

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

08/06/2021

I begin this week's issue by sharing the incredible process with our Mass Vaccination Programme. I am extremely pleased to share we have now delivered 518,124 vaccinations, which after what has been a challenging year, is an amazing milestone to achieve. But now is not the time to be complacent, vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 and allowing us to move back to normality. Every vaccine gives us hope, and I urge anyone who has not yet been vaccinated to please come forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the those involved in the vaccination programme, and as a Health Board we have been proud to be part of #TeamWales to vaccinate our nation as safely and efficiently as possible.

Last week's issue marked the start of Pride Month, which is a time for us all to reflect on the experiences of our LGBTQ+ colleagues, patients and the wider community. Throughout June, I'll be sharing information about the work of our new LGBTQ+ Staff Network, who are working to support embedding an increasingly inclusive culture within our Health Board. Below you will find some suggested reading materials provided by the LGBTQ+ Staff Network committee, to help us as we work to improve our understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and their experiences.

This week, as we celebrate Carers Week 2021, I would also like to raise awareness of the role of unpaid carers. As a Health Board, we work in partnership to provide brilliant initiatives such as the Carer Friendly programme across Secondary and Primary care, and be involved in innovative national projects like the Cardiff and Vale Young Carers ID Card.

The dedication and selflessness shown by unpaid carers in our community is deeply humbling, and I remain committed to ensuring we support all of our unpaid carers. So this week please join me in saying thank you to all the unpaid carers across Wales.

Diolch yn fawr, thank you.



Len Richards
Chief Executive

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

On Sunday we ended our walk ins at Bayside MVC where we saw **3,149 people** turn up to receive their COVID-19 vaccination which ran over 10 days.

We have now delivered **518,124 vaccinations** in total with **346,669 being first doses** which is 85% of our adult population and **171,444 people now receiving both doses** which is 42% of our adult population.

We are now moving through with our second doses and people should receive an appointment in the post to attend and a text message reminder.

People aged 18 and over that have not yet received their first dose and would still like to can contact our booking line on 02921 841234 or complete our leave nobody behind form on our website [here](#).

Vaccination artwork by Cardiff & Vale Health Charity patron

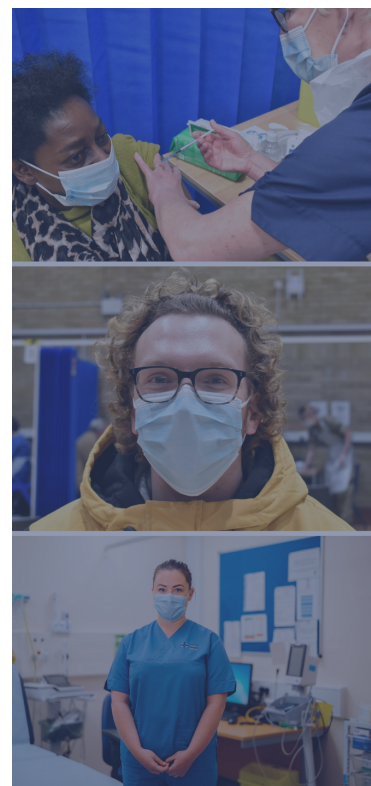
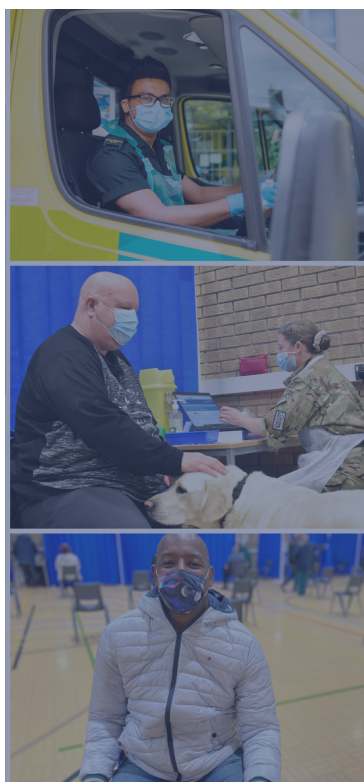
To celebrate the amazing efforts of our staff, partners and community in vaccinating our population, a commemorative artwork is being created. Nathan Wyburn, local artist and Cardiff & Vale Health Charity patron, is looking for positive comments, thoughts or feelings you had after receiving your COVID-19 vaccine. Share your experiences with Nathan on Twitter [here](#).



It is encouraging to see the vaccination numbers rise and the COVID-19 figures remain relatively low but as new variants are emerging and travel is opening up the vaccination is still our best defence in moving back to normality and living with COVID-19.

It's not time to be complacent and we can all work together to ensure people do not get seriously unwell from COVID-19.

I would like to thank all of the teams involved in the vaccination programme as we hit the milestone of all over 18s being offered a vaccine two months earlier than expected. It is great to be part of #TeamWales and reach this milestone in protecting our communities and we need to thank each and every one of you who has received their vaccine.



Pride Month

In last week's blog I highlighted that we had entered Pride Month, and reflected on the excellent work being undertaken by committee members of the new LGBTQ+ Staff Network, who are working to support embedding an increasingly inclusive culture within our organisation.

Throughout June, I'll be sharing information about the committee's work, and things that you can do to help support it or to become a more effective ally for our LGBTQ+ colleagues, patients and the wider community.

Something that we can all do to enable us to better support the LGBTQ+ community is to improve our understanding of their experiences. The LGBTQ+ Staff Network committee has provided the below list of materials that you might be interested in reading.

Don't forget that staff who are members or allies of the LGBTQ+ community are being invited to join the new Staff Network. View the LGBTQ+ Staff Network recruitment poster [here](#) or email rainbownetwork.cav@wales.nhs.uk to find out more.

Suggested reading:

- **Intersecting Identities** by Jos Twist, Ben Vincent
- **Trans Britain: Our Journey from the Shadows** by Christine Burns
- **Transgender Health A Practitioner's Guide to Binary and Non-Binary Trans Patient Care** by Ben Vincent
- **Life as a Unicorn: A Journey from Shame to Pride and Everything in Between** by Amrou Al-Kadhi
- **Stonewall: the riots that sparked a revolution** by David Carter
- **Non-Binary Genders by Vincent** (available as a free eBook [here](#) until midnight on 8th June, using discount code VINCENTBG5)



LATCH confirm £1.4 million refurbishment of Rainbow Ward

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) is pleased to announce funding of £1.4 million from Welsh children's cancer charity, LATCH, to refurbish Rainbow Ward at the Children's Hospital for Wales.

Rainbow Ward is the lead centre for paediatric oncology in South and West Wales, caring for children and young people with cancer and leukaemia, aged from birth up to 13. It is an extremely important place, with specialist doctors, nurses and LATCH support workers building close relationships with children and their families spending long lengths of time on the unit, months at a time in many cases.

The generous funding from LATCH will allow much needed upgrades to be completed, creating a comfortable space for patients and their families.

Read more [here](#).



Spinal and Neuro Specialised Rehab Services move to UHL

As part of a programme of work to enhance our Spinal and Neuro Specialised Rehab services, a brand new facility has been established at the University Hospital Llandough (UHL). It is an exciting time for the directorate as rehabilitation services are transferred from our Rookwood site to the new purpose built facility.

I was fortunate enough to be shown around the new unit by staff recently and am so pleased to see it come to fruition. The purpose built facility is going to play an integral part in patient recovery and will allow our staff to make the biggest impact on patient outcomes.

I would like to extend my thanks to everybody involved in this project - especially our staff who have been extremely adaptable, ensuring we can provide the best possible services for the people of Cardiff and the Vale.

You can read more about the move and see a walkthrough of the new unit and its facilities [here](#).



Meddwl Cymraeg – Think Welsh update

Visitors to our headquarters at Woodland House in the past week will have no doubt spotted the new graphics that have been installed on the stairwells, featuring popular Welsh landmarks and common Welsh words.

The new artwork, which has been funded by the Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, has been installed to encourage staff to think about our heritage, and to learn and use the Welsh language as part of their working day.

It signals the beginning of the next phase of our Meddwl Cymraeg - Think Welsh campaign, which encourages our employees to actively think about the Welsh language, and consider how they can contribute to making services more accessible to Welsh speakers, which we know can make a significant difference to their experience of accessing them.

With Euro 2020 finally getting underway on Friday, many of our staff and patients will no doubt be looking forward to following the team's progress. While supporting the team through the tournament, we're encouraging staff to pursue the goal of learning Welsh.

We'll be sharing information and materials throughout the tournament to assist those who decide to tackle the challenge. Please keep your eye on our corporate social media accounts and the StaffConnect staff app for more information.

You can view a yearbook of the wider work that has been implemented by our Welsh language team [here](#).



The All Wales Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre unveils its new look

To mark the completion of the new ward and expansion of the All Wales Adult Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Centre, based at University Hospital Llandough (UHL), the Centre is adopting a new logo designed by a current CF patient.

Building work to transform the All Wales Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre started in January last year (2020), thanks to funding from Welsh Government. The investment has provided an additional 16 en-suite bedrooms within the existing CF centre, along with four en-suite special infection bedrooms; two on UHL's West 2 ward and two on the East 2 ward.

Building work finished in January and the centre was officially handed over to the Health Board from the contractors in April this year (2021). To celebrate the new look centre, the Health Board decided to run a design competition among its patients in search of a new logo; the winning design was created by patient Paul Jones. Read more about the competition and see pictures of the new look centre on our [website](#).



Our Recruitment Brand

Some exciting work is taking place to bring all our recruitment materials together under a Cardiff and Vale brand.

Over the next few weeks you will see some changes to our adverts and the way our job descriptions look. We are also developing an e-booklet for prospective candidates telling them what makes Cardiff and Vale a great place to work and learn.

Linked with this is the development of a job descriptions library. This consists of generic job descriptions which are matched, translated into Welsh and are ready for managers to use. As well as speeding up the recruitment process this helps ensure consistency of roles across the Health Board, supports us in complying with the Welsh Language Standards and should, in the long term, make internal moves from one department to another easier.

We have started with nursing roles initially but will be rolling this out to other areas over the coming weeks and months. The Job Descriptions Library of generic posts can be found in the staff toolkits section of our webpages [here](#).

Please help us portray a professional image and sell the Cardiff and Vale brand by using the agreed job description template for all posts.

Managers are also asked to use the generic job descriptions where they exist, using the advert as a way of providing information about your department and any role specific information you think candidates need to know.



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Applications for Genomics Nursing Conference funded places

Nurses and midwives in Wales are invited to apply for a funded place to attend the Nursing, Genomics and Healthcare Conference in July.

The virtual conference which will be held from July 7th to 9th 2021 will bring together nurses, educators and other industry leaders interested in promoting genomics in the areas of education, practice, policy and research.

Nurses and midwives interested in applying can do so by emailing:
genomicspartnershipwales@wales.nhs.uk.

The event will include presentations from international leaders, panel discussions and debates. Sessions will run in afternoons for Europe and Africa and mornings for the Americas, to enable attendees from across the globe to participate.

Funding has been made possible by Genomics Partnership Wales.

Application deadline: Friday 11 June 2021.



Wales Infant's and Children's Genome Service (WINGS) wins AHA Innovation Award

WINGS, hosted by Cardiff and Vale UHB, is one of our flagship rapid genome sequencing services and is available for acutely unwell children with a likely underlying genetic.

The prestigious award was announced by Dr Dominic Harrington, Viapath CEO on May 21st during a live virtual ceremony where WINGS competed against 3 other shortlisted entrants in the final round of the competition.

On hearing news of the announcement, Head of Laboratories Sian Morgan said:

"We are so immensely proud of this achievement. It is a testament to the work of everyone involved and solidifies our ambition to be a pioneer of innovation and leading from the front within the healthcare science sector".

"I am thrilled and very proud that the team has won this Award. Great recognition for great work. It affirms the strength of the Genomic Strategy and the work of Genomics Partnership Wales. Well deserved!"



Stop smoking project, a breath of fresh air at children's hospital

Parents and carers who smoke will be offered help to quit the habit when they visit Noah's Ark Children's Hospital, under a pioneering new scheme aimed at protecting children's health.

As part of the project, led by the hospital's team of paediatricians, Noah's Ark staff will ask parents whether they smoke and if they do, will offer to refer them directly to a smoking cessation advisor.

The scheme, supported by ASH Wales, will be the first of its kind in Wales and aims to reduce the risks to children from exposure to second-hand smoke and prevent them taking up the habit in later life.

An event was held at the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital to launch the project. Staff can find out more by visiting the Child Health intranet page to access resources, a quick referral link and top tips for starting conversations with parents and carers about smoking.

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Carers Week

It's Carers Week

Highlighting the contribution of carers

This year, unpaid carers continue to face challenges as a result of the pandemic, with many having to take on additional caring responsibilities as vital face-to-face services such as day centres and support services have been restricted during lockdowns.

In the first few weeks of the pandemic it was reported that, in Wales alone, 196,000 people became unpaid carers – this is in addition to the 487,000 who were already in a caring role before the pandemic. We also know that this is just the tip of the iceberg as many people don't even identify themselves as unpaid carers, and just see themselves as looking after a loved one.

As a Health Board we would like to continue to raise awareness of the role of unpaid carers and provide them with information and support. We recognise that a caring role can impact on all aspects of a person's life, including their emotional, mental and physical health.

We will continue to work in partnership to provide initiatives such as the Carer Friendly programme across Secondary and Primary Care, and be involved in innovative national projects like the Cardiff and Vale Young Carers ID Card which launches this week. To all of our unpaid carers, we would like to say a special thank you for everything you do.

Other News and Events

NHS Thank You badges

If you are a Manager and your staff have not yet received their NHS Thank you badges, please contact the below email address as a limited number are still available.

Please email: fundraising.cav@wales.nhs.uk

Freedom 2 Speak Up

The safety and wellbeing of patients, service users and staff is a key priority for Cardiff and Vale UHB.

We have relaunched our Freedom to Speak Up initiative to empower staff to raise concerns they might have or observe in their area of work and to notify the relevant body or authority with the knowledge that action will be taken as a result.

If you have a concern, please speak up. Your voice matters. Find out more [here](#).

St David's Hospital garden project

Through the Covid-19 Charitable Funds Application process, Cardiff & Vale Health Charity has recently supported a bid for a garden project outside Elizabeth Ward, St David's Hospital.

[Read more.](#)



May Winners announced

Cardiff & Vale Health Charity announce the May Staff Lottery winners. The May 2021 Staff Lottery Draw helped create four £1,000 winners who were all delighted to hear the brilliant news!

[Read more.](#)



Join Waterloo Tea for an NHS Big Tea

Join Kasim Ali and the team at Waterloo Tea and have a cuppa, a cake and raise some cash for Cardiff & Vale Health Charity as they pledge to take part in the NHS Big Tea campaign.

[Read more.](#)



Welsh language skills receive a boost

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board staff will be stepping up their Welsh language skills thanks to new artwork which has been installed on the stairwells at the organisation's Woodland House headquarters. The new artwork, which features Welsh landmarks and common Welsh words was kindly funded by Cardiff & Vale Health Charity.

[Find out more.](#)