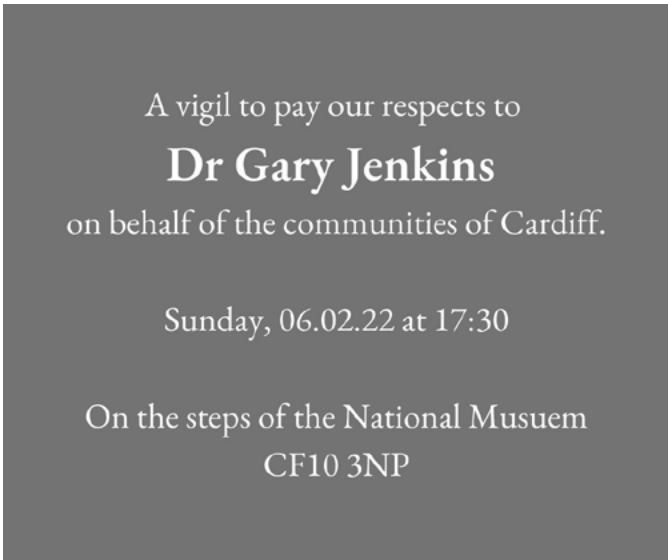
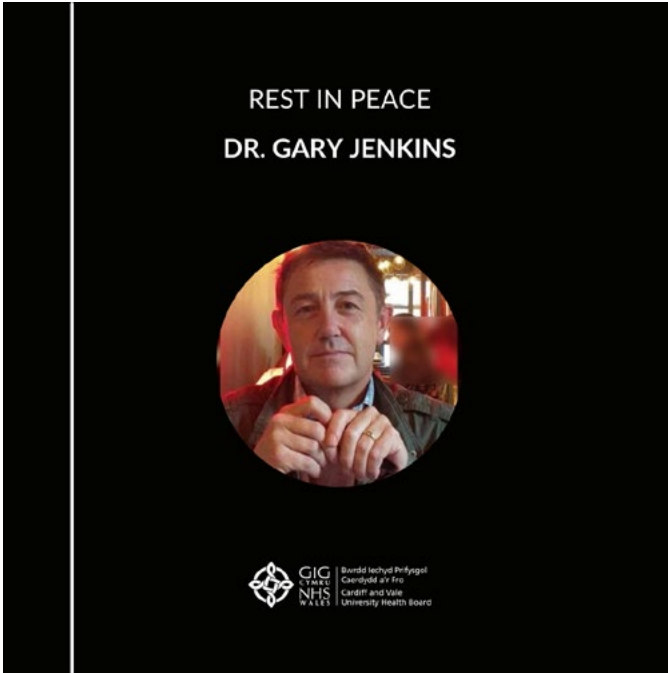




Dear Colleague,

04/02/2022



I want to start by paying tribute to our colleague Dr Gary Jenkins.

Dr Gary Jenkins was a dedicated and committed doctor who was proud to work in the NHS. We are devastated by the traumatic and horrific circumstances in which his life was taken and we stand against homophobia in any guise. I hope the verdict yesterday at least brings some comfort to his family, friends and colleagues that justice has been served.

We want Dr Gary Jenkins to be remembered as the professional he was, committed to doing the best for his patients with kindness and integrity.

Stonewall have organised a vigil to pay respects to Dr Gary Jenkins, on behalf of the communities of Cardiff this Sunday 6th February at 5.30pm on the steps of the National Museum in Cardiff, CF10 3NP.

We appreciate the last few weeks, and in fact months have been an extremely distressing time while the trial to get justice for Gary has been played out publically. As a UHB we stand against violence, aggression and discrimination of anyone and if you are a victim of a hate crime please report it and seek support.

Gary – you will be missed  
Rest in Peace

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I am delighted to be joining the team this week as Chief Executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

It is a privilege to be a part of the National Health Service in Wales, particularly during these challenging times and I hope to build upon the strong legacy of my predecessors, particularly around our strategy, *Shaping our Future Wellbeing*.

As I start my first week I intend to have a period of discovery, where I meet as many staff and partners as possible and find out how things are for you and what matters to you. My job is to work with colleagues, the Board and the leadership team to enable you all to keep doing the things you do brilliantly but also to support you when we need to meet challenges head on and implement change.

I am curious by nature and will be asking questions and learning about the whole system from community to secondary services to the very niche specialist services we offer the people of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and for the whole of Wales.

As a career nurse by background and my service in the Royal Navy I know how important it is to build strong and resilient teams. I firmly see my role as a facilitator - to help colleagues and partners to do their job to the best of their ability and feel valued for doing so. This means together we give high quality, compassionate patient treatment and care as well as taking care of each other.

Please follow me on my [personal twitter account](#) as well as through the official [UHB twitter channels here](#).

I have already received a very warm welcome and I am delighted to have the opportunity to work alongside you all and look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months to come as part of #Team CAV.

Read more about my career to date on the [CAVUHB website](#) and [watch my welcome video](#).

I would like to thank Professor Stuart Walker for his support and assistance to me over the past few months. We have had weekly meetings on the run up to my start date and he has done a sterling job in regularly keeping me informed, helping me navigate my way through the Welsh health system and a very large and complex University Health Board structure and strategy. I have come to value his insight and respect him very much over the last few months. Sadly for Team CAV, as many of you are aware, we are losing Stuart to take up the post of Medical Director at the University Hospitals Bristol. Stuart will be a huge loss to our team, many of whom across the whole organisation and especially our medical colleagues have felt the benefit of his leadership, experience and wisdom. Stuart has made a significant contribution to many aspects of the organisation, some of which was highlighted in last week's [last week's CEO Connects](#). Best of luck for your new role in Bristol and the future Stuart.

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## Mass Vaccination Centres

Our Mass Vaccination Centres provide a safe environment space to maintain social distancing while allowing more people to be vaccinated as efficiently and as quickly as possible. Whilst some people have been unable to attend vaccine appointments, the daily service at our Mass Vaccination Centres give you the opportunity to receive your first, second and booster doses without the need for an appointment. The Centres are located at Bayside, Splott and Holm View, where you can turn up without the need for an appointment.

If you are aged 16 and over you can walk into any centre but children aged 12-15 can only attend Bayside and must be accompanied by an adult.

[Further information on the times and locations can be found on our website.](#)

## LGBTQ+ History Month

This week marks the beginning of LGBTQ+ History Month. The annual campaign observes the history of the LGBTQ+ community, and aims to promote equality and diversity for its people through increasing visibility and understanding of the issues they face.

Sadly, the LGBTQ+ community continues to experience significant inequalities. Everyone should be able to feel comfortable in their own skin and it's important that collectively we all keep taking positive steps forward to tackle issues such as homophobia, biphobia and transphobia to help achieve that.

I'm aware of good work that's been happening within the organisation to embed an increasingly inclusive culture, which is certainly something

I want to see us continuing to build upon. An important component of ensuring that happens is to improve awareness and understanding. I would therefore encourage everyone to take the opportunity to get involved in activities taking place throughout LGBTQ+ History Month, such as those being shared internally for NHS Wales employees.



## COVID-19 Operational Update

There has been a slight rise in overall PCR rates in the last week which has been driven primarily by cases among under 19s although cases in school-age children have started to fall in the last 5 days.

There continues to be a heightened level of pressure across our system, with high occupancy remaining the driver behind current challenges. Admissions to the Emergency Unit are also slowly continuing to increase, and volumes of suspected COVID-19 attendances remain high but hospital admission is starting to decrease. Whilst the IP&C position has stabilised, norovirus, flu and COVID-19 are circulating within communities and are having an impact on capacity.

Working with colleagues and partners, we are agreeing an approach and actions to help to alleviate pressures on the system, workforce position and expediate discharges.

I would like to thank you all for your continued hard work, commitment and professionalism during challenging times. If you or one of your

colleagues or team members require any further support, please take advantage of the support from [Employee Health & Wellbeing Services](#) or raise any concerns with your line manager.

As the picture with flu is looking slightly different this year to previous winters, we strongly encourage colleagues to take up their flu vaccination to protect patients, themselves, their families and the communities we serve. The CAV Team vaccination rate is lower than in previous years which is a concern and since it is an important part of the strategy to support everyone's safety, health and wellbeing I would really encourage unvaccinated colleagues to give it some serious thought. It's really not too late to have your flu jab! More information can be found on [StaffConnect about how you can access your free flu vaccination or Flu Champion.](#)

### Transnasal Endoscopy trial underway

A project is underway, lead by Dr Hasan Haboubi, Consultant Gastroenterologist in Cardiff and Vale, and Dr Dai Samuel, Consultant Hepatologist in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, to deploy Olympus gastroscopes in dual site transnasal endoscopy (TNE) clinics. The six-month trial will test and demonstrate the value of TNE in a Welsh health context.

Endoscopy is particularly valuable in identifying pre-cancerous lesions (collection of cells from the body's organs that may look and appear to be the same as cancer cells) and early forms of cancer where the tumour can be amenable to curative treatment.

The trial is funded by Moondance Cancer Initiative and aims to better cancer outcomes in Wales.

TNE is an upper gastrointestinal endoscopy method performed via the nose instead of the traditional method through the mouth, using a thinner endoscope. The practice has been adopted in some hospitals in England and widely in Scotland but is not yet in use in Wales.

The Moondance Cancer Initiative finds, funds, and fuels brilliant people and brave ideas to make Wales a world leader in cancer survival.

Megan Mathias, Chief Executive at Moondance Cancer Initiative, said "We believe that innovations like TNE create a significant opportunity to transform early diagnosis & detection of cancer in Wales. Through this project, Hasan Haboubi and Dai Samuel are leading the way in demonstrating that TNE has a place going forward in our diagnostic pathways".

[Find more information about the project here.](#)

*CAVUHB staff pictured left to right: Anthony Jardine, Project Manager, Kay Charles, Endoscopy Nurse, Dr Hasan Haboubi, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Karen Wright, Nurse Endoscopist*



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## Kickstart employees secure permanent positions

Since introducing the scheme in 2020, we have supported over 140 young people to access part-time employment for six months, helping them gain experience and skills to secure a job in the future.

We've recently appointed Kickstart employee, Louis Milton as a Band 4 Data Administrator and Support Officer following a placement with us. Having joined Cardiff and Vale University Health Board in June 2021 Louis provided invaluable support to the PCIC team as he helped with the management of the centralised waiting list and mid-morning emergencies for the dental team.

Louis was helping on a part-time basis to manage the centralised waiting list and mid-morning emergency appointments.

Commenting on his new position, Louis said: "I am very thankful for the Kickstart Scheme. This initiative and experience have resulted in me securing a full-time, permanent Band 4 position, doing a role I really enjoy and with a team that I feel a part of. The scheme gave me the opportunity to learn and develop my skill set and opened the door to permanent employment. I am looking forward to starting my new role and continuing to support the dental team within the PCIC clinical board."

Jane Brown, Head of Dental and Optometry at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, commented: "Louis' positive approach to work and his passionate ethic was instrumental to our team. He was keen to support and help our team during our busiest periods. As his contract was approaching its end, we requested an extension for a short period of time, and raised

concerns about losing a person in post who had proven to be a valuable resource."

Well done Louis. [Read more about Louis' Kickstart experience here.](#)



*Pictured: Louis Milton*

## The Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme at Cardiff & Vale Health Charity commission stunning spoken word performance

Cardiff & Vale Health Charity's Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme are thrilled to launch Unlocked, a spoken word poem created by artist Duke AI as part of the project, *Cardiff Royal Infirmary: People, Place, Future*. Funded by the Arts Council of Wales, the project's objective is to reframe a deeper, more accessible relationship to NHS services for all.

The short video, which is a must see, captures the desire for connection, community, and creativity experienced by many people as a result of lockdown and loss during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the continuous pride,

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respect, and kindness felt towards NHS staff.

[For more information please click here.](#)



Many thanks for giving me such a warm welcome this week. I can see and feel the pride in Team CAV and I'm excited to be a part of it. For those with some time off over the weekend, enjoy, and to those continuing to provide care and treatment to patients and citizens, thank you.

Best wishes,

*Suzanne*

## Health Charity

Check out the Health Charity's annual report for 2020-2021. See what the team have been up to over the last year, and read how donations have been spent. From the winner of the Staff Lottery's SuperMegaDraw to all the fabulous fundraising ventures taken on, [you can find them all here.](#)

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