



The magazine for Members

Getting to Know You



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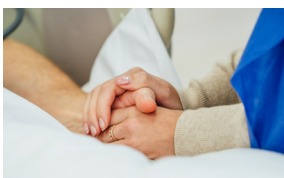
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Welcome From Our Chair



Mark Jones, WWL Chair

Welcome to the latest Members' Magazine where we will update you on the developments and achievements at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) since our last edition.

As we begin to head towards our plans for 'living with COVID-19', our patients, staff and visitors will notice the signs of recovery across WWL. As Chair, I make many visits across our hospital and community service sites, and, wherever I go, I continue to get a strong sense of the positive mindset that our staff bring with them each and every day and night as they come to work to care for our patients and support each other.

There is a positive mindset, an incredible sense of calm and total compassion for our patients and it is just wonderful to see. On one recent visit to the Thomas Linacre Centre, our town centre outpatients department, I met with the staff and volunteers and heard their positive comments on how much busier the centre is; as patients are being welcomed back for face to face appointments. Last September, I found the building much quieter, but, on this more recent visit, staff were busy and they were pleased to see patients returning, and it was also great to see volunteers returning to their roles offering valued support by all.

I am really pleased that, like all Trusts in Greater Manchester, our visiting restrictions have been lifted and non-urgent surgery and appointments have been resumed. It is important that those who are waiting for a planned operation or appointment continue to maintain and manage both physical and mental wellbeing. Our 'While You Wait' section of the WWL website is available for this purpose – you can read about this service and our new Virtual Ward further on in the magazine.

In our Getting to Know You section of our magazine is WWL's Lead Admiral Nurse, Mark Oakley. Admiral Nurses provide information, advice and support to families who are affected by dementia. Since Mark took on the role last September, he has expanded the service to include Admiral Nurse clinics for staff members, increased dementia referrals from 10 to almost 50 in just three months and has taken on another team member. You can read more about Mark and the service he provides on page 4.

In recent months, we have also welcomed two new Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to the WWL Board of Directors – Francine Thorpe and Alison Tumilty. Before joining WWL, Francine was Director of Quality & Innovation for NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group and has been involved in several strategic work programmes across the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care system including safety improvement, clinical quality, and safeguarding networks. Alison has held a number of NED roles across the North West in a number of sectors particularly Housing, Education and the NHS. Alison is also a Chartered Accountant and teaches antenatal classes, hypnobirthing and pre and postnatal yoga. Their vast experience, knowledge and passion for the NHS will be an asset to our Board of Directors.

The Trust's Council of Governors has seen a changeover in leadership as Andrew Haworth takes up the role as our new Lead Governor, taking over from Linda Sykes who is passing on the mantle after three years of outstanding leadership. Andrew has lived in Leigh for 50 years and has supported WWL in a voluntary capacity since 2014. There is more about the Governors and dates for your diary on pages 10 and 11.

While we celebrate those joining WWL, we said goodbye to a very valued member of the team, Dr Nayyar Naqvi OBE. Dr Naqvi retired from WWL after 53 years of NHS service and he will be much missed around our hospital sites. You can read more about his incredible story and how he founded our cardiology services on pages 8 and 9.

In January, WWL welcomed 15 military personnel to help manage the ongoing impacts that the Omicron variant has had on the delivery of hospital services. Following training, the servicemen were deployed to help support the Emergency Department, Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), as well as other escalated areas and where the need

is the greatest. We were also visited by the Royal Navy's Commodore Waterhouse, who presented a commemorative plaque to our CEO to mark the sailor's time supporting us before they left us at the end of February. They have been a brilliant support and we are extremely thankful for the assistance which has helped to manage the increased pressures on our services.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the WWL Members' Magazine. Thank you, once again, for your continued support as a member of our Foundation Trust.



Getting To Know You:

Mark Oakley, Admiral Nurse

Since his appointment as Admiral Nurse last September, Mark Oakley has taken the service from strength to strength. Ahead of Mark starting his “dream job”, there had to be a bit of groundwork before the job began in earnest.

Admiral Nurses provide information, advice and support to families who are affected by dementia and were given their name in honour of keen sailor, Joseph Levy, who was nicknamed ‘Admiral Joe’ by his family. Joseph developed vascular dementia and his family, who didn’t have specialist support, established the Dementia UK charity, and set up Admiral Nurses to provide life-changing support for families affected by all forms of dementia.

Since taking up his position, Mark has helped to increase Admiral Nurse referrals at WWL by 400%, something he says was helped by his preparation for the post, long before he started:

“I actually spent two to three months scoping out the role, as there hadn’t been a post like this for a number of years.”

“I had a lot of support from Dementia UK and fellow Admiral Nurses to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and referrals pathway. I prefer to be hands on and get to grips fully with a role and wanted to get it right”. Then, in September, with everything in place to launch, Mark produced and delivered a resource file for every ward which included the SOP, role, information for dementia champions as well as educational pieces. This was to support the service and be a resource for the ward staff.

“We review and support the person who has been given or has a dementia diagnosis and a lot of work is spent supporting the patient’s family or staff who are looking after them discussing the best ways to care for them, manage symptoms and be part of a multidisciplinary approach to discharge.”

The service also receives referrals for patients who don’t have a formal diagnosis of dementia but there are concerns about cognition. Since November 2020 patients have been referred to the Later Life and Memory Service (LLAMS) and through assessment and collateral history, where further assessments occur, a diagnosis can be given.

“We had around 10-15 referrals in October/November. That went up to the mid-30s in December, almost 50 in January and in February we were up to 57.”

So far the service has been very positively received and is becoming widely accessed.

Mark not only helps patients and their families but staff too, with his newly established staff support group.

“As I was walking around the hospital, staff members would often approach me for guidance around how they could help their mum, their dad, their nan or other family members who might be living with dementia.

“You forget, even though we’re nurses, we don’t know everything and looking after a family member is very different to looking after a patient, so I set up a support group for staff which now has around nine members,” says Mark.

“I’m there to help, be screamed at, provide a shoulder to cry on, anything at all. I’ve helped people with referrals to care homes or social services but very often people just need permission to feel the way they’re feeling.

“I have an open-door policy; people can call me at any time.”

From here, the former Medical Assessment Unit Ward Manager hopes to invest in his team – beginning with training a brand-new Admiral Nurse to join his team.

“I have a new member of staff, Tracy Kirkham, who started training with me at the beginning of January. She’s done amazingly well.”

Mark adds, “This is the best job in the world, I really, really love my job.

“It is everything I expected and more and I have never been as happy in a role.”

“Every day I come to work refreshed and ready to go.”

You can follow Mark to see how he continues to support WWL patients and staff by searching for @MarkOakley20 on Twitter.

For further support visit: www.dementiauk.org



“It is everything I expected and more and I have never been as happy in a role.”

“Every day I come to work refreshed and ready to go.”

Mark Oakley, Admiral Nurse



WWL Pioneering the Virtual Ward

In January, WWL was the first Trust in Greater Manchester to introduce the Virtual Ward. Through monitoring and continued treatment management, patients will receive a high level of care from the comfort of their own home and can receive 24-hour monitoring and management support via a wearable device and regular video calls.

By caring for you, our patients in familiar surroundings, and with the support of loved ones, patients can recover better and more quickly whilst freeing up hospital beds for patients who really need them.

A Virtual Hub Team Leader will be based in our hospitals to work with teams to identify, assess, consent and onboard patients to the service, allowing WWL to bring acute care into a community setting. Our teams will be in touch with regular communication to outline how and when the service can be used, to make sure patient safety and effective care remains our top priority.

As part of the Virtual Hub, and in collaboration with our community urgent care services, the Virtual Ward aims to reduce the risk of deconditioning, hospital acquired infections, sleep deprivation, anxiety, and depression, as well as help to reduce the possible spread of infections by reducing the number of patients on-site.

Patient Focused News

Supporting You While You Wait For Hospital Treatment

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our patients and public for your understanding, not just during these times of increased and intense pressure on our healthcare system, but over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We can confirm that WWL has resumed non-urgent surgery and appointments, alongside other hospitals in Greater Manchester. If your appointment or surgery was recently postponed, we are asking you to please bear with us as we work through the waiting lists.

Following guidance from NHS England, patients will be rescheduled as soon as possible based on clinical need and will be contacted directly when we can offer a new date for your appointment or surgery. There is no need to contact the hospital or your GP practice for this information.

We appreciate how disappointing this will have been for patients affected by this, especially for those who had already waited some time but please be assured that we are working hard to resume services as quickly as possible.

It is also important that you continue to maintain and manage your physical and mental wellbeing while waiting for operations or procedures at WWL. Our 'While You Wait' section of the WWL website (www.wwl.nhs.uk/while-you-wait) is available for this purpose, offering a range of information on how to access support across the Wigan Borough, including ways to keep your mind and body well, key contacts within the local community and health and care services, and where to go if you have any concerns.

It is difficult for us to tell you exactly how long you might wait for surgery or a procedure, as we are still facing high demand on our services, but it is so important that you do seek help if your condition gets worse. If you are waiting for scheduled treatment and have a consultant or specialist nurse at WWL, you should contact them and let them know if your condition changes.

We continue to urge anyone with health concerns to come forward for help and treatment in the usual way by calling NHS 111 or using the 111.nhs.uk website for clinically led support, by accessing a GP, pharmacy or dentist, by visiting a walk-in centre or by using our Emergency Care Department in Wigan, only if you have a serious or life-threatening illness or injury.



Breaking Ground on New Aspull Health Centre

A groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new Aspull Health and Wellbeing Centre took place in January, signifying the start of construction of what is set to be a state-of-the-art facility for the Aspull community and surrounding areas.

Together with representatives from Aspull GP Surgery, NHS Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group and OneMedical Property, representatives from WWL donned their hard hats to take up the spade on the freshly prepared ground at Haigh Road.

The development, which is set for completion in early Autumn 2022, will meet the varied needs of the local population, with WWL set to provide a number of services, including: podiatry, a baby clinic, ear and eye care, speech and language therapy, counselling and physiotherapy, and access to midwives, district nurses and dieticians.

As well as providing excellent healthcare facilities, the transformational development will provide car and bike parking, multi-purpose spaces for the NHS, and a new community orchard at the front of the building alongside plenty of green space to benefit the whole village.

WWL's Director of Estates and Facilities, David Evans, who attended the ceremony said: "WWL are delighted to be part of the team that will bring

the new Health Centre to the community of Aspull. It will be at the heart of the community offering vital health facilities along with a community orchard and bookable room for local groups to use. It will be a great asset for the local area."

Rachel Beverley-Stevenson, Executive Chair and Property Director at OneMedical Group, added: "Aspull is an example of redeveloping an existing site, so we've worked closely with WWL and Aspull Surgery to repurpose the site. Together, we are proud to make sure that healthcare is accessible in a community where patients are keen to keep care close to them."



An Artist's impression of the new health centre

WWL Lifts Visiting Restrictions



Rabina Tindale, Chief Nurse

We are thrilled to be able to open our doors once again to welcome visitors across our sites.

From Monday 14th February, in-patients at the Trust's hospital sites have welcomed visitors following temporary restrictions that had to be put in place as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WWL's Chief Nurse, Rabina Tindale says she is grateful to the local community for their continued support and understanding.

She said: "Finally, it feels like we have a light at the end of what has been such a very dark tunnel for our patients, their families and our staff.

"We would like to send a big thank you to the public and our community for supporting us and adhering to guidelines during what has been a difficult period for everyone.

While WWL is happy to have lifted visiting restrictions, some COVID-19 guidelines still apply. We would urge those who wish to visit family and friends at WWL sites, to contact the ward directly for further support. Traditional visiting hours have been replaced with designated times for visitors to see their loved ones. All patients will be allowed one visit per day. Those who would like to arrange a visit to see their loved one are asked to contact the ward directly to be given an allocated time slot.

Rabina added: "While we are delighted to be able to lift restrictions, we must ask that, when visiting our hospital, people remain vigilant in following our current visiting policies.

"Please do only visit loved ones if you feel well and have no traditional COVID-19 symptoms.

"We would also urge visitors to continue to wear a mask when on any hospital or service site, using cleansing gels on entering and exiting buildings and practice good hand hygiene. The health, safety and wellbeing of the public, our patients, communities, and staff across the organisation continues to remain our absolute priority."

Cardiology Pioneer Retires From WWL

The founder of WWL's Cardiology Service, Dr Nayyar Naqvi OBE, announced his retirement after 53 years of service in the NHS.



Dr Nayyar Naqvi

Originally from Rampur in India, Dr Naqvi moved to Pakistan, attending Dow Medical College until his graduation in 1968, before moving to the UK, setting up the Cardiology Service in the Trust and the 'Dr Naqvi Heart Fund' from a humble room at Billinge Hospital in 1979.

Thanks to his pioneering work, WWL now has a first class district Cardiology Service, based at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, including exercise laboratories, echocardiogram laboratories and two cardiac catheter laboratories, and a subsidiary department at Leigh Infirmary.

Speaking about his career, Dr Naqvi said: "I have spent 42 very happy years working at WWL (previously Wigan Health Authority). It has been my honour and privilege to have served the public of the Wigan Borough to the best of my ability.

"I am particularly proud of having set up Greater Manchester's North-West Sector Centre for Cardiology at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and the service it provides, not just to Wigan and Leigh but more widely as well. I am grateful for the tremendous

support I have had from my colleagues, the nursing staff, paramedical staff and the managerial staff.

"My journey on the highway of medicine started 53 years ago and it has been full of wonder, a marvellous journey, awe inspiring and gratifying.

"Over the years I have seen many changes in the health service, locally and nationally. Despite all the challenges our beloved NHS faces every moment of every day, I firmly believe it is the best health service in the world. I am blessed to have worked in it."

Dr Naqvi is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh, Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology, and a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He has written many papers, and has presented these papers all over the world. He has been Honorary Clinical Teacher at University of Manchester School of Medicine, and British Heart Foundation Lecturer, as well as Honorary Senior Lecturer at University of Central Lancashire.

Among his many achievements, Dr Naqvi received an OBE from Her Majesty the Queen in 2004 for his services to Medicine and Cardiology, and in 2013 he was honoured with a permanent star on the Wigan Walk of Fame at Believe Square for services to the public of Wigan Borough.

As part of the 70th anniversary of the NHS in 2018, Dr Naqvi was presented with a regional Lifetime Achievement award and was shortlisted for the national accolade.

WWL Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls and Medical Director, Professor Sanjay Arya honoured Dr Naqvi with the role of 'Emeritus Consultant Cardiologist', which allows him to retain his title as an honour to his immeasurable contribution to the Trust and his profession. He will also continue to be associated

to the annual 'Nayyar Naqvi Lecture' at our fittingly named Medical Education Centre, the Nayyar Naqvi Lecture Theatre, and the Nayyar Naqvi Award for the Best Audit will remain for the foreseeable future.

CEO Silas Nicholls said: "It is with sadness, but our complete best wishes that we say thank you and happy retirement to Nayyar for what has been an exceptional career here at WWL and across the NHS.

"His work in setting up the cardiology service in Wigan has rightly seen him receive local, regional and national recognition, and his commitment to the people of our borough is an incredible reflection on his approach to health care. "I'd like to offer my congratulations to Nayyar on an outstanding career."

Professor Arya added: "Nayyar is an incredibly talented, dedicated and trusted colleague and friend. "His impact and innovation in cardiology has had a lasting impact on the profession, the Wigan Borough and beyond.

"Anyone who has worked with Nayyar will be able to tell you about his humility and kindness, he truly has enriched the lives and careers of so many people and I wish him the absolute best in his retirement."



Dr Nayyar Naqvi opening the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory Discharge Lounge



"My journey on the highway of medicine started 53 years ago and it has been full of wonder, a marvellous journey, awe inspiring and gratifying."

Dr Nayyar Naqvi



Andrew Haworth
Lead Governor

New Lead Governor

New Lead Governor announcement and thanks to Linda Sykes as outgoing Lead Governor.

The Annual Members' Meeting saw the changeover point for your elected Governor representatives, as terms of office expired and the candidates you recently voted for took their places.

Firstly, a big thank you to those Public Governors who finished their term, Alan Baybutt, Jean Coates-Topping, Christine Jones, Renee Mellis, Maggie Skilling, and Veronika Stevens. Imran Alam, Jackie Hylton, Hazel Leatherbarrow – representing Staff Governors - and to Paula Keating and Reg Nash, appointed by two of our external partners. Their collective skills and insights have helped the Council of Governors to be a sounding board for the Trust's executives, bringing local needs to the table when decisions were made.



Linda Sykes

At the same time, Linda Sykes stepped down as Lead Governor after three years in the role. Linda supported Governors through numerous challenges, which included the recruitment of new Non-Executive and Executive Directors.

Linda supported Governors who, like many others, worked remotely through the pandemic. We owe her a great debt of gratitude. Thank you Linda.

Starting new as Governors are:

- Sean Campsall
- Emily Cooper
- Stephen Gorst
- Lynda Hale
- Michelle Hartley
- Susan Spibey
- Julie Hilling
- Carol Kelly
- Catherine Martindale
- Malcolm Ryding
- Bryonie Shaw

With support from fellow Governors and the Trust's staff they are beginning the process of learning how to best contribute in the dialogue we have with the Trust so that your views can be part of the open debate. I will be stepping into big shoes, taking up the reins from Linda as the new Lead Governor. I've been meeting with the new intake and reassuring them that although our voluntary role can be daunting at first, there is a real sense of working together and lots of support and experience from the existing team. Working together we'll help WWL continue to achieve well, reduce the backlog and reap the advantages from continued joint working with other hospitals across Greater Manchester.

I'm proud to be part of the Wigan Borough community, having lived in Leigh for 50 years as my family grew and I worked for Wigan Council to keep our green spaces relevant. Since 2014, I've supported WWL in a voluntary capacity and enjoy seeing services improve. The team of Governors are an inspiring lot, bringing skills and passion to help WWL deliver it's best. I'm delighted to be a part of it.

Staff Governor Elections

We will soon have a vacant seat in our Staff Governors: Nursing and Midwifery constituency. If you are a registered nurse or midwife and would like to join us to represent the views of your colleagues – why not nominate yourself for election?

In line with WWL's ambitions to create a more diverse 'Council of Governors' of the future, we particularly welcome applications from colleagues with diverse backgrounds.

All members eligible to nominate themselves for election in this constituency will receive further communications to let them know when the nomination period will begin. Feel free to contact us in the meantime if you would like further information at members@wwl.nhs.uk.

Dates For The Diary

Meeting dates for 2022

Due to pandemic restrictions, many of our Board meetings over the last year have been held virtually. Members of the public are now able to join us in these virtual meetings, although we do hope to be able to return to face to face meetings as soon as it is safe to do so. Start times are subject to change but will be confirmed on our website www.wwl.nhs.uk in advance of each meeting, along with the location of the meeting or meeting link, where meetings are to be held virtually.

Board of Directors

- 30 March 2022, 1pm to 2.30pm
- 6 April 2022, 12.15pm to 4.15pm
- 8 June 2022, 12.15pm to 4.15pm
- 3 August 2022, 12.15pm to 4.15pm
- 5 October 2022, 12.15pm to 4.15pm
- 7 December 2022, 12.15pm to 4.15pm



Council of Governors

- 27 April 2022, 5.15pm to 7.15pm
- 19 July 2022, 5.15pm to 7.15pm
- 27 October 2022, 5.15pm to 7.15pm

Annual members' meeting

- 10 November 2022, 1.15pm to 3.45pm

Upcoming Member Events

Virtual Wards - WWL's Journey So Far 11 April 2022, 10am – 11am via MS Teams

What are Virtual Wards?

On page six you will have learned a little about our virtual wards. If you would like to find out more, then join us for an informative session on WWL's pioneering Virtual Wards. Learn about how we monitor and manage patients on a 24 hour basis, allowing them to receive a high level of care from the comfort of their own home.

Our Clinical Quality Lead for Community Virtual Care, Karen Downs and Consultant, Dr Anton Sinniah, will be hosting the event. They will talk to you about how the service is delivered, the benefits that it offers for patients and what happens when they are discharged from a Virtual Ward.

The Virtual Ward does not only help patients who are using the service, but also creates space on our hospital site, for those patients who require closer monitoring and assistance.

If you are interested in attending, please email Members@wwl.nhs.uk, call freephone 0800 073 1477 or direct line 01942 822186. We hope to see you there!



* Photograph taken pre-pandemic

How To Become a Member

To become a member contact The Membership Office, by phone, post or email:

Telephone Number:
0800 073 1477

Email Address:
Members@wwl.nhs.uk

Postal Address:
Freeport Business Reply Services Licence NO SWB50013
Membership & Engagement Department
Wrightington Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust
Wigan Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XZ

WWL Receives Badge of Honour For Armed Forces Support

WWL's dedication to the local and regional Armed Forces community was recognised with the highest honour available, when the Trust received the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for its outstanding support towards the Armed Forces community, at the 2021 Defence Gold Award Association (GAA) ceremony at the end of November 2021.

Connecting and energising the local Armed Forces community as part of the GAA network was an area in which the Trust received particular praise, helping to form a collective voice to mentor and inspire other employers and to develop and share best practice.

Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards are awarded to organisations that employ and support those who serve, veterans and their families. To win an award, organisations must provide 10 extra paid days leave for Reservists and have supportive Human Resources policies in place for Veterans, Reserves, and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, as well as spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

Organisations must also promote the benefits of supporting those within the Armed Forces community by encouraging others to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and engage in the Employer Recognition Scheme.

Rebecca Lyon, WWL's Director of Operations for Specialist Services and project lead, who attended the ceremony with Mr Aslam Mohammed, Clinical Lead for the project, alongside project team members Joanne England and David Broomhall, said:

"At WWL, we pride ourselves on working with our Armed Forces community to ensure that we provide the best possible care, as well as opportunities within the Trust for veterans to become part of our WWL family after their service ends.

"Receiving this award is excellent recognition for the hard work and dedication of the whole Veteran Aware Project team at WWL, but most importantly it shows us that we continue to make progress for our local veterans.

"We have had tremendous support from across the Trust, and as a team we're incredibly grateful for the ways in which staff at WWL have embedded our work with veterans into their roles.

"We must also thank the amazing team at the Wigan Armed Forces Community HQ who have supported this programme of work from its very beginning."

Navy Support at WWL

WWL welcomed 15 military personnel to help manage the ongoing impacts that the Omicron variant has had on the delivery of hospital services



WWL CEO Silas Nicholls with Commodore Phil Waterhouse and Chief Nurse, Rabina Tindale, visiting sailors and staff at RAEI

WWL welcomed 15 military personnel at the beginning of the year to help manage the ongoing impacts of the Omicron variant on the delivery of hospital services.

The servicemen were been deployed to help support the Emergency Department, Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC), as well as other escalated areas where the need was greatest.

Some examples of the type of work that was undertaken included general ward duties, cleaning to support the maintenance of Infection Prevention Control measures, assisting with portering, help with mealtimes and drinks, answering ward telephones and dealing with queries, maintaining stock, and acting as runners to laboratories and pharmacies.

Richard Fitchett, who works in Warfare, was head of the team.

He said: "We essentially lightened the staff workloads and assisted the nurses that work on the ward.

"We are normally the patients, so seeing it from a different point of view has been a real eye opener for us."

Shortly before the sailors returned to their posts at their bases in Plymouth and Portsmouth The Trust was visited by the Royal Navy's Commodore Waterhouse, who presented a commemorative

plaque to our CEO to mark the sailor's time supporting us.

He said: "For a region which sees little in the way of regular sailors and marines on the patch, it has been a pleasure to host the team and relish in their success with them.

"Full of endeavour, enthusiasm and empathy they have done 'their bit' extraordinarily well; the Royal Navy is very proud of their contribution."

Silas Nicholls, Chief Executive of WWL, said the month-long assistance from the sailors was much appreciated by his team.

"This support has assisted us to stabilise the current pressures on staffing and to allow our clinicians to focus on the provision of clinical care as we prepare our sites for full restoration of activity," he added.

"We are extremely thankful for the assistance which further enhances the unwavering efforts of all our colleagues to manage the increased pressures on our services."



Rebecca Lyon, Mr Aslam Mohammed, Joanne England and David Broomhall

Fundraising & Donations



Warrington Wolves Star's Pledge to Three Wishes

Warrington Wolves Rugby League star, Stefan Ratchford, chose WWL's Three Wishes' Children and Babies Fund, and in particular, our Neonatal Unit (NNU) as one of his four Testimonial Year charities.

Stefan, who plays fullback for Warrington, previously donated to WWL's NNU back in 2019, donating his man of the match earnings from the 2018 Super League Grand Final.

Stefan was awarded a 12 month testimonial year in 2021 by the Rugby Football League (RFL) for his 10 years of service playing for Warrington.

Stefan has made 276 appearances for Warrington since he signed from Salford in 2012 and is the eighth highest points scorer for the club in its history.

Over the 12 months, Stefan and his committee hosted various events to raise money and awareness for his four chosen charities including a ladies night, golf day, a calendar signing, and, most importantly, his testimonial game.

Stefan chose Three Wishes as one of his charities as a way to say thank you for looking after his youngest daughter.

He said: "My youngest daughter spent the first six days of her life in the NNU at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. As you can imagine these were the hardest days of my family's life.

"Without the attentive care and quick thinking of the medical staff, I cannot bear to think how that first week of her life may have ended.

"We will be eternally grateful to all the staff and the NNU for the work they did in saving our baby girl's life.

"The least I can do, after all they have done for my family, and so many other families, is to raise awareness and much needed funds for the Three Wishes Children and Babies Fund."



Stefan Ratchford



Stefan Ratchford with his daughter and members of staff from the NNU

Wigan Dad Raises £4k by Thank You Triathlon



James Hunter

After his new-born daughter Abigail's five week stay on WWL's Neonatal Unit, James Hunter completed a 35-mile triathlon to give back to the unit that kept his daughter alive following her premature birth. Technically made up of five events, James completed a 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run, with a 2km walk and a 3km row thrown in for good measure – totalling 56.5km or 35 miles.

The five events signified the number of weeks Abigail spent in hospital, and the 35 miles are an indication of the journey he was making to work, the hospital and home again to see his daughter. James raised an incredible amount, totalling up to just over £4000.

Former Olympian Honours WWL at Great North Swim

Mum of two, Helen Don-Duncan, took part in the Great North Swim, to raise funds for our Three Wishes' Children and Babies Fund. Helen isn't a stranger to swimming as she represented Great Britain in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Helen raised over £1000 to give to the charity to allow our Neonatal Unit to purchase a Billiblanquet, a portable phototherapy device used to treat neonatal jaundice.

"I want to help other mums, like me, who have to watch their baby receive phototherapy, through an incubator, to be able to have the cuddles when they are out and still receive treatment."

Helen, with her daughter, Heidi and son, Stanley, handed over the donation to our Neonatal nurses, Beth and Diane, in November 2021. They both looked after Helen's children when they were born.



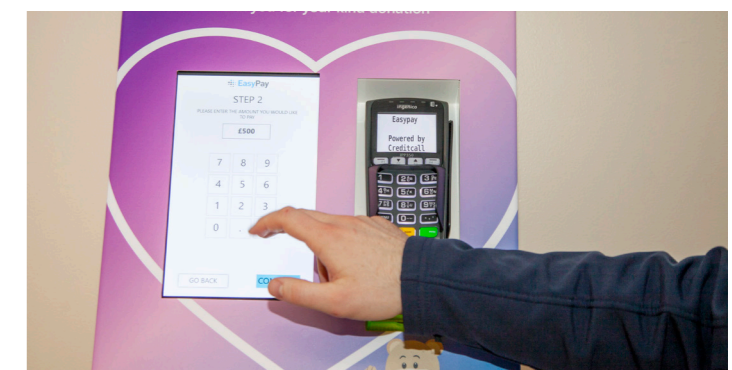
Helen with her children Heidi and Stanley presenting cheque to NNU Nurses Beth and Diane

How to Donate

Thank you to all of our fundraisers for all of your efforts. No matter how big or small, every donation counts towards helping us fund projects, equipment and services to improve the environment and experiences of our patients.

If you have any questions about our Charity or would like information on making a donation please email:

threewishescharity@wwl.nhs.uk



Donation Kiosk

NHS

NHS 111 can:

- ☑ Give you medical advice
- ☑ Book a GP appointment overnight and on weekends
- ☑ Book an emergency dentist or optician appointment
- ☑ Book you into A&E

Get the right care at the right time

Healthier Wigan

NHS

Local Walk-in-Centres, like Leigh, are for urgent, but not life-threatening conditions:

- ☑ Possible broken bones
- ☑ Sprains
- ☑ Burns, cuts and wounds
- ☑ Eye problems
- ☑ Minor head injuries
- ☑ Rashes, infections, viral illnesses

Get the right care at the right time

Healthier Wigan

NHS

Need a GP? There are lots of way to access one:

- ☑ Contact your own GP through their website or by phone
- ☑ Ring 01942 482848 for an appointment at a local GP Hub on an evening or weekend
- ☑ Contact 111 online or over the phone for a GP overnight and on weekends

Get the right care at the right time

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NHS

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Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Need urgent help with your mental health?

You can now call our 24/7 mental health crisis line for **FREE**.

- Call 0800 953 0285 if you live in Bolton, Salford, Trafford or the City of Manchester
- Call 0800 051 3253 if you live in Wigan

www.gmmh.nhs.uk/247-helpline

Thank you for taking the time to read our Members' magazine. If you have any questions or would like to offer feedback please email Members@wwl.nhs.uk or call freephone 0800 073 1477.

To contact the Governors in your area please email Governors@wwl.nhs.uk.

*Magazine produced by the Communications Team

*Some of the photographs used were taken pre-pandemic