



Everything you need to know about Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in three sentences or less.

Next issue coming in May 2018.

Business as usual following collapse of Carillion

Carillion services at the Great Western Hospital have carried on as normal following the announcement that the facilities management provider had declared insolvency at the beginning of the year.

While Carillion's collapse may have come as a surprise to some, the Trust had been aware of the financial difficulties surrounding the organisation for some time, meaning contingency plans were able to be drawn up and tested in advance.

The Trust remains in close contact with the PFI provider, which holds the contract with Carillion, and external suppliers to ensure that any potential issues can be identified early and necessary steps taken to limit disruption.

Postponement of routine operations

Along with other hospitals across the country, many routine operations at GWH that had been planned to take place in January were postponed as priority was given to patients needing emergency care.

The decision to rearrange elective surgery was taken following a jointly issued directive from NHS England and NHS Improvement which called on all hospitals to review the activity planned for the rest of the month.

Around 280 patients were affected, with each one given an alternative date at the

earliest available opportunity.

Radiotherapy Appeal total hits £2 million

The Trust's vision of bringing lifesaving cancer treatment to Swindon took a step closer to becoming reality when Brighter Futures' Radiotherapy Appeal hit the £2 million mark just before Christmas.

The milestone means the Trust's registered charity is now closing in on its £2.9 million target, which will pay for the specialist machinery at the heart of a brand new radiotherapy unit at GWH.

With less than £1 million left to raise, Brighter Futures hopes to reach the total before the end of the year.

Doors to new ward open

A new ward at GWH opened its doors to its first set of patients at the beginning of February.

Dorcan Unit, which was constructed out of former office space, will have 10 beds and provide the hospital with extra capacity for the remainder of the current busy winter period.

The ward will specifically cater for patients who are ready to be discharged, but unable to do so while details around their onward care are still being finalised.

New ambulance speeds up discharges

The purchase of a dedicated ambulance to transfer patients between GWH and the nearby Swindon Intermediate Care Centre (SwICC) is helping to speed up discharges.

Until recently, some patients needing to be taken across the road had to wait for long periods of time while vehicles from an external transport provider could be

found.

However, since December the Trust's new ambulance has been covering the journey, which also allows other patient vehicles to focus on longer journeys in the community.

Tougher stance on abusive patients

Four people have been sent to jail over the last 12 months for unacceptable behaviour towards staff at GWH.

The Trust is committed to tackling all forms of abuse directed at NHS staff and is reminding patients and visitors through the hard-hitting Never OK campaign that such behaviour will never be tolerated.

In addition to custodial sentences, the last year has seen three injunctions handed out, as well as eight verbal warnings given and several letters written to people whose actions have fallen short of what the Trust expects from patients and visitors.

Red bag to accompany patients in and out of hospital

Care home residents coming in and out of hospital will carry their belongings, as well as their up-to-date medical records, in a new red bag as part of a scheme to improve the patient journey.

The red bag will stay with the patient at all times and will reduce the time it takes for doctors and nurses to find important medical information.

This new scheme is being piloted in two Swindon care homes, ahead of a wider roll out later in the year.

Doctor given presidential award

A leading GWH doctor who has spent decades nurturing the next generation of medics has had his extraordinary career recognised in the most high-profile way.

Dr Michael Natarajan received the Royal College of Anaesthetist's Presidential Award in December after colleagues from GWH put his name forward for the prestigious prize.

The anaesthetist was chosen for the award by a panel of experts who were blown away by his dedicated approach to supporting doctors in training.

Falls prevention best in south west

Patients being admitted to GWH are more likely to receive special assessments designed to minimise the risk of falling than anywhere else in the south west.

People needing an overnight stay in hospital can be subject to up to seven assessments, with each one linked to a different falls risk.

Data from the Royal College of Physicians showed that GWH gave its patients more of these assessments than any of the other 18 hospitals in the south west of England.

New style CQC inspection announced

The Care Quality Commission, which regulates all healthcare providers in England, has announced changes to the way it carries out inspections.

Previous inspections, which would be carried out over an extended period of time, will be replaced by unannounced visits chosen following a review of department-specific data.

The Trust was last inspected in the spring of 2017, with another inspection expected to take place before the end of the year.

Weekly support for carers

The Trust is extending the support it offers to carers in Swindon with the launch of a

brand new weekly drop in service.

Every Wednesday, the public restaurant at GWH plays host to the Carers' Cafe, where people who look after friends or loved ones can find out more about the help available to them in the local area.

Carers coming to GWH can already benefit from a range discounted parking, free hot drinks and cheaper meals.

Cancer patients asked for feedback

Cancer experts from GWH are asking former patients, as well as their family members, to share details of their past experiences to help shape future care plans.

Patients are being invited to attend the first meeting of the Swindon Cancer Partnership Group, which will be held at GWH on Wednesday 21 February.

The new group will meet four times a year and will act as a platform for people to leave honest feedback of the care they received.

Patients referred to revolutionary genome project

DNA samples from GWH patients with rare diseases are continuing to be used in a revolutionary project that is finding cures for complex conditions.

The Trust was the first in the region to join the 100,000 Genomes project, which is building a national database of DNA samples for research doctors to analyse.

It is hoped that the project could lead to doctors to gain a better understanding of certain illnesses, as well as finding cures for rare diseases.

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