

GP LINK

JULY 2012

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NEWS IN BRIEF

GOVERNOR APPOINTMENT

Following the Trust's recent call for nominations for a Governor in the Constituency of Vale Royal and all other parts of Cheshire West and Chester, Mrs Jenny Creed has been appointed unopposed.

Jenny has many years experience of the NHS as she is a retired chartered Physiotherapist.

NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

GP Link is designed to keep you, as Primary Care colleagues, up-to-date with news and improvements within MCHFT.

If there are any topics which you would like to see covered in future editions, have any feedback on how we can improve this newsletter or would simply like more copies, please contact Rob Meadows, Communications and Marketing Officer, on 01270 273827 or email rob.meadows@mcht.nhs.uk.

TRUST VISION AND STRATEGY

In May 2012, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (MCHFT) formally launched its Vision and Strategy. The planning process for the strategy began in 2010 with the development of the Clinical Services Strategy, which has formed the basis for the ten-year vision and five-year strategy.

The overarching vision of MCHFT is "to deliver excellence in healthcare through innovation and collaboration", and the Trust's mission is to be a provider that:

- Delivers high quality, safe, cost-effective and sustainable healthcare services;
- Provides a

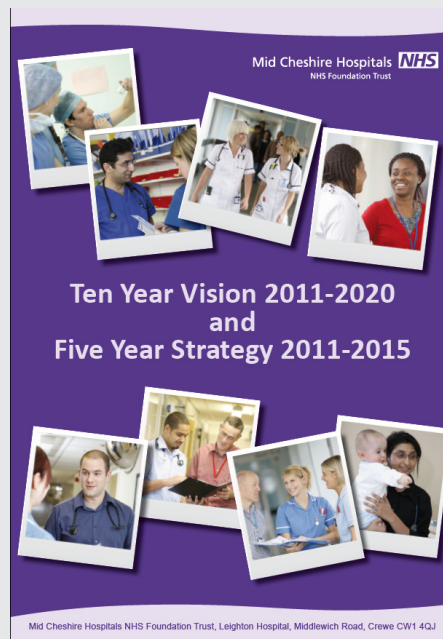
working environment that is underpinned by values and behaviours;

- Is committed to patient-centred care;
- Treats staff and patients with dignity and respect.

A short summary document outlining the Vision and Strategy has now been published by

the Trust, and is available on the website (www.mcht.nhs.uk/about-us/about-the-trust/trust-vision-and-strategy).

To request a hard copy of the document, please contact Melissa Steele, Acting Trust Secretary, on 01270 612128 or melissa.steele@mcht.nhs.uk.



NORMAL VISITING TIMES RESUMED

The Trust has now returned to normal visiting times, following a temporary restriction in June due to an increased number of patients with a diarrhoea and vomiting bug, thought to be Norovirus. The virus was present across the community and, as it is

easily spread, cases were thought to have been present within Leighton Hospital in June.

The Trust has stringent hygiene measures, as well as rigorous cleaning schedules, in place across all its sites.

DEXA SCANNING SERVICE

Are your patients at risk of osteoporosis?

For your patients with potential cases of osteoporosis, Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust can provide a gold standard Dual Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) scanning service based on NICE guidelines.

This consultant-led service ensures clinicians are able to meet the national recommendation that men and women with clinical indicators of low bone mineral density should be offered a DEXA scan.

Key benefits to GPs:

- You get a detailed and comprehensive report that highlights any significant risks and gives lifestyle and treatment recommendations.
- The service maximises your time to focus on your patients' management plan. Additionally, the report gives recommendations to support your patients' ongoing management plan.
- The report is usually available to you within two weeks of the scan, meaning that you can feed back to your patients quickly.
- Patients are asked to complete a thorough pre-scan lifestyle questionnaire that supports your patients' management plan.

Key benefits to your patients:

- The DEXA scanning service is consultant-led, and our two lead Radiographers have recently passed the National Training Scheme for Bone Densitometry.
- The service has been rated as Gold Standard,

ensuring the highest possible quality of patient experience for this local service.

- Patients can usually be seen within one week of referral.
- The service is located at Leighton Hospital in Crewe, providing reassuringly local and accessible treatment for your patients.
- As this is a direct access request, then a local price prevents an outpatient tariff.

The DEXA scan process

Once you have identified that a patient may be at risk of developing osteoporosis, you can refer them into Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The clinical pathway is as follows:

1. A patient can usually be seen one week from GP referral.
2. A comprehensive lifestyle questionnaire is completed with the patient at the time of the scan.
3. The DEXA scan is non-invasive and takes approximately 30 minutes to allow for discussion about the questionnaire.
4. The Gold Standard diagnostic report is processed and sent to the GP within two weeks following the scan.
5. All referral letters are set up on the GP system.

Our specialists would be happy to discuss how our DEXA Scanning Service can complement and benefit your GP surgery.

For more information on the service, please call the Medical Imaging Appointments department on 01270 612273.

DOWN'S SYNDROME SYMPTOMS

In the last 18 months, the Trust has seen some cases of children with Trisomy 21 (Down's Syndrome) who developed atlanto-axial subluxation requiring neurosurgical input following minor neck injuries.

They had initially presented to primary care, been

diagnosed with simple muscle strain and been given standard advice and analgesia.

Please be aware that atlanto-axial instability is a recognised feature of Trisomy 21 and therefore it is advisable to be cautious when dealing with neck injuries in such children.

CERVICAL SCREENING AT MCHFT

MCHFT would like to take this opportunity to remind GPs that Cervical Screening is available for patients at its Centre for Sexual Health, based at Leighton Hospital.

The Centre for Sexual Health sees around 260 patients a year for their routine smears, and can offer tests to all women aged between 25 and 64.

Whilst the Trust understands that patients can receive their screening at their local GP practice,

MCHFT is available as an option for those who do not want to have it at their medical centre or if GPs are unable to offer screening at that particular time.

For further information on screening, please visit www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical. Alternatively, the Centre for Sexual Health can be contacted on 01270 612255 or email sexualhealthcentre@mcht.nhs.uk.

SAFETY EXPRESS PROGRAMME

Following the Trust's successful completion of Phase 1 of the Safety Express programme, MCHFT is currently working towards the completion of Phase 2.

Safety Express is a national programme designed to achieve rapid improvement in patient safety through the widespread involvement of frontline clinicians and to engage patients and their families in the quest for safe, harm-free care in relation to pressure ulcers, falls, catheter-acquired urinary tract infections and Venous Thromboembolism (VTE).

Harm-free care is achieved when patients do not experience any of these four harms throughout their health care journey, and the Safety Express programme offers organisations the opportunity to collaborate and build on the progress they have already made in patient safety. MCHFT has already made improvements through participation in programmes such as the Safer Patient Initiative, Leading Improvements in Patient Safety programme and Patient Safety First Campaign.

Through the Safety Express project, a Safety Express Team has been established who meet monthly to discuss a range of Patient Safety issues. Lead by Joanne Falkland, Patient Safety

Lead, the team consists of Ward Managers, Divisional Matrons, Lead for Older People, Tissue Viability Nurses and Continence Nurses.

As part of the Safety Express programme, care rounds have been introduced on some of the Trust's wards, with research showing that they have helped improve patient satisfaction, reduced call bell usage and decreased the number of falls. The care rounds are undertaken at specific intervals and include asking the patient a range of questions such as are they comfortable, do they have a drink, can they reach their call bell and is there anything further that they need.

A pressure ulcer working group was also set up as part of the project, which looked at the Trust's documentation, training and equipment. The Trust held its first Pressure Care Link Nurse Study Day earlier in the year to launch the revised policy and documentation, with a follow-up session held in April. This group will continue to meet regularly to continue monitoring and developing skin care.

For further information on the programme, or any other Patient Safety related topic, please contact Joanne Falkland on 01270 273103.

FLYING THE FLAG FOR EQUALITY

On Thursday, May 17, MCHFT took part in the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia by flying the Rainbow Flag at Leighton Hospital.

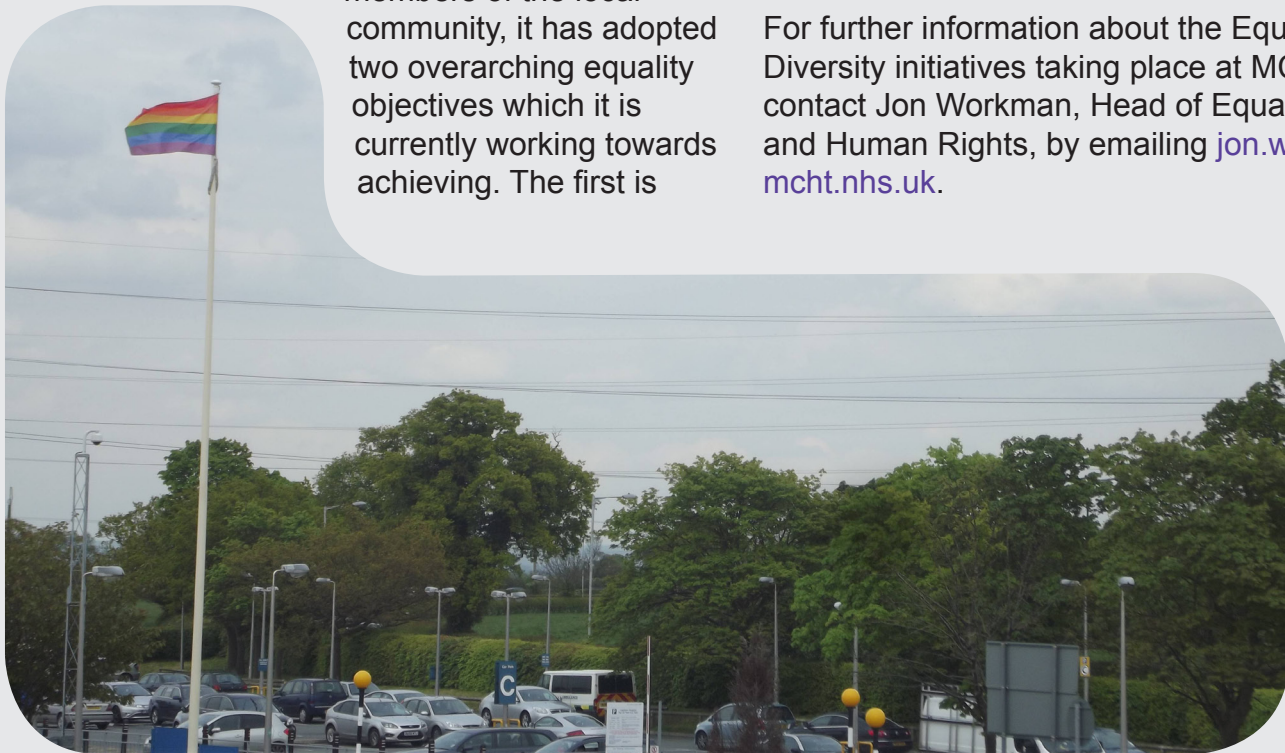
By flying the Flag, the Trust visibly showed its support for taking positive action to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals and raising awareness of the impact that homophobia, biphobia and transphobia has on these communities.

As part of the Trust's commitment to providing equally appropriate and accessible care to all members of the local community, it has adopted two overarching equality objectives which it is currently working towards achieving. The first is

to work with others to improve the health of the local community whilst reducing areas of health inequality, and the second is to work with employees and trade unions to ensure high levels of staff satisfaction amongst all staff.

MCHFT recognises that health inequalities exist in the local community, and is committed to working with others to address those inequalities. It is the policy of the Trust that no one will be discriminated against on grounds of age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

For further information about the Equality and Diversity initiatives taking place at MCHFT, please contact Jon Workman, Head of Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, by emailing jon.workman@mcht.nhs.uk.



Pictured: the Rainbow Flag flying at Leighton Hospital.

BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD IN PUBLIC

MCHFT would like to invite primary care colleagues, alongside members of the public, to come along to observe the next meeting of the Trust's Board of Directors.

The meeting will take place on Monday, August 6, 2012, at 9.30am, in the Board Room at Leighton

Hospital, Middlewich Road, Crewe CW1 4QJ.

To register your attendance at the meeting and for further information, please contact Melissa Steele, Acting Trust Secretary, on 01270 612128 or email melissa.steele@mcht.nhs.uk.