

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.

CQC recognises improvements in the Emergency Department

Following an unannounced visit in October, the Care Quality Commission has confirmed that the Trust has met the requirements of a warning notice previously imposed on the Emergency Department at GWH.

Since concerns were raised at a routine inspection last autumn, improvements were seen in areas such as record keeping, governance and the care given to patients with mental health needs.

In the report, Prof Edward Baker, Deputy Chief Inspector of Hospitals, said the Trust had made "a real effort" to improve performance.

Additionally, the CQC announced that its next full inspection of the Trust will take place in March.

New provider for adult community healthcare in Swindon

Since 1 October, the Trust has been the provider of adult community healthcare services in Swindon.

It was announced in the summer that the Trust was the preferred provider for the services and would begin running them from February 2017.

However, this was brought forward at the request of Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group, which had concerns regarding previous provider Seqol's safety and financial performance.

Until February, when a longer formal contract is expected to be agreed, the Trust will provide the services in a caretaker capacity.

Work begins on new radiotherapy unit at GWH

November saw construction teams arrive at GWH to begin the groundwork for what will eventually be Swindon's first radiotherapy centre.

The initial work, which involves preparing the land for building work, will ensure that when construction begins next year, the project can move forward without unnecessary delay.

Managed by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the centre is due to open in 2019 and will offer people in Swindon and Wiltshire the kind of lifesaving cancer treatment unavailable in the local area.

Currently, local patients needing radiotherapy have no choice but to make daily trips to Oxford.

New maternity bereavement suite gets official opening

Bereaved families who have experienced a stillbirth or neonatal death can now benefit from a new private space away from the busy maternity ward.

The Forget Me Not bereavement suite was officially opened at GWH in October and allows families to reflect and spend precious time with their son or daughter without being disturbed.

Included in the suite is a dedicated quiet zone, kitchen area, wash room and

sofa beds.

Funding for the suite, which has been in the pipeline for many years, came from local charity Swindon Sands and the NHS Improvement Fund.

Working with national colleagues to improve hip fracture care

Trauma and Orthopaedic staff at GWH are joining up with their equivalents across the country to take part in a new project to improve hip fracture care.

The team in Swindon will make up one sixth of the Scaling Up initiative, which allows hospitals to share learning, improvements and examples of best practice.

With statistics showing that a third of hip fracture patients die within a year, it is hoped the project will help to reduce recovery time and improve a patient's quality of life once they are home.

Emergency Department performance

More than 14,700 patients attended the Emergency Department in September and October, with each month's attendances more than that of the same month in 2015.

Despite the demand, staff in the department worked hard to ensure that the vast majority of patients 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.

Trust staff benefit from 30 hours of free childcare

Staff at GWH are among the first in the country to benefit from a new scheme which entitles parents to 30 hours of free childcare.

The Department for Education initiative, which is being piloted in Swindon, means that staff at the hospital receive double the amount of government-funded childcare than parents elsewhere in the country.

Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister for Early Years, visited the hospital in November to meet with staff benefiting from the scheme ahead of a nationwide roll-out next year.

Half of staff protected against flu

This year's winter flu campaign has seen almost half of all clinical staff at GWH take the simple step to protect themselves against flu.

So far, more than 2,100 doctors, nurses, physios, midwives and other staff who have regular contact with patients have had the vaccine, which is considered by experts to be the most reliable form of flu defence.

This is an improvement of nearly 10 per cent on last year's flu uptake.

And with the flu season continuing until spring, the Trust is in a strong position to meet its target of giving the flu jab to 75 per cent of all clinical staff.

Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The draft summary of the local Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, was published in November and is available to [read here](#).

The full publication will be published in the coming weeks alongside plans from across the country.

Despite some of the national media coverage, our STP isn't about merging organisations, but about building on much of the work already taking place, showing how organisations can work together to address the challenges which come with an ageing and growing population.

There will be opportunities for local people to be involved in developing the plan in the coming months.

Never OK campaign targets abuse of NHS staff

September saw the Trust launch its Never OK campaign, which highlights the unacceptable abuse experienced by many NHS staff.

Healthcare staff at GWH and in the Swindon community often bear the brunt of emotive and high pressure situations, with many people believing that lashing out in the heat of the moment can often be justified.

The campaign reminds patients, visitors and any other people in hospital that abuse of NHS staff will never be tolerated and appropriate action will always be taken.

Extra security measures have been introduced in many departments around the Trust, with new campaign posters being displayed prominently in many public areas of GWH.

Update on parking at GWH

Work to expand the staff car park at GWH by 400 additional spaces was completed at the end of November.

It is hoped that the 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 parking situation will continue to be monitored over the winter months, which is traditionally the busiest time of year for vehicles coming on site.

Radiotherapy Appeal reaches £1 million

Brighter Futures' Radiotherapy Appeal tipped into seven figures in October as two substantial donations pushed the total past the all-important million pound mark.

The milestone was celebrated with a small reception in the chambers of the Mayor of Swindon's office and was attended by representatives from local Rotary clubs and the Dr Thomas Cranston Wilson Charitable Trust.

More than £120,000 was donated to Brighter Futures on the night by the two charitable groups.

Jennifer Green, Head of Brighter Futures, said the charity was "amazed and humbled" by the generosity of local people.

Research into infant car seat safety

The findings of a pioneering research project, which was carried out at GWH, to assess the potentially harmful side effects of keeping newborn babies in car seats for long periods was published in October.

Using state-of-the-art equipment, a team from the University of Bristol noticed that babies who were strapped in car seats for long journeys soon after birth had an increased risk of suffocation.

Experts suggest that babies should not be strapped in for longer than 30 minutes at a time as it is feared their neck muscles may not be strong enough to keep their head upright and airways clear.

Waiting times for planned procedures

The target for treating patients within 18 weeks of their original referral was achieved during the last two months.

For September and October, an average of 92 per cent of patients had the procedure they had been waiting for within four and a half months of meeting with their GP.

The Trust will look to sustain this position throughout the busy winter months, when it is not uncommon for planned procedures to be affected by an increase in emergency admissions.

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