

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

28/09/2021

Thank you for taking the time to read my first issue of Chief Executive Connects as Interim Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale UHB. I am excited to lead the organisation through this period of transition over the next few months and will endeavour to lead with authenticity through what promises to be a challenging winter period.

If the COVID situation permits, I look forward to visiting our hospital sites and taking the chance to meet with staff across the system alongside patients and their families where possible. It is vitally important that we listen and learn from their experiences, and understand the live issues which matter most as we continue to progress our 10-year strategy, *Shaping our Future Wellbeing*, in the context of the pandemic. I will also be taking over the live Q&A sessions which will take place monthly on Microsoft Teams and am looking forward to maintaining these as spaces in which we can have open, honest, and frank discussions about our system.

I am keen to continue to support innovation and improvement within the Health Board and maintain the track record in this field of which we can be proud. I am also very interested in the principles of sustainable healthcare and will begin working with teams across the UHB to establish how we can implement and embed these practices into our everyday business.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome Professor Meriel Jenney as Interim Executive Medical Director and remind you of some of the recent changes to the senior medical team. Dr Richard Skone will continue as Assistant Medical Director for Workforce and Dr Rajesh Krishnan will continue as Assistant Medical Director for Patient Safety and Clinical Governance. Dr Rachel Lee has been appointed as Assistant Medical Director for Cancer and I would like to welcome her to the role and look forward to working with her to lead the UHB's Cancer Strategy.

Steve Curry, our Chief Operating Officer has also been appointed as acting Deputy Chief Executive for the next few months until he takes up a new position as Chief Operating Officer in North Bristol NHS Trust in January 2022.

You may have seen yesterday's announcement that Suzanne Rankin will be joining us as our new CEO after the New Year which is fantastic news.

Suzanne has comprehensive experience of working across a range of NHS environments including national and local leadership roles, and has been Chief Executive of Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since 2014, joining their Board as Chief Nurse in 2010.

I am very much looking forward to working alongside Suzanne when she takes up her new position with us, which is expected to be on 1st February 2022. We are developing a programme of engagement events and activities to enable Suzanne to meet as many staff, patients and partners as possible once her role begins, and we'll be sharing further details about this in due course.

You can find out more about Suzanne's appointment [by reading yesterday's announcement here.](#)

This Thursday (30th September), I will be participating in my first board meeting as Interim Chief Executive and would invite you to join the meeting via teams from 12pm by [following this link.](#)

Prof Stuart Walker
Interim Chief Executive

Cardiff Joint Research Office launches

On Thursday, I attended the launch of the Cardiff Joint Research Office, a new collaboration between our Health Board and Cardiff University.

This is something that we have been working hard to achieve for a number of years, and I'm delighted that it has now come to fruition, beginning an exciting new era for research in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The new office supports will bring our workforces together in one space, facilitating a joint approach to the development and delivery of healthcare research. Together, we aim to make Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan one of the best places in the UK for clinical research, which will help to improve the health and wellbeing of people locally, in Wales and beyond.

Our research teams have been in the spotlight for the leading role they have taken in global efforts to find effective treatments for COVID-19, but their contribution to finding tomorrow's treatments for today's illnesses extends far beyond this with thousands of patients participating in clinical trials each year.

The research office is the first of its kind in Wales and it will enable us to take that work to the next level, delivering high quality and high impact research to help improve patient outcomes worldwide.

[You can find out more about the new Cardiff Joint Research Office here.](#)

South Wales NET service up for BMJ award

This week is an exciting one for the South Wales Neuroendocrine Tumour Service (NET), as the team is in the running to be named Cancer Team of the Year at this year's BMJ Awards.

The team was named a finalist for the award last week for the transformation work they have undertaken to improve the service for patients with NETs across the region, through improving communication and coordination across teams and organisations, training cancer nurse specialists and dietitians, and providing access to enhanced diagnostics and therapies.

Their great work has added up to an incredible improvement in patient satisfaction, which now stands at 95%. I wish them all the best of luck ahead of tomorrow's virtual BMJ Awards ceremony.

Recovery & Wellbeing College Launches Autumn Term Prospectus

The Cardiff and Vale Recovery & Wellbeing College has launched part 1 of its Autumn Term Prospectus. The college provides free educational courses on a range of mental health, physical health and wellbeing topics. Anyone is welcome to enrol as a student and courses take place online or in-person at venues across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Peer support is at the core of all courses, all co-produced and co-delivered by health care professionals and peer trainers with lived experience of mental and physical health challenges. Course leads use their experience to support others.

Courses available for part 1 of this term include; Understanding Anxiety, Living Well with Bipolar, I just Can't Sleep, Discovering Self-Compassion, Staying Healthy in Body and Mind, and many more. Take a look at the new prospectus and sign up now to avoid missing out.



Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale

**Coleg Adfer a Lles
Recovery &
Wellbeing College**

Join the Bevan Commission's online Intensive Learning Week

Challenge, change and champion for better health and care: 29 November – 3 December 2021, Online

Registration is now open for Wales' first intensive learning week focusing on health and care innovation and transformation. Delivered jointly by the Bevan Commission and the All-Wales Intensive Learning Academy for Innovation in Health and Social Care, this intensive learning week provides a unique opportunity to take time out to challenge, change and champion the way you think and work with others to improve health and care.

Aimed at front-line health and care workers, health and care service managers, and those working on health and care-related products or services, this varied and highly interactive five-day programme will include a mix of presentations, case studies, discussion panels, virtual on-site visits, small discussion and working group sessions and coaching.

You will have time to work with a service/case scenario brought from your local context, by immersing yourself in a range of topics, issues and practical tasks and applying the insights and learning with other like-minded people and the course delivery team.

Scholarships are available for individuals working in the healthcare/third sectors in Wales.

[Learn more and register.](#)

CAV Eisteddfod

There's just a couple of days to go for staff to enter our 'CAV Eisteddfod' arts competition.

The Cardiff & Vale Health Charity has teamed up with our Employee Health and Wellbeing Service and Welsh Language team as part of our Meddwl Cymraeg campaign to launch the new arts competition for staff. The theme for entries is 'A Place of Happiness', to celebrate the Welsh language and culture and the positive impact they can have on our wellbeing.

Whether it's a poem, short story, painting or photograph, we're accepting written and visual submissions that represent your place of happiness, which could be a location in Wales, somewhere in your neighbourhood or a mental space that you like to visit to support your wellbeing.

There are £50 Amazon vouchers available for four chosen winners thanks to Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, and all staff regardless of their arts experience are welcome to enter by emailing their submissions to Cav.Welshlanguageteam@wales.nhs.uk by no later than Thursday 30 September 2021.

We're lucky to have a talented workforce right across the organisation, so I'm really looking forward to seeing the entries that come through. Wishing the best of luck to everyone who takes part.

Children, Young People and Family Health Services welcome Kickstart recruits

Welcome to Amarah, Connor, Jeevan, Joseph, Macauley and Sherif, the new Kickstart Scheme recruits who have joined the Children, Young People and Family Health Services directorate!

They have been supporting the directorate's ongoing digital transformation, as well as helping to implement e-prescribing and developing website content to help us communicate with children, young people and families.

At the Kickstart Celebration Event at St David's Hospital on Monday 20th September, they shared their experiences so far with Rose Whittle, the directorate General Manager, and gave some useful feedback about how we can welcome young people to our teams in the future.

We're pleased to say that one of our Kickstart recruits has already moved to a full time role with IT Security and Information Governance.

Thank you to all of our Kickstart recruits for your hard work in supporting Children, Young People and Family Health Services!

Other News and Events

Value in Health Week

Value in Health Week begins on the 8th November. The event is a week-long series of discussions, presentations and practical workshops that are geared to all health care professionals, but particularly those with an interest in value based healthcare and it's continued implementation across the NHS as part of the 'A Healthier Wales' strategy.

[The full event schedule and registration can be viewed here.](#)

Collaboration with Grosvenor Interiors

The Arts for Health and Wellbeing team are pleased to have once again worked with Grosvenor Interiors to design and install three new vinyl artworks in CHAPS, Peter Gray House and the Therapies Rehabilitation Room.

[Read more](#)

FREE Bike Health Check sessions

FREE Bike Health Check sessions are still available across our sites for September and October. The first session is next Tuesday at Woodland House.

[Sign up here.](#)

Splash of Pink

On the weekend of 23rd/24th October 2021, the team at Splash Central are hosting 'Splash of Pink' - a weekend of events all raising funds and awareness during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and all directly in aid of the Breast Centre Appeal.

[Read more.](#)

World Alzheimer's Day 2021

To mark World Alzheimer's Day, Tom and Tim on the Kickstart Team for the Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme arranged a virtual afternoon of activities for the patients with Alzheimer's at St David's Hospital, with the support of Mental Health Matters and cake donations from local bakeries.

[Read more here](#)