



**Wrightington, Wigan and
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**
NHS Foundation Trust

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS

Winter 2023/2024



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Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) Members' magazine.



Since our last edition I am pleased to say that we have a lot of very positive news to share, however, we should also recognise those challenging times, including system pressures and a number of Industrial Actions from our Junior Doctors and Consultants. Whilst pay is a matter for the Government and trade unions, we recognise how important this issue is to our clinical colleagues and understand the strength of feeling towards this subject.

To help us address these challenges, WWL has been working alongside operational improvement specialists, Newton Europe and The Emergency Care Improvement Support Team (ECIST), a clinically led national NHS team that has been designed by clinicians to help health and care systems deliver high quality emergency care. Together, with our partners across the Wigan Borough and the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), we are working to co-develop plans to help with operational pressures, but also the financial pressures that we and other Trusts across Greater Manchester, and the country, are facing.

I am pleased to report that as we move into the New Year, I will be working alongside Mary Fleming our Interim Chief Executive, supported by Claire Wannell our Interim Chief Operating Officer. I am also pleased to report that we have also recruited our Interim Chief Nurse, Kevin Parker-Evans who joined us this month from Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust. I am confident and assured that with such leadership, WWL will continue to be guided through the remaining winter months.

WWL is a unique and special place, and our staff are the beating heart of our organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each member of staff, all our members, our governors, and our volunteers all the very best for 2024. Whilst we may have some challenges ahead of us, we also have a strong and effective organisation that is renowned for its commitment for serving the health of its patients and know that, together, we will continue to meet these challenges, while also celebrating our many successes.

*Mark Jones
WWL Chair*



As Governors we make sure your views, and those of the wider community, are heard as plans are made and progressed by WWL. We see that services are fully concentrated on delivering safe and effective care, which means looking after the seriously unwell by having capacity to respond when that help is needed.

Governors get to join Board members and staff members to witness service delivery and speak with patients in clinics and on the wards. This provides a reality check to what we hear 'on the streets' and in the boardroom, allowing Governors to understand better.

Governors have skilled help from the eight Non-Executive Directors we appoint to be our eyes and ears on the Board, and, led by the Chair, they answer our queries on standards and performance. Over the last year, Governors have appointed Julie Gill and Mary Moore in this role, whilst Rhona Bradley was reappointed as Senior Independent Director.

Governors represent public and staff, but we do invite other partner organisations to nominate their representatives, they represent our local Council, the voluntary/charity sector, medical schools, hospital volunteers and the local GPs. I want to thank Councillor Fred Walker and Dr Syed Shah who brought their organisations' insights to our meetings for their maximum term of nine years each, thank you both.

You will of course hear of pressures on the NHS across the country to care for increasing numbers of people who need attention, and to then work with partners to help those treated patients back into their home environment. Governors have seen WWL making best use of investment with the excellent Virtual Ward and creating more flow in the system through careful use of tightly limited new spending. More nurses, extra diagnostics, new theatres, and smarter working with partners all result from flexible plans designed to maximise benefit to patients.

*Andrew Haworth
Lead Governor*

Community Diagnostic Centre Update

History was made at Leigh Infirmary in October 2023 as WWL delivered the first Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computerised Tomography (CT) scans to patients at the site.

Having received delivery of the brand-new state of the art equipment, the Trust is now able to offer both diagnostic procedures at Leigh Infirmary – something that had previously only been able to be delivered at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary (RAEI) and Wrightington Hospital.

Work began on WWL's new £10m Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and £7.9m laminar-flow theatre with recovery area in December 2022, as part of a national programme to increase access to key diagnostic tests and increase capacity across a range of investigative procedures such as MRI, CT, X-ray, ultrasound, electrocardiogram (ECG/ECHO) heart monitoring tests/scans, blood pressure and heart monitoring, lung function, sleep studies and phlebotomy.

Alongside the CDC, a new laminar-flow theatre is being built which will provide modernised facilities

within the theatre complex and will also enable other specialties to increase utilisation of existing capacity with longer opening hours of support services on site.

Mary Fleming, WWL's Interim Chief Executive, said: "The opening of the new radiology department was a very exciting step in our journey to bring a modern 'one stop shop' diagnostics and healthcare facility to Leigh.

"The CDC will support faster diagnosis and treatment, which is fantastic news for our patients, and will support our aim to become a premier centre for rehabilitation, diagnostics and outpatient services."

You can read about the experience of the first patients to use the new department back in November [here](#).



Patient using the new CT Scanner at Leigh Infirmary

Getting To Know You Virtual Wards



What is a Virtual Ward?

Virtual Wards (sometimes known as Hospital at Home) allow patients to receive hospital-level care, in the place they call home. With the help of technology-assisted wearable home monitoring devices, the programme can help to speed up their recovery while freeing up hospital beds.

The primary role of a Virtual Ward is to support patients who are acutely ill or recovering from acute illness in their own surroundings, making it more comfortable and providing the same level of support and care as they would have if they were in the hospital.

Just as in hospital, should you be an appropriate candidate for the Virtual Ward, you will be cared for by a clinical team who can provide a range of tests and treatments including blood tests, prescribing medication or administering medication through an intravenous drip.

Those patients on the Virtual Ward are reviewed daily by the clinical team and the 'ward round' with doctors and nurses takes place through video technology that is sent home with patients on their discharge from hospital. They will observe a

patient's heart rate, blood pressure, temperature and respiratory rate via monitors and an iPad-like device for video consultations; effectively managing patients in their own home.

Many Virtual Wards use technology like apps, wearables and other medical devices enabling clinical staff to easily check in and monitor the person's recovery. The patient will be contacted regularly to check on progress or address any new problems that they identify via the monitoring devices. Given the continuous monitoring offered, the response from the team is very prompt.

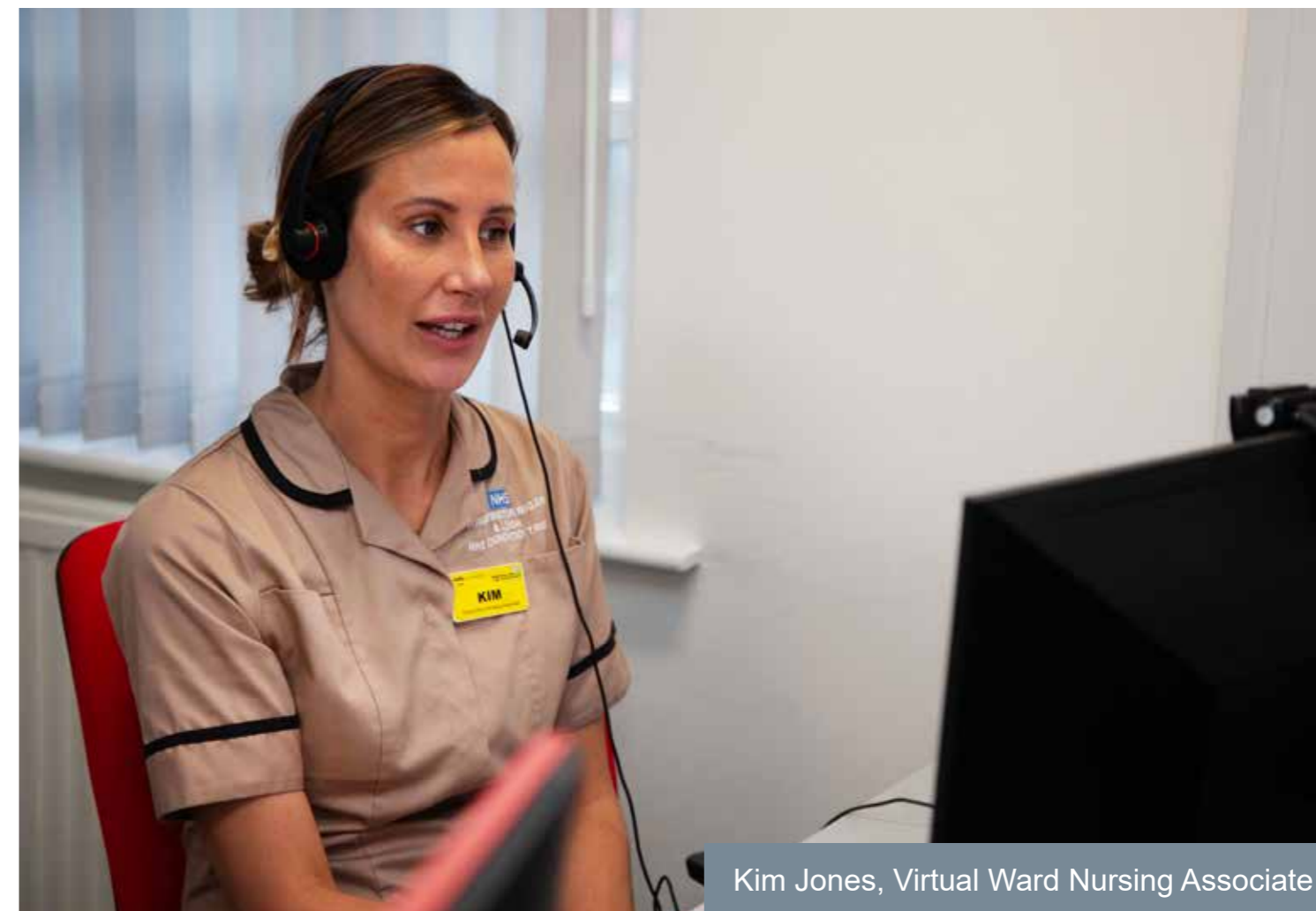
Since the first patient was admitted to the Virtual Ward in January 2022, WWL has been able to support people who would otherwise be in hospital, from their home. The Virtual Ward can accommodate 100 virtual patients and, in turn, ensures patients most needing hospital care are treated in a hospital bed. People with a variety of health conditions have benefitted, including those with respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and heart related conditions such as heart failure or those recovering from a heart attack.

The Virtual Ward has also helped patients with general medical complaints such as fever and skin infections, patients following surgical procedures and patients preparing for surgery who need support to optimise their health ahead of their procedure. Since January 2022 to November 2023, WWL has successfully managed 1,627 patients on our Virtual Ward with over 95% of patients giving very positive feedback.

We have monitored and cared for the health of many of our frail population, including those in care and nursing home settings. The team is also looking at how they can support WWL's Accident and Emergency Department, particularly during periods of increased pressures, to reduce patient waiting times and offer timely, appropriate care for patients in the comfort of their homes.

Alongside the Virtual Ward, WWL is delivering a 'Home First' approach to support patients getting home from hospital in a safe and timely manner. Our teams of community and hospital-based therapy staff work together with the Virtual Ward and social care colleagues to help reduce the length of stay for patients in hospital.

Therapy teams help to support patients with the intermediate care and rehabilitation in the home, with short term health needs monitored and supported by our Virtual Ward. This is essential, as staying in hospital for longer than necessary can have a negative impact on patient's wellbeing and overall recovery. Ensuring that patients are given the chance to continue their lives at home is vital for their long-term wellbeing outcomes.



Since January 2022 to November 2023, WWL has successfully managed 1,627 patients on our Virtual Ward with over 95% of patients giving very positive feedback.

Theatre 11 Progress



Artist Impression of the Theatre

Construction work has begun at Wrightington Hospital after planning approval was received to build a new laminar flow theatre on the site.

Patients needing orthopaedic operations at Wrightington Hospital are set to potentially receive faster treatment thanks to the £6.1m project, as the development is set to enhance the Trust's ability to reduce waiting lists.

Speaking on the exciting new development, WWL's Interim Chief Executive, Mary Fleming said: "I am delighted that we can now proceed with this build and to be able to offer more patients the excellent orthopaedic services that Wrightington is renowned for in the near future. It will enable us to carry out more procedures, making it much more convenient for patients to get the care they need and help them get back to living fuller lives, faster."

Read more about what the new development will mean for our patients [here](#).

Surgical Hub at Wrightington Hospital achieves accreditation



Wrightington Hospital

Our Surgical Hub at Wrightington Hospital received some fantastic news in November 2023, as it was awarded accreditation by the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme, following a visit by NHS England.

The programme assessed the hub against a framework of standards to help deliver some of the most common procedures, such as hip replacements, while also seeking to assure patients about the highest standards of clinical care.

It means the surgical hub at Wrightington Hospital has been nationally recognised in a range of criteria, for meeting top clinical and operational standards, and is a visible marker of excellence quality in how the hub is managed, and the experience of its' patients.

You can read more about what the accreditation means [here](#).

Hazel Hendriksen, Director of Operations, Specialist Services Division said: "I am so proud of the Wrightington Team being able to celebrate achieving accreditation for the Surgical Hub at Wrightington Hospital. I know months of hard work has been spent to make this happen, and it will have a direct benefit for the patients we serve."

Major Endoscopy Developments

Major developments are set to begin this year at both the RAEI at Wigan and Leigh Infirmary, following a £11.9m investment from the national NHS England endoscopy programme, to expand and develop its endoscopy services at WWL.

This investment into an important diagnostic procedure will support earlier diagnosis of conditions, including bowel cancer, as well as other gastrointestinal diseases, through providing quicker access to endoscopy procedures, leading to better outcomes for patients.

Speaking about this incredible announcement, WWL's Director of Strategy and Planning, Richard Mundon said: "This funding will help us increase the number of endoscopy rooms at Leigh from three to six, of which the work has already begun, and planning permission has already been approved to upgrade the current facilities at RAEI. These

developments will certainly help to future proof our facilities and address the expected increases in population demand.

"Projects like these will ultimately play a significant role in reducing health inequalities across the Wigan Borough and improving outcomes for our patients across our wide range of services, which is fantastic news for us as a Trust, but also the wider community."

You can read more about the investment and extension to the service on the WWL website [here](#).



Artist Impression of the Development

Palliative Care Hub Officially Opened



The Palliative Care Hub Team with Prof. Chris Brookes at the Official Opening Ceremony

Members of staff from WWL's Palliative Care Team were joined by Professor Chris Brookes, Chairman of Wigan Warriors Rugby League and Chief Medical Officer, Rugby Football League and England Rugby League, when he officially opened a new Palliative Care Support Hub at the RAEI.

The area, which was formerly a ward, is transforming how end-of-life care and support is delivered at the Trust and will allow the team to offer a seven-day service in hospital, providing specialist palliative care to patients with life limiting illnesses with symptom control advice, emotional and psychological support to patients and their families, as well as educating staff.

At the official opening, Dr Jenny Wiseman, Palliative Care Consultant, welcomed patients and invited guests, and said: "Our vision was to have an integrated unit for all our team that includes outpatient facilities, so we can increase our clinic

capacity and further develop hot clinics to support patients concerns and reduce some attendances in our Emergency Department.

"We all feel incredibly valued and fortunate to be working here and be able to develop our services further to benefit the people of Wigan."

Read more about the official opening [here](#).



Official Opening Plaque

Landmark Agreement Signed to Boost Skills and Education in the Wigan Borough

As part of the Trust's involvement as an Anchor Institution in the Wigan Borough, leaders from WWL, Edge Hill University, Wigan Council, and Wigan and Leigh College formally signed a Civic University Agreement to recognise the pivotal roles the four Anchor Institutions play in supporting economic development and enhancing the lives of those within the borough.

Speaking at the official event that placed Edge Hill as the flagship university of the borough for Wigan, Mark Jones, WWL Chair, said: "WWL is delighted to endorse this Civic University Agreement. As a fellow anchor institution, and the

biggest employer in the Wigan borough, we value the impact made by Edge Hill University locally.

"Through our partnership with Wigan Council and Wigan and Leigh College and this agreement, we not only give potential employees the skills and values they need to work in modern healthcare but create pathways to allow residents to realise their potential and ensure well-paid and fulfilling employment for local residents."

You can read more about what it means for WWL to be an Anchor Institution and the impact the agreement will have for the people of Wigan [here](#).



(l-r) Anna Dawe, Principal of Wigan and Leigh College, David Molyneux, Leader of Wigan Council, Dr John Cater, Vice-Chancellor of Edge Hill University and Mark Jones, WWL Chair

Greater Manchester Mayor's Return to Celebrate 10 Years of Iconic Leigh Landmark

Ten years since WWL's iconic Hanover Building was opened to the public, Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham returned to Leigh Infirmary to celebrate the key milestone.

To celebrate the anniversary of the Hanover building's award-winning transformation, Mark Jones, WWL Chair, welcomed Mr Burnham, as he took a tour of the services and departments spread across its three floors.

Everyone at the unit was delighted to meet Mr Burnham and have the opportunity to showcase all the brilliant work that goes on in the Urology, Endoscopy and Women's Healthcare services, as well as the building's Endoscopy Reprocessing Units.



Mr Burnham cuts the cake to officially celebrate 10 years of the Hanover Building

Mr Burnham said: "It is brilliant to be back – I remember opening the building as if it was yesterday.

"Being able to come back to something that I've been involved in and seeing it thrive is a real treat and I want to say thank you to everyone at

Leigh Infirmary for taking such good care of our community and this hospital that means so much to so many.

The building was officially opened in January 2014 by Mr Burnham during his time as MP for Leigh and the then Shadow Secretary of State for Health.



Mr Burnham meets WWL Women's Healthcare Unit staff



Mr Burnham speaks to WWL staff at the Hanover Building



Mr Burnham outside the Leigh Infirmary's Hanover Building



Mr Burnham speaks to WWL staff at the Hanover Building

"The beauty of this building is the availability of procedures that are here for the local community. It means that they don't have to travel far for their healthcare needs, and, with the development of the new Community Diagnostic Centre and new theatre build, it really does secure the future of Leigh Infirmary."

The Role of The Governor



It is almost 20 years since Foundation Trusts were created to respond better to local needs, and with them came the role of the Governor. Our WWL Governors are a group of people, all volunteers, who work with the Trust's Board of Directors, to ensure that the views of Trust members and the public are represented and make sure that the people who run the hospital consider and understand the needs of patients and service users. Most Governors are elected by the Trust's members, but some are appointed from partner organisations to make sure their views are also represented.

The Governors represent you through hearing the stories of patients, friends and of course, members like you. The insights that they gather collectively help to ensure that decisions about hospital service plans are thoughtfully made.

Although we are always here to listen to your stories, formal complaints and concerns should

always be reported to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) team to make sure they can be properly investigated. Compliments are also welcomed by the PALS team. They can be contacted via patient.relations@wwl.nhs.uk.

We do try to provide information to members or the public on the correct routes for different types of enquiries. To be a Governor you need to be a member and be at least 16 years old, there is no prior experience required as help and training will be provided. The amount of time that you commit is up to you – some Governors work with the Trust for just a couple of hours each month.

Our decisions are as a team and all voices are welcome, can you broaden our representation? You can contact your Governor and enquire about joining through the Engagement Team Office by e-mailing members@wwl.nhs.uk or by calling 0800 073 1477.

Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday 7th February 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 3rd April 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 5th June 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 7th August 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 4th December 2024 | 1.15pm to 4.15pm

Council Of Governors Meetings

Tuesday 16th January 2024 | 5.15pm to 7.15pm

Wednesday 24th April 2024 | 5.15pm to 7.15pm

Tuesday 18th July 2024 | 5.15pm to 7.15pm

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 | 5.15pm to 7.15pm

All meetings will be held in Trust Headquarters, located on the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary Site. We have now returned to holding some of our meetings in person, however occasionally it may be necessary to hold some via video conference. We will still publish all agendas on our website along with a meeting link to allow you to join virtually.

Governor Focused News Annual Members Meeting



WWL's Annual Members meeting was held at Leigh Sports Village on 8th November, 2023, providing an opportunity for members of the Trust, and the wider public, to meet our staff and Board members and hear a review of WWL's 2022/23.

Mark Jones, WWL Chair, opened the meeting by continuing to provide his reflections on the year gone by. He welcomed new members to the Board of Directors, Claire Wannell, Interim Chief Operating Officer and Mary Moore and Gill Gee, Non-Executive Director, and was pleased to share that Mary Fleming would act as Interim Chief Executive from January 2024 following the departure of Silas Nicholls, our then Chief Executive.

Silas, following the announcement that he will be moving on to pastures new, also shared his reflections of his time as Chief Executive, noting he was particularly proud of WWL's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the building of Bryn Ward in just six weeks to support the Trusts capacity and efforts in caring for those affected by the pandemic.

Silas informed attendees that he is also proud of the developments at our Leigh site and was

pleased to see the new CDC near completion and getting ready to welcome its first patients, before thanking everyone for the support they have provided during his time as Chief Executive.

Lead Governor, Andrew Haworth shared a brief report on behalf of the Governors explaining

how the Trust is working to ensure it has a more representative membership, the change to the constitution since the previous meeting and the results of the recent Governor elections.

Andrew shared positive reflections on how well WWL's Board and Council of Governors continue to work together and was pleased to advise of the return of joint hospital walk arounds, which had unfortunately been paused due to the impact of the pandemic.

Tabitha Gardner, WWL's Chief Finance Officer, presented WWL's financial position for the 2022/23 financial year, which incorporated the report of the external auditors on the annual accounts before a presentation from Professor Adam Watts, Clinical Director for Research, concluded the meeting. Prof. Watts took members through research and innovation at WWL and the positive impact this can have for our patients, the importance of the patient and public voice in designing research and the exciting potential for growth and collaboration and the trials currently being run by the Trust.

WWL 2023 STAR Awards



WWL's 2023 Staff Thanks and Recognition (STAR) Awards was a truly unforgettable night and was held on Friday 13th October 2023. Throughout the evening, the excellent achievements of so many of our WWL colleagues over the past year were celebrated and recognised, with plenty of cheering, applause and a few happy tears shed for each other.

The 12 award winning categories included Clinical Team of the Year, Hidden Gem and the Green Award, along with the Chief Executive award and Board of Directors' award, with the winners chosen from more than 600 nominations.

Interim Chief Executive Mary Fleming said: "I can't thank our staff enough for continuing to provide the high quality, patient-centred care our Trust is

known for, and to help us celebrate the Trust's many achievements over the past 12 months.

"I'd also like to thank our sponsors of the 2023 STAR Awards – without them, events like this, to recognise our incredible staff, wouldn't be able to go ahead. We are extremely grateful to have their help in celebrating the excellence of our colleagues and services, and we were proud to have them with us on the night too."



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During the night, there was also a special mention for the Trust's surgical admissions lounge team (SAL), which was WWL's first ward to win a Gold ASPIRE Award.

The team was presented with a plaque by former Chief Nurse, Rabina Tindale, for their work to measure, evaluate and continuously improve the delivery of care in wards and units across WWL.

- 1 - Learner of the Year Award Winner - Emma Ashcroft, Staff Experience and Wellbeing Admin
- 2 - Best Example of Care and Compassion Award - Kellie Baldwin, Deputy Team Leader, ODP, Surgery
- 3 - Best Example of Research Innovation and Improvement Award - Mr Chye Yew Ng, Consultant Hand and Peripheral Nerve Surgeon
- 4 - Excellence in Equality Diversity and Inclusion Award - Toria King, Former EDI Lead
- 5 - Board of Directors Award - The Emergency Care Village

- 6 - CEO Award - Lara Nelson, Staff Nurse, Early Pregnancy Unit
- 7 - Clinical Team of the Year - Critical Care Outreach
- 8 - Green Award - Audiology Team
- 9 - Hidden Gem - Veronika Stevens, Volunteer
- 10 - Non-Clinical Team of the Year (Corporate/Support) Award - Catering Team
- 11 - Non Clinical Team of the Year - Mortuary Team

Positive Recognition and Award Wins for WWL Staff

We've had another bumper set of award wins across WWL over the past few months.... A huge congratulations to all of our colleagues and staff for all the well-deserved recognition they have received.

Midwifery Triumphs



The Daisy Community Midwifery Team won a national patient safety award, scooping the Maternity and Midwifery Initiative of the Year award at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Patient Safety Awards 2023. The award was to officially recognise their exceptional work in supporting women

and improving outcomes. The team work with pregnant clients and their families throughout pregnancy and following birth. They offer intensive one to one midwifery support from both a midwife and a midwifery support worker, ultimately improving outcomes for families.

Recruitment Finalists

WWL's Digital Therapy Recruitment Team were also named finalists in the Workforce Recruitment Campaign Award, which recognises the successful delivery of a staff recruitment campaign within an organisation. Further to this, WWL's partnership with Johnson & Johnson Medtech, project on workforce recruitment has been shortlisted for a Staffing Solution of the Year Award at the HSJ Partnership Awards 2024.

The project uses innovative ways of recruiting much-needed therapists and has been supported

by a number of individuals including teams in Recruitment, Communications, Transformation and the Therapy Team at WWL's Wrightington site. Using digital tools, such as videos to be used on social media and at conferences and recruitment fairs, to showcase how WWL is a fantastic place to work, the project it is the first of its kind and it is hoped that the framework of the project can now go on to be utilised in the same way across departments and divisions to aid further successful recruitment campaigns.

Emergency Care Named Finalists

Our Emergency Care Team were named finalists at the national Nursing Times Awards for their amazing work on the Electronic SBAR in the Critical and Emergency Care category, while trainee Nursing Associate, Neelash

Patel, also won the 'Positive Contribution – Community Award' at the University of Bolton Apprenticeship Awards last month.



- 1 - The Daisy Community Midwifery Team collect their HSJ Award
- 2 - Emergency Care Team at the Nursing Times Awards

Orthopaedic Champions

In October 2023, colleagues from Wrightington Hospital scooped two wins at the National Orthopaedic Alliance (NOA) Awards. Our Paediatric Hip Arthroplasty Service was named one of three winners of the Partnerships and Integration Initiative Award for their partnership initiative in driving transformation and improving

children's orthopaedic services. The Greater Manchester Orthopaedic Alliance also won the Innovation in Orthopaedics award, for the trauma and orthopaedic care pathway optimisation using a digital platform.



Research Celebrates a Hat-Trick

WWL's Research Team celebrated a hat-trick of honours at the Greater Manchester Health and Care Clinical Research Awards 2023 in October. Dr Anthony Short, Consultant Anaesthetist, won the Exceptional Research Leadership Award for his involvement and outstanding achievements in successful anaesthetic research studies over the last few years. WWL also received the 'Highly Commended' award in the Best Public Engagement

category, for the Research Team's collaborations with Manchester Foundation Trust to promote the Greater Manchester Research Van to the Wigan community. Helen Spickett from the team was also a shortlisted Runner Up in the Inclusive Involvement Excellence category for expanding the diversity of the Trust's Patient Research Advisory Group.



Community continues to support our Three Wishes charities



We're always so grateful for the generous donations that are received to our Three Wishes Charity, which raises money to fund projects, equipment and services to improve the environment and experiences of patients in our local hospitals - from conception through to end of life. Over the past few months, we've had a number of visits from families who have taken the time to fundraise and donate various amounts of money and items, and we would like to thank each and every one of you.



Dominique, Sarah and Harry Shrubbs with members of the Paediatric Emergency Department and Rainbow Ward Teams

Dominique Shrubbs recently donated a total of £2,792 to the Trust's Paediatric Emergency Department and Rainbow Ward after completing a 100-mile hike over four days (the equivalent of going over the height of Mount Everest), followed by a 20-mile dragon boat paddle spanning the length of Lake Windermere.

Together with his partner, Sarah, Dominique decided to

raise money for WWL after their son, Harry, was admitted to the RAEI's Rainbow Ward back in 2021.

Harry was rushed to the ward where a team of doctors and nurses were able to stabilise him, after he was found unresponsive at home, before being transferred to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool.

Elle Smith, from Lowton, Wigan, alongside her family and friends, donated £5,600 in memory of her mother-in-law, Jackie Kinsella who, at 61-years-old, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

After a year of treatment of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy at the Cancer Care Centre at the RAEI and at The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, Jackie was approached to take part in a research trial, however it was then when Jackie and her family received the devastating news that she was diagnosed with secondary stage four bone cancer. Jackie sadly passed away in November 2022.

At the time of the donation, Elle said: "Before Jackie passed, she told us she wanted the money that we raised to go to WWL's Three Wishes Cancer Care Fund as she believed that this would help the comfort and treatments of patients, like herself."



Elle Smith with family and representatives from Three Wishes

The family raised a staggering £4,100 at Jackie's funeral in lieu of flowers. This amount was then bolstered by Elle's completion of the Warrington Half Marathon



The Aspull Ward Team with Ann McFaul's family

Staff at the RAEI's Aspull Ward received a very special gift from Elizabeth Crumpton, her brother Philip MacFaul and their family, in memory of Ann MacFaul, Elizabeth and Philip's late mother who sadly passed away last year aged 88.

To thank the ward team for the care Ann received while in their care, her family delivered gift vouchers for each and every single member of staff on the ward.

Elizabeth, who is a Theatre Nurse at Leigh Infirmary and has worked at WWL for over 25 years, was so grateful for the care received by staff on the ward and said: "I can't thank all the staff on Aspull Ward enough, the care they provided was amazing and this made such a difference not just for mum but for the whole family."



Theo Wood's Memorial Bench

A memorial bench was unveiled at the RAEI to remember Theo James Wood, after the six-year-old sadly passed away at RAEI in December 2022. The bench was adorned with balloons of his favourite superheroes and has a heartfelt inscription.

Joining Theo's Mum, Chloe Prescott and his dad, Nathan Wood, the little boy's Auntie, Jade Prescott, paid tribute to Theo alongside his cousin, Carter, saying: "Theo was an absolute delight, so caring and loved nothing more than making sure there was somewhere for people who needed a little rest.

He is our very own superhero, and we miss him every day."

"We as a family would like to thank everyone for making this happen. If you take a seat here, let him know you're there because he loved a chat."

Theo was brought to RAEI last year and both he and his family were cared for by staff from the Paediatric Emergency Department, Safeguarding Team, Bereavement Team, and the Chaplaincy.

There are a number of ways you can make a donation to support the WWL's charitable activities. Further information on this can be found [here](#).



Unwell or Injured?



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

There are lots of health services available, should you need advice or treatment.

For more information go to www.gmintegratedcare.org.uk/GTKWGTG



NHS 111

Find the treatment you need by visiting NHS 111 online or calling 111, to point you in the right direction.

The service is available 24/7.



Self Care

Stock up your cabinets with a first aid kit.

You can treat aches, pains, coughs and colds at home.



Pharmacy

Pharmacists offer free help and advice on many minor illnesses such as coughs or colds, earache, or tummy troubles, and can recommend the most effective treatments.



GP

Contact your GP through their website or over the phone

If you need access to a GP overnight or on the weekends, visit NHS 111 online or call 111.



Minor Injuries

Local Urgent Treatment Centres like Leigh and Wigan, are for urgent, but not life-threatening injury and illness such as burns, cuts or wounds.



Emergency

Our Emergency Department is for serious or life-threatening illness or injury.

If your condition is not serious or life-threatening, think NHS 111 first for help and advice.

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

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



THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS