

*Please pass this on to any member of staff who might not have seen it.*

As someone with an interest in what we do, News in Brief can help you stay up-to-date with our latest news and developments.

We hope it gives you a helpful overview of what's been happening over the last quarter.

## Follow-up CQC report published

The Care Quality Commission returned to the Emergency Department at the Great Western Hospital in April as part of an unannounced visit to review the progress made since its initial inspection last autumn.

A report into the findings of this visit was published in August and while the CQC said that work is still needed in some areas, it was noted that the improvements made so far were "commendable" given the high demand placed on the service.

The team in the Emergency Department care for more than 230 patients every day and over the next few years, a sustained focus will be on managing this demand in the most effective way possible.

More information about the work we are doing across the Trust can be found in [Our Improvement Journey](#) on our website.

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## Community services transfer to Wiltshire Health and Care

Since July, adult community healthcare services in the county have been provided by new organisation Wiltshire Health and Care.

The product of three local NHS Foundation Trusts (Great Western Hospitals,

Royal United Hospitals Bath and Salisbury) working together to improve care, Wiltshire Health and Care was chosen by Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group to run community services for the next five years.

Previously, all services had been provided solely by the Trust.

Staff in the community have continued in their roles, meaning patients have continued to see the same friendly faces as before.

For more information, visit [www.wiltshirehealthandcare.nhs.uk](http://www.wiltshirehealthandcare.nhs.uk).

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### **Exemplary care given by cardiology team at GWH**

A new report by University College London has highlighted GWH for the "exemplary" practices used for treating patients with slow heartbeats.

It revealed that 100 per cent of suitable patients in Swindon were fitted with the state-of-the-art pacemaker approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, a feat not achieved by any other hospital in the country.

Dr Paul Foley, Consultant Cardiologist, said: "This is great news for our patients who can be assured that when they come to the Great Western Hospital, they are receiving a very high standard of care and treatment."

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Emergency Department performance**

The summer months of 2016 have proved to be just as busy as the colder winter months in terms of emergency attendances at the Great Western Hospital.

Teams working in the Emergency Department saw more than 21,000 patients throughout May, June and July, with the number of patients in July exceeding

7,500.

Despite the demand, staff in the department worked hard to ensure that more than 80 per cent of patients in this time were either admitted, transferred or discharged within the four hour national target.

The Trust continues to work on improving patient flow and the speed of its discharges, so that emergency patients needing admission can experience a smooth and timely transfer.

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### **Staff praised at annual award ceremony**

The heroic actions of healthcare staff from across the Trust were celebrated in June at the annual Staff Excellence Awards.

More than 400 people attended the event, which heard how members of staff had gone above and beyond to provide the best care and treatment for patients.

Dr Sathish Kumar took the home the Patients' Choice Award, after the wife of a patient whose life was saved on Christmas Day contacted the Trust to express her gratitude.

She said: "His expert knowledge and fast action saved my husband's life and I thank God each day that it was Dr Kumar working that night."

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### **Update on car park expansion at GWH**

As part of an ongoing project to expand the staff car park at GWH by 400 spaces, the first batch of new parking spaces will be available from Monday 22 August.

It is hoped that these new spaces will make parking easier for staff who have no option but to travel to work by car, while also relieving some of the pressure felt on the main patient and visitor car parks.

The remaining spaces will be open later in the year.

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## **Sustainability and Transformation Plan**

The Trust is working closely with partners across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire as part of work to develop a five year Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

A shared vision for how the whole system will work together to address financial and operational challenges was submitted at the end of June.

Further work is taking place over the summer to prepare for the next submission of the plan in September.

At a time of continuing tight finances, successful delivery of this plan will provide additional funding for the Trust.

This national funding is intended to help NHS organisations gain a more secure financial position, while enabling the transformation of services and helping to meet the ambitions of the NHS Five Year Forward View.

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## **Chinese health leaders learn from best at GWH**

More than a dozen chief executives from the Zhejiang Health Bureau in China came to GWH in May as part of a visit to the UK to learn from the NHS' best healthcare providers.

The delegation made a stop in Swindon to see the world class simulation facilities on offer to medical students at GWH.

During their trip, the leaders visited a number of other hospitals to gain an in-depth understanding of how the NHS operates and will apply the knowledge they have gained to their own hospitals in China.

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## **Update on recruitment**

Recruitment remains a priority for the Trust and an area where steady progress is being made.

In the coming weeks, more than 50 newly qualified nurses from local universities will be joining the teams on the wards at GWH.

A series of local recruitment events are planned for the coming months and more recently the Trust held a successful open day which invited registered nurses to consider joining the elderly care wards at GWH.

The Trust is also keen to inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals through its ongoing work with local schools and colleges.

Last month the popular Dare to Doctor programme saw 30 local A-Level students experience ward life, as they shadowed doctors and took part in a range of learning sessions.

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## **Waiting times for planned procedures**

Latest figures show that in June the Trust achieved the 92 per cent national target for all patients waiting less than 18 weeks for a routine operation.

Looking ahead, the challenge is to now sustain this position on a monthly basis to ensure patients can begin their treatment as soon as possible.

The Trust recently begun providing extra clinics and operating lists outside of office hours and at weekends to help reduce some longer waiting times.

In some areas, physical appointments are being replaced in favour of virtual clinics, such as those which take place over the telephone, to help free up more treatment time for doctors and nurses.

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## **Brighter Futures' Radiotherapy Appeal one year anniversary**

The first anniversary of the appeal to bring radiotherapy to GWH was marked in May with the news that more than £2,000 had been raised every day since its launch.

On May 28, the total stood at £685,000 but has since rocketed to £875,000.

It is hoped that the appeal will reach the £1 million mark by the autumn.

Radiotherapy treatment is not currently offered in Swindon, meaning local patients face a 70 mile round trip to the nearest centre in Oxford.

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### **New team to fight sepsis and acute kidney injury**

Building on the success of a sepsis campaign which saw the lives of more than 200 patients saved, the Trust is now targeting acute kidney injury.

The condition, which involves sudden damage to the kidneys, is responsible for a fifth of all hospital admissions and can prove fatal if left untreated.

A new team of five specialist nurses, funded by Trust charity Brighter Futures, will arrive at GWH this autumn and provide hands-on support and expert advice to teams caring for patients with acute kidney injury across the hospital.

It is hoped that the new team will help more patients to make a full recovery from the illness.

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### **Contract for junior doctors**

The NHS could see further industrial action from junior doctors next month after fresh strike calls were made at the beginning of August.

It follows an earlier decision by members of the British Medical Association to reject the government's revised contract for junior doctors.

Following on from the strikes earlier in the year, the Trust has tried and tested measures in place to ensure that patients are kept safe and disruption is minimal during any episode of industrial action.

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### 2016 winter flu campaign

As in previous years, the Trust will be encouraging all staff to have the flu vaccine over the coming months to help control the spread of the seasonal virus.

Teams will be working to build on the 50 per cent of staff who had the flu jab last year.

Often mistaken for a heavy cold, flu can last more than a week and have serious health implications for vulnerable people such as the elderly, young children and pregnant women.

In some cases flu can lead to chest infections which, if left untreated, can develop into pneumonia.

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