

Multimedia recruitment campaign launched

In April the Trust launched a dynamic recruitment campaign which highlights the rewarding nature of a career in the NHS.

With real-life members of staff at its core, the campaign is designed to encourage local people to look towards the NHS when starting a new career or taking their current one in a new direction.

Eight posters have been created and can currently be seen in and around the Great Western Hospital, with plans in place for the adverts to be displayed on town centre billboards and on Thamesdown buses throughout the summer.

A series of radio adverts are supporting the visual aspect of the campaign and can currently be heard on Heart and Smooth FM across Wiltshire.

The launch of the campaign struck a chord with local people and resulted in traffic to the recruitment section of the Trust's website increasing by more than 80 per cent.

Routine Care Quality Commission inspection concludes

The Care Quality Commission visited Swindon in March as part of a routine inspection of the Trust and the services provided at the Great Western Hospital and in patients' own homes.

A team of inspectors, who are themselves healthcare professionals, spent around three days with the Trust at the end of March before returning for a number of unannounced visits in the following weeks.

Although the official report has not yet been published, anecdotal feedback suggests

the CQC was pleased with the number of improvements that had been made following its previous inspection.

Inspectors also praised staff for their warm welcome, as well as their continued professional approach to patient care.

The Trust currently holds a CQC rating of requires improvement.

Response to international cyber attack

The Trust's IT systems were unaffected during the recent global malware attack, which targeted many large organisations including several NHS trusts.

However, as a precautionary measure, a decision was made to limit email and internet access across the Trust while extra security measures were installed.

Technical teams worked incredibly hard to ensure the work was completed as swiftly as possible and with minimal impact on the Trust's day-to-day activity.

Preparing for a major incident

Following the Manchester terror attack and the corresponding increase in the national threat level, the Trust has undertaken a review of its emergency response protocols.

This was done to ensure that, along with local emergency services colleagues, the Trust is in the best possible position to deal with a potential major incident.

Although there is currently no indication that a local attack is likely, the Trust has asked staff, patients and visitors to the Great Western Hospital to remain vigilant and to alert any suspicious activity to the security team, who are on duty 24 hours a day.

Successful recruitment day for Emergency Department

More than a dozen new members of staff have joined the lifesaving team in the Emergency Department at the Great Western Hospital following a successful

recruitment event at the beginning of the month.

Those who came along to the event on Saturday 12 May were able to tour the department, meet the team and even sit an interview for one of the nursing positions available.

A number of other candidates, who had expressed an interest in joining the team but unable to attend on the day, will also be given interviews at a later date.

Emergency Department performance

While the Emergency Department remains incredibly busy, recent improvements to the way patients are managed on arrival have helped to bring attendances in line with where they were two years ago.

Emergency patients are now assessed as they arrive with a decision about whether or not they can be cared for in the nearby Urgent Care Centre or Ambulatory Care Unit being made sooner.

Transferring less urgent patients to these more appropriate services ensures that the hard-working team in ED can focus their attention on providing lifesaving treatment to those people who really need it.

During April, more than 6,300 people attended the Emergency Department and, of those, nearly 3,100 required hospital admission.

Despite the large numbers, teams ensured that the vast majority of patients (86.7 per cent) were either treated, admitted or discharged within the four hour target.

Waiting times for planned procedures

The Trust continues to treat nine out of ten patients waiting for an elective procedure - such as a hip or knee replacement - within the national 18 week target.

In April, 91.7 per cent of patients on elective waiting lists had the treatment they needed within four and a half months of their GP's original referral.

While this is just shy of the 92 per cent standard asked for by the government, the Trust retains good control over its waiting lists and is regularly introducing new measures to treat the additional 0.3 per cent of patients within the time frame.

Opening of new Swindon NHS Health Centre

A brand new medical facility is set to open in the heart of Swindon at the beginning of next month.

The state-of-the-art Swindon NHS Health Centre will open its doors on Monday 12 June and will house the services that currently operate out of the existing building in Carfax Street.

Among the services that will call the new centre home will be two GP practices, a pharmacy, a dental surgery and a seven-day-a-week walk in clinic for minor injuries and illnesses.

The Trust's sexual health team will also be based out of the new four storey building.

Radiotherapy Appeal reaches halfway point

More than £1.5 million has now been raised for Brighter Futures' Radiotherapy Appeal, meaning the £2.9 million total is firmly in view.

The appeal tipped the halfway point in March thanks to 18 months of solid support from individuals and local businesses across Swindon and Wiltshire.

Securing the £2.9 million total will enable the Trust to purchase two linear accelerators - the machinery that will be at the heart of a new radiotherapy unit at the Great Western Hospital.

Currently, people in the town needing radiotherapy treatment face a long journey to the nearest centre, more than 30 miles away at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford.

Surgeons use pioneering 3D printing for complex hip operation

Pioneering doctors at the Great Western Hospital have successfully used the latest 3D printing technology to help a patient plagued by mobility issues for 30 years walk without pain.

Using a pelvic scan as a blueprint, Dr Adam Brooks, Trauma and Orthopaedic Consultant, worked with a specialist 3D printing manufacturer in Belgium to produce a made-to-measure hip joint for the patient.

The unique device was then fitted by Dr Brooks and his team during a complex operation at the Great Western Hospital in February.

The Trust is now the first in the south west, and one of only a few in the whole country, to have used 3D printing in this way.

2016 NHS Staff Survey results published

Seventy seven per cent of Trust staff are enthusiastic about the work they do.

The claim, which is better than the national average, was made in the most-recent NHS Staff Survey, the results of which were made public in March.

Taking place each year, the survey quizzes healthcare staff from across the country on what it's like to work in the NHS.

Around 1,200 staff from the Great Western Hospital were invited to take part in the survey.

Other results showed that fewer staff are feeling ill from work-related stress and that more than two thirds look forward to coming to work each day.

However, the survey also highlighted areas of concern, with staffing levels and fear of abuse from patients just two of the issues affecting staff at work.

[Click here](#) to read the full results.

Pressure ulcers at GWH lowest in the south west

The number of patients developing painful pressure ulcers while at the Great Western Hospital has fallen by 60 per cent in just two years.

It means the number of pressure ulcers being recorded at the Swindon hospital is now the lowest in the south west.

The reduction has been down to the Trust's innovative Tissue Viability team who strive to ensure that every patient has a skin assessment within two hours of admission.

As one of the Trust's Sign up to Safety priorities, preventing pressure ulcers can drastically reduce a person's stay in hospital and their overall risk of infection.

Trust hosts regional dementia conference

More than 200 healthcare staff from across the region travelled to Swindon in May to take part in the Trust's Making Sense of Dementia event.

The unique all day conference was a chance for like-minded clinicians to come together to learn more about the condition that currently affects one in three people over 65.

Speakers from various organisations, including the University of Bath and Alzheimer's Support, used the occasion to debate the latest research and gather new ideas from the passionate audience.

Recognition for nurse with more than 50 years of NHS service

The Trust's Star of the Month awards celebrate extraordinary staff achievements and May was no exception as Toni Starr picked up the prize for more than half a century of unbroken NHS service.

A stalwart of the Special Care Baby Unit, 71-year-old Toni joined the NHS in 1964

as a student before transferring to Swindon in the 1970s.

Since then, she has risen through the ranks to become an accomplished sister and has also found time to complete degree courses in nursing and theology.

Toni was presented with the award by Oonagh Fitzgerald, Director of Human Resources, who hailed her as an "inspiration".

Finalists revealed for Staff Excellence Awards 2017

Trust staff who have gone above and beyond during the last 12 months will be celebrated at the annual Staff Excellence Awards.

Taking place on Friday 30 June, the event is a chance to say thank you to the people whose extraordinary achievements have made a real difference to patients, staff and visitors alike.

Nine awards will be handed out on the night, including the prestigious Patients' Choice Award, for which all nominations have been made by members of the public.

Visit www.gwh.nhs.uk to view the full list of finalists.

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