather. For more tips on staying safe, [read our website article here](#).

Last week I was delighted to attend Our Health Meadow at University Hospital Llandough which is an absolutely inspirational project that is creating a new kind of space for health care delivery. Access to green space is so important and the meadow is a wonderful opportunity to do that. I joined Vaughn Gething MS and Simone Joslyn, Head of Cardiff & Vale Health Charity and Arts Programme to join the formal presentation of our prestigious Building with Nature Full Award – the first of its kind in Wales. [Read more here](#).

I attended the Terrence Higgins HIV event at the Senedd which marked forty years since Terrence Higgins himself became the first

named person to die of an AIDS-related illness in the UK. Terry's friend, Martyn Butler, spoke at the event which was very moving and it gave all those who attended the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come over the past four decades. First Minister, Mark Drakeford outlined the Welsh Government's vision for no HIV transmissions in Wales by 2030 with no community left behind and no stigma.

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Artificial Limb and Appliance Service (ALAS) too where I met with Paul Rogers, Directorate Manager who introduced me to some of the fantastic work being done by the prosthetics team, the artificial eye service, orthotics, physiotherapy and Electronic Assistive Technology. Thank you to Paul as well as Heather Bassett, Claire Allen-Bull, Jo Burton and Jeff Morris for your time and insights.

I also met with Dr Cherry Shute and Dr Biju Mohamed, clinical leads from the Cardiff and Vale Memory Team which was established 30 years ago and has been a flagship service across Wales since then. The team are delivering excellent care for older people living with dementia and other cognitive disorders, currently looking after 3,000 individuals and their carers. We had some useful discussions about ways in which the service can be further expanded and continue to improve care for those affected.

To mark Learning Disabilities Week, I visited the Project Search team who are making a huge contribution to our organisation. The Health Board became a Project Search organisation in 2021 and I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet some of our interns who have joined us across UHW in pharmacy, cellular pathology, catering, switchboard and linen departments. You can read more about Project Search in last week's issue of CEO Connects.



The Staff Recognition Awards is fast-approaching and is always a key event in our Health Board calendar. It's our way of highlighting the amazing achievements of our staff over the past twelve months. After the most challenging period in NHS history, the events gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and the challenges we have overcome together. The awards are being held on 14 July and I am very much looking forward to attending my first one as CEO of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and congratulating some very worthy winners. Keep an eye on our social media channels for more.

You will have no doubt heard about the planned fuel protests on 4 July which is set to cause travel disruption across many parts of the UK including the Severn Bridge. Please check the news regularly if you are planning to travel on that day and make alternative arrangements if you can.

Have a great week everyone, and please take care of yourselves.

### Mobile ophthalmology theatres reduce cataract surgery waiting times

To accommodate the growing number of patients requiring cataract operations, Cardiff and the Vale UHB had to innovate the way services were delivered to reduce waiting times and improve outcomes for patients. In order to treat patients critically ill with COVID-19, the difficult decision was made to pause many of our elective treatments. This resulted in a significant number of patients waiting for procedures including cataract operations, and in order to reduce these waiting times, the Health Board identified an opportunity to improve access to eye care services.

To reduce the overall number of patients waiting for day surgery, the Health Board took a targeted approach identifying that the new ophthalmic hub would significantly reduce the number of patients waiting for cataract operations. After successfully securing funding from Welsh Government in 2021, the Health Board was able to establish two state-of-the-art mobile ophthalmology theatres at UHW.

The temporary theatres were built and operationalised in just nine months, with teams from across all disciplines working together to help restore activity to pre-pandemic levels and beyond. The team are working to increase cataract activity through the mobile theatres, increasing activity from 138 patients per month to 400 per month on average.

The mobile theatres are just one of a number of initiatives being progressed across the Health Board to reduce waiting times. Across our eye care services more patients are being seen as a result of teams maximising the use of digital advancements, increasing training for optometrists and specialist nurses and working collaboratively to provide more services in a community setting.

This work is one of a number of projects being supported by the Health Board's Recovery and Redesign programme, which aims to restore services impacted by the pandemic, transform clinical pathways and in doing so, enhance services for patients by increasing activity and improving access to care.

### All Wales Psychiatric Genomics Service launches

I'm delighted to announce the launch of the All Wales Psychiatric Genomics Service; a 'UK first' initiative designed to provide genetic counselling and access to genetic testing for people who are genetically more likely to experience a mental health disorder.



This global leading national service which was featured in the media last week – [read more here](#) - is facilitated by a multi-faceted partnership of experts from the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS), Cardiff University's MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics & Genomics, the National Centre for Mental Health (NCMH), NHS Mental Health Services and members of the public and is a credit to everyone involved and will be hugely beneficial to the citizens of Wales and beyond.

Cutting-edge research and innovation of this kind is an essential part of transforming services and improving outcomes for service users, their families and loved ones. I'm enormously proud and humbled to be involved this prestigious programme.



## Cardiff Neuro-Oncology Centre recognised with Tessa Jowell accreditation

We are very proud that the Cardiff Neuro-Oncology Centre has been awarded the Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence status by the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission.

The Cardiff Neuro-Oncology Centre, which comprises of University Hospital of Wales, Velindre Cancer Centre and Cardiff University, was recognised for its exemplary commitment to service development and improvement.

The committee praised the rigour and dedication with which the team took to developing the service and commended its impressive rehabilitation pathway and enthusiasm. It has shared its best practices through the Tessa Jowell Academy for other centres to learn from.

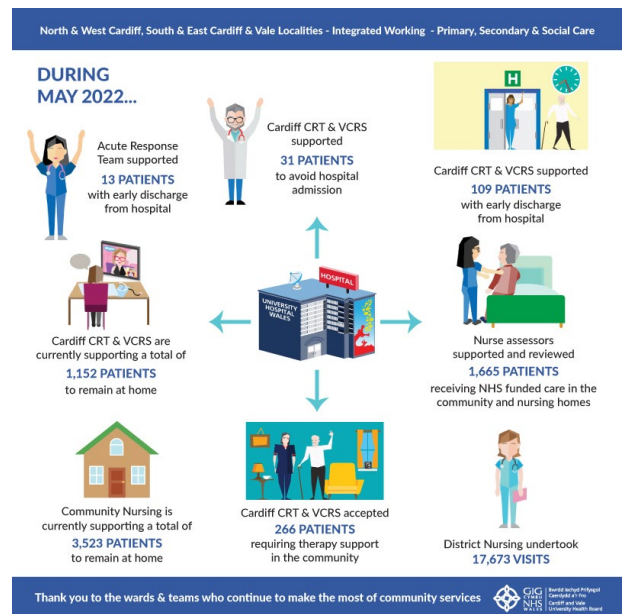
George Eralil, Consultant Neurosurgeon at the University Hospital of Wales and Welsh Cancer Network Lead for Brain and CNS, said: "Neurosurgical Oncology at the University Hospital of Wales has developed rapidly over the last few years.

"We have now a fully subspecialised Brain and CNS Cancer Surgery team with further subspecialisation in paediatric, awake and white matter surgical techniques. Wales is now on the neuro-oncology map of the United Kingdom as we take immense pride in welcoming the FUTURE-GB trial amongst others into Cardiff.

"The Tessa Jowell accreditation as a Centre of Excellence is inspirational and humbling at the same time."

## Delivering Care in the Community in May

Within the community, our nurses have a dynamic and varied role, delivering care in people's homes, community settings, GP surgeries and clinics every day. During May, our varied team of healthcare professionals supported patients to ensure they received safe and effective care, that not only enabled them to remain in the comfort of their own homes, but also, where possible, helps to prevent hospital admission.



Our District Nursing teams carried out 17,673 visits to patients in community settings completing roles such as wound care, diabetic care, catheter care, medication administration and palliative care.

Community nurses are currently supporting 3,523 patients across Cardiff and Vale to remain in their own homes and Nurse Assessors supported and reviewed 1,665 patients to ensure they were receiving safe and appropriate care for their needs in community settings and nursing homes.

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The Cardiff Community Resource Team and Vale Community Resource Service, both teams of multi-disciplinary professionals who are supporting patients within their community to avoid unnecessary hospital stays and receive care at home, helped 109 patients with early discharge from hospital and accepted 266 patients who require therapy support within the community.

The Acute Response Team of experienced nurses, who work to expedite discharge from hospital or prevent hospital admission, supported 13 patients to leave hospital early and return home.

Thank you to our Community Nursing Teams, your work does not go unrecognised. Thank you to the teams and wards who continue to make the most of our community services.

### **Celebrating the LGBTQ+ community during Pride month**

In celebration of Pride 2022, we wanted to take the opportunity to promote our LGBTQ+ colleagues who shared their personal stories and what Pride means to them. During Pride Month this June, we recognised how far LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance have come, but also far we still have to go.

[Read some personal stories from a few LGBTQ+ members at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board here.](#)

We are proud to be one of Wales' most LGBTQ+ inclusive employers, coming 37th in Stonewall Cymru's Top 100 Employers List this year.

In its report, Stonewall praised Cardiff and Vale UHB for being a "massive advocate of empowering individuals" and described our

dedication to actively sharing workplace experiences of intersectional LGBTQ+ people as "powerful".

Mitchell Jones, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Welsh Language Senior Manager at Cardiff and Vale UHB (he/him), said: "We are dedicated to creating an inclusive work environment for everybody and this shows that we have not only made fantastic progress but are well on our way to increasing inclusivity for our LGBTQ+ colleagues." You can read more about why we are one of the UK's most LGBTQ+ inclusive employers [here](#).

We are delighted that the Welsh Ballroom Community have been commissioned to produce a special performance as part of our Pride 2022 celebrations. The performance will showcase the essence of ballroom and how it has become a safe space for people to express their individuality without judgement.

The Welsh Ballroom Community was founded two years ago and has received international support from Kyle London Tisci of The Impeccable Haus of Tisci and Cai Revlon of The Iconic House of Revlon; two well-established international houses originating from the ballroom scene in the USA.

Look out on our social media channels for more information.

### **Purchases across the Health Board to allow patients to have a more comfortable and efficient experience**

Funding from NHS Charities Together has supported Cardiff & Vale Health Charity to purchase several new items across multiple Health Board Departments to contribute to a more comfortable and efficient experience for patients throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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Colour Changing Mood Lamps for the Maternity Unit  
Modern Dictation System Introduced to Noah's Ark's Children's Hospital  
The Purchase of New Equipment to Help the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma <https://healthcharity.wales/purchases-across-the-health-board-to-allow-patients-to-have-a-more-comfortable-and-efficient-experience/>

## Hear Mal Lewis's story for 2022 Reserves Day



Reserves Day took place last week to celebrate the contribution the armed forces make to our country. Reservists play a central role alongside regular units to meet defence requirements and provide assistance in specialist areas such as the medical and communications fields. They are integral to protecting the nation's security at home and overseas and as a supporter of the Armed Forces, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is proud to work with 11 reservists. This year, we spoke Emergency Nurse Practitioner Mal Lewis, about his career in the Army reserve. [Read Mal's story here.](#)

## Art Takes Over Main Corridor of UHW

The Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme has commissioned several large pieces of artwork that are now on full display in the main corridor of University Hospital Wales. With thanks to Capital, Estates & Facilities, the walls were brightened with fresh coats of paint, new flooring, and lighting, allowing our artwork to stand out. <https://cardiffandvale.art/2022/06/21/art-takes-over-main-corridor-of-uhw/>