



Wrightington, Wigan and
Leigh Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS

Summer 2024



Inside

Page 3
New Faces on the
WWL Board

Page 4
Getting to Know Our
New Chief Executive

Page 10
The Official Opening
of the Armed Forces
Garden

Page 14
Nurses, Midwives
and ODP Special
Event



WELCOME to this edition of the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) Members' magazine from our Chair and Lead Governor

In previous editions I have shared with you the challenges that we and Trusts across Greater Manchester are facing, not least in dealing with the demands on our Emergency Department and in discharging our patients who are able to be cared for at home or in a non-acute hospital setting. Our teams are bringing in new approaches that are helping to mitigate the issues we face and we will keep you up to date with our progress.

The summer brings new faces and fresh perspectives to WWL and I am delighted that our substantive Board has now been confirmed, paving the way for exciting developments at the Trust. Confirming that Mary Fleming has been appointed as our new Chief Executive was a real joy for me. Mary's journey through her 27 years within the NHS, starting her career as an Administrative Clerk in Radiology, is a shining example of the amazing opportunities available to all our colleagues at WWL. You can read more about her fascinating career and her hopes for our Trust on our journey to 'Outstanding' on page 4 and 5.

Kev Parker-Evans, took up the role of Chief Nursing Officer in June, and Sarah Brennan, our new Chief Operating Officer, will bring with her years of experience across the acute and community sectors. We have two new Non-Executive Directors, Simon Holden and Mark Wilkinson who, after shadow periods, will take up their positions as Chair of Audit and Chair of People

Committees respectively. I am confident that with such leadership, WWL will be able to establish ourselves in a great position as we look further into the year. You can learn more about Kev and Sarah, and our new Non-Executive Directors on page 3.

We have delivered on some major capital developments this year, including our Community Diagnostic Centre, Theatre 4 and car parking improvements at Leigh Infirmary, while our Endoscopy extension at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and our Theatre 11 expansion at Wrightington Hospital continue. These developments will allow us to continue to deliver safe and effective patient care and help assist with the outstanding work already being done to reduce long waits for treatment.

It was also my honour to attend the official opening of our Veteran's Garden on the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings. Having the opportunity to meet and speak with Veterans from our community and hear their stories of service was humbling and thought-provoking. I hope this special place allows Veterans within our care, and their families, to have an area to rest, reflect and recuperate.

And finally, I would like to thank all of our members for your continued support this year.

Mark Jones
WWL Chair



"What's it really like at the hospital?" That's the question I'm asked most as Lead Governor at WWL. My reply usually includes 'challenging'. That challenge being the growth in demand, with more answers to health problems, through diagnosis, treatments, and procedures.

There are more of us living longer, and with that age comes a greater reliance on healthcare, more time with a GP, tests and hospital visits. Your WWL Governors see those challenges addressed by WWL's Board. Observing their work, I see plans tested by others to check if priorities and systems are appropriate. The Board works with partners avoiding duplication, creating equal access and finds efficiencies to increase services. That strategic approach brings together all WWL's actions, allowing them to grow efficiency. There are national shortages of staff, money is tight, and queues don't allow for optimum treatment. However, those plans I told you about have allowed WWL to access funds to address waiting times.

Projects at our three hospitals allow increased numbers of tests, scans, and theatre time meeting the most urgent need. It took 100 years until Royal Albert Edward Infirmary had one scanner; 50 years on we have multiples of these wonderful/expensive tools across all three hospitals. Some in Wigan find it difficult to access healthcare at all. How can that be in an NHS set up to provide "A comprehensive service, available to all. And, access based on clinical need, not an individual's ability to pay?"

Lack of internet, phone, or car and of course, disability or communication difficulties, each bring limitations. WWL Governors are looking to broaden their understanding of these difficulties and strengthen representation of groups currently underrepresented. Through a pilot of Development Governors, we are working with community and voluntary organisations to find and support candidates. They will bring their knowledge, insight and lived experience to our meetings as we strive to ensure that diversity of challenge and opinion are at all levels of our organisation.

Andrew Haworth
Lead Governor

New Faces at WWL

WWL Board of Directors welcomes four new faces this summer.

Our Board of Directors welcomes four new faces to the Trust this summer, with substantive Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer roles appointed, alongside two new Non-Executive Directors.

Kev Parker-Evans joined the Trust as our Interim Chief Nursing Officer back in January and has shown what a vital new addition he has been through his highly skilled and compassionate leadership. Kev has already made a huge impact at WWL, particularly with our MaDE (Multi-agency Discharge Event) programme in March, and the celebration event for our Midwives, Nurses and ODPs in May. The Board was thrilled to announce that Kev would take up the Chief Nursing Officer role from summer 2024. Read more about Kev's hope for his new role [here](#).

We were recently delighted to announce that Sarah Brennan would be welcomed to the Trust as our new Chief Operating Officer following a rigorous recruitment process. Sarah brings a wealth of experience and knowledge and joins us from her previous role in the same position at Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, which she has held for the past four years. You can read more about Sarah's appointment [here](#).

Finally, two Non-Executive Directors, Simon Holden and Mark Wilkinson, have been appointed to our Board.

Simon will join the Trust as WWL's Chair of Audit Committee from the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust, where he held the roles of Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Chief Executive. Simon has held many senior posts within the NHS, including being the first Chief Executive of NHS Property Services, a national organisation responsible to the Department of Health, with over 4,000 buildings, and employing 3,000 people, from its establishment in 2012, up until 2015.

He is a passionate supporter of the NHS, having originally joined as an Apprentice at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, aged 18, and has over 40 years NHS finance experience.

Mark is set to join the Trust on Friday 1st November, and will be taking over as Chair of the People Committee from Lynne Lobley at the beginning of next year. Mark is currently with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside as Place Director for Cheshire East, after nearly four years working in North Wales, mainly as Director of Planning and Performance at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. Mark has enjoyed a long career in the English NHS, having worked in both NHS provider and commissioner organisations in Greater Manchester and Lancashire and has wide-ranging healthcare expertise, built upon experience in national, NHS provider and commissioner settings. Mark is also an Independent Governor at Edge Hill University, whom WWL works closely with.



(L to R): Kev Parker-Evans, Sarah Brennan, Simon Holden and Mark Wilkinson

Getting To Know You

CEO Mary Fleming



Since taking up the role of WWL’s new Chief Executive in March of this year, Mary Fleming is working to create an environment where both patients and staff feel welcome, and where colleagues are afforded the opportunities to grow and develop.

The Path to CEO

From introducing our new Trust Values, to increasing Executive visibility across WWL, Mary has worked to change the culture throughout the Trust, drawing on her many years of leadership experience to ensure WWL goes from strength to strength.

Speaking on her path to becoming CEO, Mary said: “I spent the first part of my career in the private sector and joined the NHS as an Administration Clerk in Radiology 27 years ago. After various roles in trusts across Greater Manchester and Yorkshire, taking the learning from the shop floor to progress my career into operational management,

I joined WWL in 2008 as Operational Lead within the Division of Surgery. I then moved to Divisional Manager for Surgery and on to Deputy Director of Operations and Performance, becoming a member of the Board of Directors in 2016 when I was appointed as Chief Operating Officer. I then gained the Deputy Chief Executive role in 2021.”

Mary’s career progression, not only here at WWL but also through her 27 years with the NHS, is a shining example of the amazing opportunities available to all WWL colleagues and those who may join the Trust in the future.

Mary’s Inspiration

Mary is just as passionate about the NHS today as the day she started, with much of her inspiration for delivering quality care coming from her mother who was an NHS nurse. During her time here, Mary has always cared deeply about the Trust and the community of the Wigan Borough.

Mary expanded on this explaining: “My connection with WWL has brought a real passion for everything that we’ve built together over the years, especially the reputation we have for improving the safety and quality of care provided

to patients through investment in its people. Engaging and empowering staff to deliver kind, compassionate care using continuous improvement to keep moving forwards is central to the culture of the organisation.

“Since my appointment I have endeavoured to build on all of the hard work that has previously been done, and with local partners, enabling WWL to provide services that the people of the Borough and all our patients deserve.”



Mary Fleming joining WWL’s Board in 2016



2023 STAR Awards, Mary presented the CEO Award to Lara Nelson as Deputy Chief Executive

What’s Next for Our New CEO

Mary is keen to ensure that we strive to maintain our reputation as a provider of excellent health and care services on our road to ‘Outstanding.’ Mary comments: “It is my ambition for the Trust to make outstanding care, delivered with kindness and compassion, business as usual. I recognise we’ve had challenges, and had to make tough choices, but I truly believe that we are on the start of a transformation journey that will see WWL delivering outstanding care as the norm across the whole of the organisation, day in, day out.”

Underpinned by our new Trust Values of ‘People at the Heart’, ‘Listen and Involve’, ‘Kind and Respectful’ and ‘One Team’, these shared core values will be integral in creating a foundation for the culture Mary, and all colleagues, are striving to create throughout the Trust. Combined with



Mary supporting Wigan Pride in 2021

plans for achieving financial stability and investing in partnership to spend the Wigan pound wisely, WWL will have to push boundaries on how we deliver services, sometimes challenging the norm. However, Mary believes this is a journey well-worth going on.

Mary says: “It is a huge privilege, and a source of great pride to lead what I believe is one of the best organisations in the country. It is an ambitious journey for us to be on together and it will need us to be more creative, more dynamic and continue to do things differently. By engaging and empowering staff to deliver kind, compassionate care in a respectful way, we can make WWL a place where everyone matters, everyone feels included, and a place where we’re proud of the services we provide.”



Mary receiving her latest flu vaccination in Autumn 2023



During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Mary proudly delivered pin badges to WWL colleagues

Significant Car Parking Upgrades

We recently made some significant upgrades to our car parking provision at Leigh Infirmary, as part of our wider car parking strategy to improve facilities across the Trust. Following the work, around 60 more parking spaces have been created for the public, disabled parking provision has increased and there is now a circular flow around the car park, helping to reduce congestion.

Public pathways and lighting have also been improved around the site as part of the improvement works and two new card payment machines are set to be installed.

John Fairhurst, our Director of Estates and Facilities spoke on the recent upgrade saying: "I am delighted to be able to say that we have

massively increased car parking provision at Leigh Infirmary.

"This has made a huge difference for patients accessing our services at the Leigh site and takes away the stress of having to find a parking space. I would like to thank all my colleagues who have been involved in the upgrade and look forward to seeing how we progress with our car parking strategy across the Trust."



New Car Park at Leigh Infirmary

Capital Developments at WWL

A number of capital developments continue to progress at pace across our three main hospital sites.

At Wrightington Hospital the final set of modular units expected as part of our theatre replenishment programme have been delivered and installed. Theatre 11 is scheduled to open in early November and we look forward to bringing you further updates on its development over the coming months as we work towards its 'go live' date.

Over at Leigh Infirmary, our Community Diagnostic Centre and Theatre 4 expansions are up and running and due to receive their official openings later this year, while our Endoscopy services on this site will receive patients to its additional services from September.

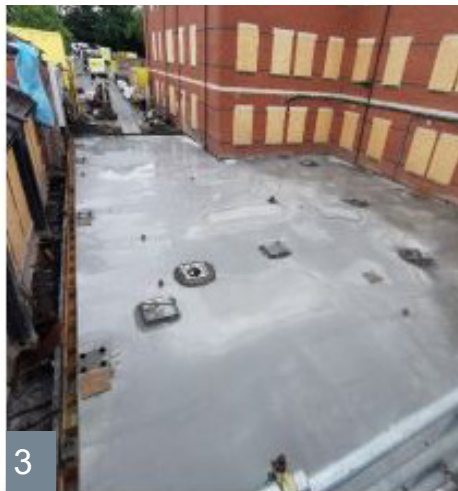
Finally, at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, our four-storey build to house new Endoscopy Services at our Wigan site continues, with another major step in its development, as contractors completed a 13 hour concrete pour, setting the foundations for flooring for key facilities.



1 - Modular unit for Theatre 11 at Wrightington Hospital



2 - Modular unit are lifted into place at Wrightington Hospital



3 - Contractors completed concrete pour for foundations at Royal Albert Edward Infirmary's new Endoscopy Unit

Digital Communication Developments at WWL

Our Digital Outpatients Team recently introduced new electronic communications to our patients across all our services, offering digital letters, text reminders, broadcast messages, quick questions, online pre-op assessments and the utilisation of the NHS Wayfinder app.

The Digital Outpatient Team includes representatives from across the Trust from Information Technology, Healthcare Operations, Transformation Teams, Divisional Performance Teams, Clinical and Nursing Teams, and external colleagues. Our patients have also provided feedback to ensure any changes have led to a more positive user experience. All these services are a way for us to communicate with our patients in different ways, making information more accessible.

Increasing the use of electronic communications has many benefits including managing appointments and hospital referrals and viewing digital communications.

There are several other benefits too, ranging from but not limited to:

- Reducing our carbon footprint and Co2 emissions – using less paper, envelopes and postage and reducing printing, reduces the impact we are having on the environment.
- Cost saving – money saved on sending paper communications can be better used in other services throughout the Trust.

- Reduction in people not attending appointments - SMS text reminders, messaging and quick questions support the reduction of patients forgetting about their appointments.
- Provides updated information – in the instances we need to provide information about significant events that may impact you as a patient, the quickest and most efficient way to do this is through electronic communication.
- More convenient for patients - we are always looking for ways to improve the experience for our patients whilst also trying to reduce our costs and improve environmental benefits. We will however still provide paper options for those patients who prefer to receive communication this way.

NHS Wayfinder App

Never miss a notification on the NHS Wayfinder App, click [here](#) to see how to switch on your notifications. Watch a walkthrough video of how to see your hospital referrals and appointments on the NHS App by visiting the YouTube link [here](#).

DrDoctor App

You will receive a text message via DrDoctor from 07860 039092 notifying you that you have a new appointment letter to view online.

It is important to remember if you receive a text reminder about your appointment, that it will not include the site of your appointment and will only remind you about your appointment. The details of your appointment will be in your original letter which may be a paper or digital letter. A copy of your digital letter can be found by clicking [here](#) and logging into the My DrDoctor portal.

View your hospital appointments in the NHS App



DrDoctor

If you can, please help us to increase our digital usage and reduce our costs by accessing your digital communication.

Furry Friends Pay a Very Special Visit to Leigh Infirmary Patients

To support the rehabilitation and wellbeing of patients, two furry friends visited our Jean Heyes Reablement Unit at Leigh Infirmary.

Having researched that alpacas have shown to lower heart rates and blood pressure and lead to a sense of calm and relaxation, Activities Co-Ordinator, Mel Cornish, thought they would be the perfect visitors for our patients.

Mel regularly hosts a range of activities supporting physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a monthly dementia café for families and loved ones on the unit.

WWL's Chief Nursing Officer, Kev Parker-Evans said: "We're very, very fortunate that we have Mel at

WWL. She is making a real difference to our patients and their families and, is relentless in her pursuit to help patients and their families.

"Visits such as this are so important, and it really helps us to continue the work we're doing to End PJ Paralysis and support our patients to get up, get dressed and spend time together on the unit, rather than stay in their beds.

"By encouraging our patients to take part in wellbeing activities and move around, we're reducing immobility, muscle deconditioning, and dependency while protecting cognitive function, social interaction and dignity."

Read more about the visit [here](#).



Alpacas visiting Jean Heyes Reablement Unit



Major Step Forward for Foot Care at WWL

Our Multi Disciplinary Foot Service Outpatient Clinic has been offering a 'one stop shop' foot assessment for high-risk patients with limb or life-threatening conditions for the past year.

Treating those with conditions such as Diabetes, Peripheral Vascular Disease, Osteomyelitis, Charcot foot, Critical Limb Ischaemia and non-healing chronic foot wounds, as well as dialysis patients, the clinic has received 121 patients, some with multiple outpatient follow ups.

The clinic, based in the Vascular Department, behind Christopher Home at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, is staffed by a range of specialist clinicians including a Senior Podiatrist in wound care, a Diabetologist and Diabetic Specialist Nurse, a Foot & Ankle Orthopaedic Surgeon and a Vascular Surgeon.

Podiatrist, Michael Williams-Denton, said: "We hope to expand the scope of practice to cover both ward and community patients in the near future and we already accept referrals from Community Podiatry, Emergency Departments, Hospital Wards, GPs and Orthopaedic and Vascular outpatients.

"Our patients are assessed for circulation and neurological abnormalities from which a bespoke treatment plan can be formed which may include intensive antibiotic therapies, relevant vascular and orthopaedic investigations, monitoring, scans or angiograms.

"This service is a major step forward in footcare for WWL and we have already received some wonderful feedback from our patients."

Martha's Rule Pilot Begins at WWL



The NHS is rolling out 'Martha's Rule'

We are delighted to have been chosen by NHS England (NHSE) as one of the 143 NHS Trusts in England for a pilot scheme following the introduction of 'Martha's Rule'.

In 2021, Martha Mills, a paediatric patient, died after developing sepsis in a hospital in England, following a pancreatic injury after falling off her bike. Martha's family's concerns about her deteriorating condition were not responded to promptly, and in 2023 a coroner ruled that Martha would probably have survived had she been moved to Intensive Care earlier.

In response to this and other cases related to the management of deterioration, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and NHSE committed to implement 'Martha's Rule' to ensure

the vitally important concerns of the patient and those who know the patient best are listened to and acted upon.

We will soon be introducing a 'Martha's Rule' helpline that patients' loved ones will be able to use should they wish to raise concerns in the event that the patient's condition is believed to be deteriorating.

From there, any colleague who has been contacted through the helpline will be able to raise this with the Critical Care Outreach Team.

You can read more about the pilot scheme [here](#) and further details on 'Martha's Rule' can be found on the [NHS England website](#).

WWL Marks D Day Anniversary with Opening of New Veteran's Garden

As part of our D Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations this year, a previously unused area at our Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site has been transformed into a new Veteran's Garden.

The garden, which has taken staff and volunteers from the Armed Forces Community a year to create, was officially opened by the Mayor of Wigan Borough, Councillor Deborah Parkinson and is designed to become an area where Veteran patients and their families can take some time out of the clinical environment.

WWL's Armed Forces Healthcare Navigator, Joanne Lee, at the time of the opening, said she hopes people will enjoy the space for peace and reflection, adding: "Although it's the Armed Forces Community Garden anyone from the Trust is welcome to use the space."

"We just ask that people respect that it is a place of reflection and space for some of our Armed Forces Community and treat the garden as such."



Veterans at the Official Opening of New Veteran's Garden

Our wonderful Estates and Facilities Teams donated their time and skill to erect the flagpole, to fly the Trust's Tri-Services Flag, and mounted a commemorative sign. Volunteers also helped by tidying up the space and staff volunteered their time and gifted plants and planters to make the space welcoming. Research has shown that access to outside space improves both mental

and physical health and helps to improve health outcomes.

You can read more about the garden, how to access care from the Armed Forces Healthcare Team and the importance of our CEO, Mary Fleming, re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant [here](#).



WWL Chair, Mark Jones (left) with Wigan Borough Mayor Councillor Debbie Parkinson and WWL Deputy Chief Nurse, Amanda Cheesman



WWL CEO Mary Fleming meets with Veterans



WWL Chair Mark Jones welcomes guests to the Official Opening of the Veteran's Garden



Armed Forces Community Garden Plaque



Armed Forces Garden Opening Event

Governor Focused News

Council of Governors Election 2024

From Friday 23rd August 2024 we will be taking nominations for candidates to stand in this year's Governor election. We have vacant seats in the following constituencies:

- Public: Rest of England and Wales - 1 seat
- Public: Leigh - 2 seats
- Public: Wigan - 2 seats
- Staff: Medical and Dental -1 seat
- Staff: Nursing and Midwifery - 1 seat

When nominations open, you will be able to nominate yourself as a candidate by following this link: www.cesvotes.com/wwl2024 and we will be circulating postal information packs closer to the time.

The deadline for nominations will be Monday 23rd September 2024.

Board of Directors Meetings

Wednesday 2nd October 2024 | 12.15pm to 4.15pm

Wednesday 4th December 2024 | 12.15pm to 4.15pm

Annual Members Meeting 2024

This year's meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2024, 1.15pm to 3.45pm in the Lecture Theatre located within our Medical Education Centre at our Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site, 1A Clifton Crescent, WN1 2LB.



Council Of Governors Meetings

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 | 5.15pm to 7.15pm



WWL CEO, Mary Fleming alongside WWL Chair, Mark Jones at April's Council of Governors Meeting

All meetings will be held in Trust Headquarters, located on the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary Site. We have now returned to holding 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 remotely.

Meet Our New Development Non-Executive Directors

This year we have welcomed two development Non-Executive Directors, Hameeda Khan-Davey and Aydin Djemal.

They will work with us in a development and voluntary capacity as part of the NHS Leadership Academy's NExT Director Scheme, which supports the creation of a pipeline of strong and diverse potential candidates for Non-Executive Director roles in the NHS.

Currently it has a focus on supporting women, people from local BAME communities, and disabled people with senior level experience into Board level roles.



(l-r) WWL Chair Mark Jones with Aydin Djemal and Hameeda Khan-Davey.

2024 Council of Governors

Members of the Council of Governors at their first formal meeting of the new financial year in April 2024. During the meeting, members of the Council of Governors provided an update of how they have

been engaging with the wider community. If you would like to contact any of our Governors, please email governors@wwl.nhs.uk.



(Left to Right) Andrew Haworth (Leigh), Phil Woods (Makerfield), Malcolm Ryding (Rest of England and Wales), John Cavanagh (Appointed – Volunteers), Dawne Gurbutt (Appointed – UCLAN), Andy Savage (Staff Governor – All Other Staff), Alan Baybutt (Wigan), David Humphries (Appointed – LNC), George Davies (Appointed - Wigan Council), Axel Kaehne (Appointed – Edge Hill University), Peter Allard (Wigan), Andrew Bullen (Makerfield) Bryonie Shaw (Appointed – Age UK), Michelle Hartley (Staff Governor - Nursing and Midwifery), Mustapha Koriba (Rest of England and Wales) and Les Chamberlain (Makerfield).

Nurses, Midwives and ODPs Celebrated at Special Event

Our inaugural International Day of the Midwife, Nurse and Operating Department Practitioners (ODP) Event was held at The Edge, Wigan, in May, to celebrate the dedication of each of the staff groups, their contribution to society, and their professions.

Paula Palmer Charlery from the Nursing & Midwifery Council, Gill Walton, CEO of the Royal College of Midwives, and Mike Donnellon, President of the College of ODPs, gave presentations, while staff members also shared their stories about their careers and their journeys to becoming qualified practitioners.

Into the evening, a multi-faith celebration service, led by the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team and local faith leaders, was held.

At the celebration Kev Parker-Evans, our Chief Nursing Officer, said: “It was a magnificent event that everyone should be proud of.

“It has been great to have all the professions together in one room and it was truly inspiring to hear from such brilliant speakers; we really have celebrated our staff in true WWL style.”

Awards were handed out to worthy winners of eight categories, including Learner and Leader of the Year, alongside a Lifetime Achievement Award and certificates, and fob watches were also presented to those Qualifying Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship and Trainee Nurse Associates.



As part of the International Nurses Day celebrations, our Theatre Teams also created a cookbook of recipes that was given out at the event, highlighting the rich diversity of colleagues across the teams.

- 1 - Operating Department Practitioner Going Above and Beyond: Merlin Lalu - Anaesthetic Department.
- 2 - Highly Commended: Ayesha Hussein - Royal Albert Edward Infirmary Theatres.
- 3 - Highly Commended: Mumthas Man - Emergency Department.
- 4 - Attendees enjoying the celebration event.

Congratulations to Our Winners and Highly Commended

We would like say a massive congratulations to those who won an award and those who were highly commended at the celebration event. See below all our winners and highly commended.

- Nurse Going Above and Beyond: Andrea Holt - Specialist Community Public Health Nurse, School Nurse.
- Highly Commended: Helen Titu - Consultant Nurse, Acute Cardiology.
- Midwife Going Above and Beyond: Ashley Gwinnett - Fern Team, Enhanced Midwifery Community Team.
- Highly Commended: Danielle Johnson - Delivery Suite.
- Internationally Educated Nurse of the Year: Constanciah Butayo - Cardiac Catheter Lab, Cardiology.
- Karen Downs Innovation Award: Leanne Lee - Hospital at Home, Community Division.
- Highly Commended: Charlotte Blay – Medical Assessment Unit.
- The Pauline Jones Nursing Leadership Award: Geri Little - Ward Leader, Surgical Admissions Lounge.
- The Chief Nursing Officer of England Award: Jon Baggaley – Health Care Assistant, Emergency Department and Vickey Smith – Health Care Support Worker, Clinical Educator.



- 5 - WWL Chief Nursing Officer Lifetime Award: Allison Luxon - Deputy Chief Nurse.
- 6 - Leader of the Year: Ann Carey- Deputy Director of Nursing and AHPs for Surgery.
- 7 - Learner of the Year: Athalia Ross - Student Midwife, Maternity Unit.
- 8 - Highly Commended: Neelesh Patel - Trainee Nurse Associate.

Positive Recognition and Award Wins for WWL Staff

We would like to wish a huge congratulations to all of our colleagues who have won or been shortlisted in another bumper set of awards in the past few months. You are all so deserving of your nominations!

From Volunteer to Nurse Associate



One of our Nurse Associates was named a finalist at the 2024 Student Nursing Times Awards. Neelesh Patel was nominated for Learner of the Year, for his hard work and dedication at WWL, alongside studying for his Foundation Degree at the University of Bolton.

Neelesh started out as a Volunteer at WWL 16 years ago,

before becoming a Housekeeper within the Emergency Department. He then became a Healthcare Assistant and completed the Trainee Nurse Associate programme, which now allows him to qualify as a Nurse Associate. Neelesh still finds time to volunteer on the wards, alongside his hard work and training – a true inspiration!

Award Winning Health Visitor

Our Adult Nurse, Health Visitor and Community Nurse Prescriber, Leonie Boniface, was named as the Institute of Health Visiting Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) of the Year 2023, received earlier this year.

Leonie knew she wanted to be a Health Visitor since she was a Student Nurse, and says she wanted to try to improve the lives of children and support their families on giving them the best start in life.



Diabetes Teams Finalists



A Specialist Nurse and Community Team from WWL were shortlisted in the Diabetes Nursing Awards 2024.

Diabetes Specialist Nurse (Pregnancy), Jane McAllister, was a finalist in the Secondary Care Nurse of the Year category, while our Community Diabetes Service

were finalists for the Primary Care Nurse of the Year.

Both Jane and the Community Diabetes Service were praised by judges for their clear commitment to their patients, and Jane was also recognised for her leadership.

1 - Neelesh Patel at the Student Nursing Times Awards
2 - Leonie Boniface named Institute of Health Visiting Specialist Community Public Health Nurse
3 - Diabetes Team named as finalists

Double Shortlisting for HSJ Digital Awards

Congratulations to our Emergency Department and Clinical Informatics Team for being shortlisted in two categories at the HSJ Digital Awards. The teams were shortlisted in the categories 'Driving Change Through AI and Automation Award' and 'Improving Urgent and Emergency Care Through Digital'.

Being shortlisted is an incredible achievement and the teams got to spend the night celebrating other successes in the health and social care world.



Catering Team Named Finalists

Our Catering Team had two submissions shortlisted in the Regional Hospital Caterers Association annual awards. Robert Blakely, Catering Assistant at our Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site, was named a finalist in the

Unsung Hero category, for his commitment and dedication to his role at WWL. Leigh Infirmary were also shortlisted for Hospital of the Year, for their continued achievements in food safety compliance.



Recognition for Patient Safety



Both our Virtual Wards and Sepsis Teams have been shortlisted in the 2024 Health Service Journal Patient Safety Awards. The Virtual Wards Team have been shortlisted for Virtual or Remote Care Initiative of the Year, while the Sepsis Team are up for Deteriorating Patients

and Rapid Response Initiative of the Year. Congratulations to both teams on being shortlisted and good luck at the awards ceremony which is taking place in September!

4 - Colleagues from our Emergency Department and Clinical Informatics Team at the HSJ Digital Awards
5 - Catering colleagues

Community continues to support our Three Wishes Charity

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.



This year's Wigan 10k takes place on Sunday 1st September and we'd love to encourage runners to help raise funds for our Three Wishes Charity.

Last year, a team from WWL, many who had never run 10k before, raised £1,944.23 for our Patient Wish Fund, which helps to make improvements to our patient's experience when attending hospital and our community services.

Daniel Meekin, Deputy Director of Operations and Performance, Community, said: "We wanted to

do something to bring staff together for wellbeing, engagement, fun and fitness and we thought the Wigan 10k would be a good idea! We entered as a group entry, with matching t-shirts, and chose WWL's Three Wishes charity to give something back and support the challenges of providing extra care beyond our day to day jobs."

For more information and to register to run for our Three Wishes Charity, visit the website [here](#).



Thanks to your donations, since April 2024, we have been able to purchase a number of items to support the care we deliver to our patients including: bladder scanner, blankets for Neonatal, reclining chairs, ECG machines, gym gear, chemo chairs, hand print kits and bereavement support courses.



Neal and Jenny Ocego made a generous donation of a CuddleCot to our Maternity Team by taking part in fundraising events in memory of their two children Elsie-Rose and Isabella who were both sadly stillborn, raising funds for the 4Louis charity in their memory.

The CuddleCot, a cooling mattress that can be placed in a cot or a pram to allow bereaved parents to spend valuable time with their baby in hospital, also allows parents to take their baby home to spend time with family and to say a final goodbye. WWL's Maternity Bereavement Team was contacted by the 4Louis charity and the team were delighted when they received a call to say a family have kindly chosen WWL to donate the CuddleCot to.

Neal and Jenny said: "We are delighted to be able to present WWL with a CuddleCot donated through

the 4Louis charity in light of our fundraising over the last few years. We really hope that this helps and supports parents going through the child bereavement process and will bring parents some comfort with the opportunity to spend more time with their baby."

Sam Barnsley, our Bereavement Midwife said: "We are extremely grateful to Neal and Jenny for choosing WWL. Through their fundraising they are allowing us to give the precious gift of time for parents to spend with their baby and make memories. The device gives parents a chance to bond with their babies, to love and hold them, take pictures and even to take them home.

"I'd like to thank them for their generous donation and for all the work they are doing to support families dealing with the loss of a child."

After delivering her daughter at 32 weeks and spending time on the Neonatal unit at Wigan Infirmary, Kate Harrison wanted to raise money to help other parents going through similar situations.

Kate ran the Manchester 10km after only giving birth 16 weeks prior. With over £1000 raised for the Neonatal Unit, WWL are very thankful for Kate's efforts. This money has allowed the unit to purchase five nanny blankets, which monitors the baby's breathing when out of an incubator. This is vital equipment for our unit.



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



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.
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