

# Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

07/04/2021

I hope you have had a lovely Easter weekend. While many people enjoyed the bank holidays, many of our teams, including our COVID-19 vaccination teams, continued to work to keep people safe. Despite the reduced supply of the vaccine, to date we have delivered 282,532 vaccines with 210,644 people receiving first doses and 71,870 receiving both doses. This means 51% of our total adult population have received their first dose and 18% of our adult population have received both doses.

We have offered the first vaccine to everyone age 50 and over and are asking people in these groups to contact us if they have not yet received an appointment. We also held another vaccination clinic at Madina Mosque in Cardiff to reach the local community. Over the weekend, we asked people to call our booking line if they are in priority groups 1-9 and have not yet received an invitation for the vaccine. We will also introduce an online form to support this so we leave no one behind.

However, due to the reduced supply of Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine, this week our Mass Vaccination Centres will be running at shorter hours. Pentwyn will be closed this week and will reopen on Monday 12th April, Holm View and Bayside Mass vaccination centres (MVC) will be open from today Splott MVC will be open as usual and is providing the Pfizer vaccine.

Our supplies of Oxford Astra Zeneca over the next two weeks will be prioritised for second doses to ensure our population are fully vaccinated. We are anticipating an increase in vaccine supply from 19 April.

A Local Vaccination Centre is set to open in the Western Vale of Glamorgan in April to support the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination. The three GP Practices in the area are working in partnership to offer residents the vaccine at the CF61 centre in Llantwit Major, formerly the Youth Centre, to increase the vaccination delivery and accessibility.

The Western Vale Local Vaccination Centre will focus on the 18-49 cohort and will invite people in 10 year age groups, starting with the 40-49 cohort from 12 April.

The centre will be on course to deliver up to 750 vaccinations per week. Residents will receive an invitation by letter from their GP Practice with their appointment time and date. There is no need to contact your GP Practice, they will be in touch as they move through the age groups.

As we continue to make good progress with our vaccination campaign it remains vital that, even after you have received a vaccination, you continue to follow the COVID-19 regulations. The scenes we witnessed in Cardiff Bay last week were very disheartening and it is imperative that gatherings such as this are avoided so that the great work our teams are doing is not undone. As we look forward to the restrictions easing, please continue to keep Wales safe by following the Welsh Government regulations, socially distancing, wearing a mask, and washing your hands regularly.

**Len Richards**  
**Chief Executive**

## Cardiff and Vale UHB joins Global Green and Healthy Hospitals

I am delighted to share with you that Cardiff and Vale UHB recently became members of Global Green and Healthy Hospitals (GGHH). GGHH is part of Healthcare without Harm and is a vibrant and growing international community of hospitals, health systems, healthcare facilities and health organisations dedicated to reducing the health sector's ecological footprint and improving public and environmental health.

Joining an organisation such as this, is right in line with our organisation ambition to deliver sustainable, carbon neutral services, and the leadership in this programme of work we have throughout the Health Board.

[You can read more about GGHH on their website.](#)

## Wales Infants and Children's Genome Service shortlisted for Advancing Healthcare Award (AHA).

Launched in August 2020, The Wales Infants and Children's Genome Service, (WINGS) delivered by the All Wales Medical Genomics Service and hosted by Cardiff and Vale UHB, was the first in the UK to routinely offer whole genome sequencing DNA test to critically ill babies and children with unexplained diseases as part of a national programme within the NHS.

With approximately 6,000 to 8,000 known genetic diseases, the traditional approach to diagnosing rare conditions required running multiple tests, with majority of patients having to wait years for a successful diagnosis.



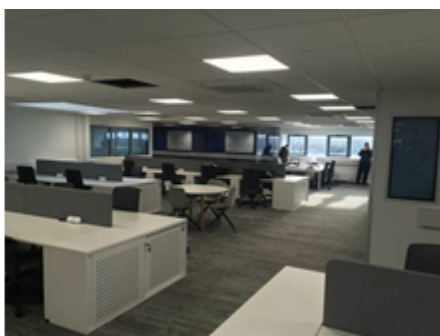
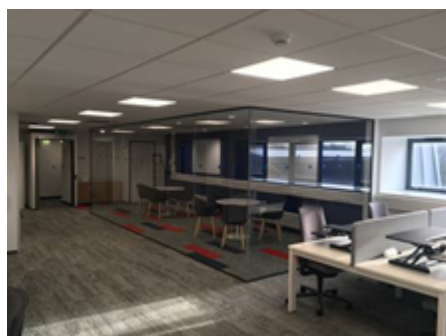
## A preview of the Joint Research Office

I am delighted to be able to share with you images of the new Joint Research Office (JRO). The JRO is a collaborative effort between Cardiff and Vale UHB and Cardiff University, which will have the function of centralising our joint human research programmes. The new physical space which we will share will contain staff from both organisations, allowing us to work more closely together to align our current and future research strategies.

The office is due to open its doors in the near future and the team would not wait to welcome staff to discuss and provide support for new or existing research agendas.

In January, we announced that Prof Colin Dayan was appointed to the role of Director of the Joint Research Office. Prof Dayan's team will support all of our staff in developing and running a research portfolio including, for example, development of study proposals and grant applications, expanding commercial trials portfolios and building collaborative research teams between the University and the UHB.

This is a fantastic example of collaborative working across organisational boundaries and I am very excited about the potential of what we can achieve by working together in this way.



## Quality Improvement: Team-Based Problem Solving Course

If you are new to quality improvement and looking to develop your skills, I would strongly recommend you think about attending this foundation-level course. This online course run by our Improvement and Implementation Team covers all the key tools and techniques needed to successfully deliver an improvement in a service.

The course will be held over eight 90-minute sessions in May and course delegates will have to attend and take part in each of the fully-interactive online sessions. There will also be additional learning for you to undertake in your own time.

Individuals or teams are welcome to apply. However, due to the limitations of virtual sessions if applying as a team all team members will need to be co-located for these.

To apply, [click here](#) and use the password CAVImprovement to register.

If you would like further details about the course please email:

Nick.tyson@wales.nhs.uk

matthew.turner4@wales.nhs.uk

## Have your say on the future of our clinical services

We are now well underway with the engagement programme for Shaping Our Future Clinical Services, our outreach to staff and members of the public to invite your feedback on our vision for clinical redesign.

In order to evolve with the changing needs of our population and ultimately provide the best possible care, we believe a number of our clinical services need to be delivered differently. We are proposing a number of transformations to the way we deliver care.

Some of our ambitions include:

- Developing our two major acute hospital sites, University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough, as centres of excellence – each with a clearly defined role.

- Bringing care closer to our communities, continuing to develop Health and Wellbeing Centres and Wellbeing Hubs, as well as enhancing our model for care at home.

Your feedback is essential in informing our direction of travel, to ensure that we all play a part in shaping what future services will look like.

[Learn more about our vision and take 5 minutes to complete our survey.](#)

## Have your say on future of vascular services

Health Boards across South East Wales have come together to propose a new model of care for the delivery of vascular services. The new structure would offer a range of benefits to our population and make the service sustainable for the future.

These services are a vital part of our healthcare infrastructure in South East Wales. It is important that we hear your thoughts and opinions as we begin the development of our plans. Please [visit our web page](#) to learn more and take 5 minutes to complete our survey.

## Praise for the hand therapy team

Last week, I received a letter detailing some of the incredible lengths that the hand therapy have gone to in order to continue delivering this essential service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

It read, "Whilst the majority of them have not been directly involved in treating COVID patients, their dedication, resourcefulness and work ethic has enable hand trauma and elective work to continue, during even the most difficult of times. During the first lockdown a year ago, they very quickly set up remote consultations and a new remote referral system. Members of the team were redeployed to the emergency unit and were able to see and operate on trauma patients at the front door and then refer directly to hand therapy without having to bring them through the trauma clinic. On one occasion, a patient was seen in hand therapy in Llandough and had a splint made within five hours of dividing all of his extensor tendons (having had them repaired). He was then followed up remotely until he completed his rehab.

"They have designed new splints and devised new splinting regimes, so that more patients could be treated with splinting, rather than surgery at high-risk times.

They have also set up 'first after' clinics to see all of the elective hand surgery patients after their operations. They remove sutures, instigate therapy, make splints and organise any further follow up without any direct surgeon involvement. This has freed up space in the elective clinics so that more patients can be seen in a timely way.

"In addition to all of this, with the suspension of outpatient physiotherapy a year ago, they agreed to absorb every single distal radius fracture seen in the trauma clinic. Previously they only saw patients who were operated on by hand surgery (usually the more complex injuries), and those who had failed to progress with physio. The added workload of taking on all of the wrist fractures has been huge, but they have never failed to accommodate patients and we are now seeing better outcomes for the patients overall."

This is excellent work and I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the entire hand therapy team for their efforts over the past year.

## Oral contraception in pharmacies – share your views on the service

If you've used the oral contraceptive service in any of the below four community pharmacies, then we want to hear from you!

- Woodville Road Pharmacy, Cardiff
- Well Pharmacy, Llantwit Major
- Boots Pharmacy, Queen Street, Cardiff
- Cyncoed Pharmacy, Cardiff

Please complete our short survey by the closing date of Tuesday 4th May. The survey is available in both English and Welsh, and [can be accessed here](#).





# Wishing Mary Harness a happy retirement

On the 31st March the Haematology, Immunology & Metabolic Medicine Directorate said a fond farewell to one of our Senior Nurses, Mary Harness, who retired at the end of the month.

Mary became a Registered Nurse in 1978 and began her career as a State Registered Nurse in Lincolnshire Health Authority before moving to Cardiff in 1992 to begin her inspirational career in haematology nursing.

As the first Clinical Nurse Specialist for acute leukaemia in Wales in 2004, Mary established all the foundations for a patient-centred service for her patient group and nursing team around her. With no prior footprint on which to base this role, she developed a service on which patients could trust and clinicians could rely on for expertise.

For many years Mary was the Ward Sister on ward B4 Haematology at UHW and in this role she had many significant achievements in terms of ward and team development. It was also during her time as ward sister that Mary championed haemoglobinopathy patients, those with Sickle Cell disease and Thalassaemia. Mary remains a key nursing advocate for the sickle cell and thalassaemia community and is the nursing lead.

Within haematology and oncology, one of the biggest clinical challenges faced is infection prevention and management in this exceptionally vulnerable patient population. In Mary's role as a Senior Nurse, her extensive knowledge, years of experience and practical 'hands on' approach has been critical in influencing other practice to protect our patients from infections and minimise complications. On top of her day job, Mary had responsibility for the annual staff flu vaccination programme within the Specialist Services Clinical Board, and under her direction ensured a consistently high level of uptake of flu vaccinations.

Mary has had a long career that has drawn on multiple specialities and seniority, resulting in an unparalleled package of "putting the patient first" in the presence of clinical expertise and extensive organisational challenges. A colleague remembers a particular conversation with Mary where she expressed that, "the most important quality of nursing is how we display our love for the care we give to our patients and should be fundamental to everything we do".

On behalf of everyone at Cardiff and Vale UB, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mary for her dedication and leadership, and wish her a long and happy retirement!



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# Other News and Events

## Have your say on the future of Our Orchard

We've launched a pre application consultation which will give you an opportunity to give feedback on our proposals for the new name and site design of Our Orchard. The consultation is now live and we'd really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to let us know your thoughts.

## Staff lottery winners announced

[Click here](#) to find out who won the staff lottery in March.