

Staff News n' Views



St Helens and Knowsley
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



STHK THANK YOU THE BIG STHK THANK YOU EDITION

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Issue 79
Spring 2022



Employee of the Month

December 2021

Laura Bannister, Clinical Manager, Self-Isolation Team

Nominated by: Emma Knowles, Head of Clinical Services

Laura's commitment and dedication to the role of Clinical Manager, Self-isolation Team has been vital to supporting the Trust and our staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a fantastic leader who has led a dedicated team of clinical staff co-ordinating the entire COVID-19 staff testing and reporting process. During times of change (often last minute!) her enthusiasm and motivation have never wavered and she always remains calm and positive. In her nomination Emma said, "Laura is flexible, approachable and has excellent communication skills. The support she has given to our staff and her own team is second to none. She has been a key player in supporting the Trust through this challenging period. When national guidance changed, Laura worked above and beyond ensuring colleagues in Infection Prevention, HR and Communications were all kept up to date with the correct guidance and process. Many colleagues across the Trust acknowledge Laura's 'can do' approach and cannot sing her praises highly enough." Accepting her award Laura said, "I am really delighted to receive this recognition but must say it has been a huge team effort. I work with some fantastic colleagues and I'm incredibly proud of the way we've all pulled together."

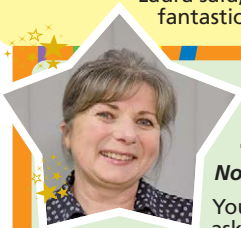


January 2022

Jan Powell, Ward Clerk, 3E Gynaecology

Nominated by: Gynaecology consultants and ward staff

You should never take for granted just how much difference a smile and a helpful attitude makes to our patients. Just ask Jan. Conscientious and ultra-organised Jan was presented with the first Employee of the Month Award of 2022 for always going the extra mile for patients and colleagues. Jan is an integral part of the team on Ward 3E and is fondly known as the ward's 'font of all knowledge'. Her nomination said, "Nothing is too much trouble for Jan. She often goes above and beyond to create the best possible experience for patients. The way she treats each person as an individual, even when she is very busy, puts patients and staff at their ease. As consultants, we know we can always rely on Jan to carry out any task to the highest standards." As well as praise from her colleagues, Jan also receives regular compliments from patients and junior doctors thanking her for all her help at the start of their rotations. Accepting the award Jan said, "When I started at the hospital, I only had a temporary contract for 12 months, but here I am, 29 years later. I really love my job and I'm so very honoured to receive this award. It means even more to me because it comes from my wonderful work family".



February 2022

Amanda Hay, RGN, 5D Stroke Rehabilitation

Nominated by: Ian Topping, Ward Manager

Amanda has worked on Ward 5D for the past 6 years where she has shown an outstanding commitment to her patients and colleagues. Extremely good at boosting morale, she is always cheerful and optimistic, not to mention brilliant at finding the solution to almost any problem. In addition to her nursing responsibilities, Amanda is 5D's student link nurse. The fantastic support she gives to our students throughout their training has undoubtedly helped the Trust to recruit and retain newly qualified nurses who want to start their career working alongside her. Her nomination said, "Amanda arranges teaching sessions, ensures goals are set and often comes in on her days off to catch students who may be on their last week of placement to ensure they have all of their paperwork completed. She ensures students gain experience with all members of the multi-disciplinary stroke team to fully understand the admission to discharge process and the complex needs of some patients." Ward Manager Ian, added, "Amanda is an incredible nurse for so many reasons not least because she always puts the needs of others first. Despite some of her own health concerns, Amanda also volunteered to transfer to ICU during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. She is an asset to the Trust." Accepting the award Amanda said, "I am truly delighted and humbled to have been recognised by my colleagues in this way, I am so pleased to hear that I make a positive difference to people's lives, that's what it's all about. I couldn't be happier."



If you would like to nominate a member of staff for Employee of the Month, you can download a nomination form from the Staff Matters section on the intranet, call Jayne Byrne, Executive PA, on ext: 1291 or email: employeeofthemonth@sthk.nhs.uk

TRUST BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Director of Finance announced!

Following a robust recruitment process, Gareth Lawrence has been announced as the Trust's new Director of Finance and Information (DoF&I).

Gareth has been Deputy Director of Finance at the Trust since 2018 and will commence in his new role on 1st April 2022. He has worked in the NHS for over 19 years.

Nikhil Khashu, the Trust's current DoF&I, is leaving the Trust in March to take up his new position as Regional Director of Finance for NHS North West.



Welcome Dr Rani Thind

Dr Rani Thind who has worked at STHK as a Consultant Radiologist for over 30 years has now joined the Trust Board as Associate Non-Executive Director.

Rani, is looking forward to using her extensive experience and knowledge to support the Trust as we strive to continually improve patient outcomes and experience.

We are delighted to have her on board.



In with the new!

You asked, we listened, and our new staff intranet is here!

Personalised  Easy to use & interactive  Quicker search function 

Built around staff feedback, it's easier than ever to find your way round the new staff site. You can personalise your dashboard so that the most important information to you is on your home screen each and every time you log in. Never miss an announcement with all the latest news and alerts there for you at a glance, and there's easy access to all that 'day-to-day stuff' that we all need, like access to payslips, how to book annual leave, and even the menus for the Spice of Life restaurants. The new intranet has been designed by your colleagues, for you.



Your NEW Intranet Quick Starter Guide



St Helens and Knowsley
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



HOME SCREEN

When you open the new staff Intranet you will see your home screen.



ACCESSING THE INTRANET

You will access the Intranet in the same way by clicking on your internet browser, then click on the blue button.

The coloured blocks are called tiles and these can be customised to meet your needs. The system will also remember this everytime you login.

YOUR DASHBOARD



ADDING A TILE

Adding a tile is simple... Click 'add a tile' an A-Z menu will appear, select a letter, then a service or team to add it to your dashboard.



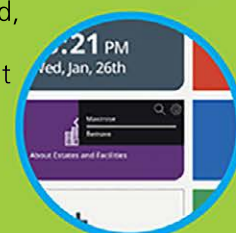
MOVING A TILE

You can just as easily move the tiles around. Simply click and drag the tile to the position you choose.



DELETING A TILE

If you decide you don't need a tile, just click the cog and remove it. There are some tiles that cannot be removed, like policies and alerts. these contain important information.



FAVOURITES

You'll probably come across documents on the Intranet that you will use regularly, you can now favourite these so you don't need to search for them again.



ACCESS OUTSIDE THE TRUST

Very soon you will be able to access the 'Trust Intranet' from outside the Trust via your home computer or Mobile Device. We will let you know when that's coming.



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For further information regarding the NEW STHK Intranet, please contact **James Maclachlan**, Digital Communications Officer on **0151 478 7775** or email **james.maclachlan@sthk.nhs.uk**

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE PATHOLOGY



Pathology is one of the broadest areas of modern science and underpins much of modern medicine - from determining the blood requirements of critically ill patients to identifying outbreaks of infectious diseases and monitoring biomarkers in cancer.



Biomedical science staff are the 'engine room' of healthcare – 70 - 80% of diagnoses in the NHS involve results provided by laboratory services. Our incredible pathology team alone perform over 6.5 million tests each year.

The events of the COVID-19 pandemic have only served to emphasise further just how vitally important the work of this specialist team is in ensuring the best possible assessment and treatment for patients, as well as the safety of our staff.



At the heart of healthcare

Biomedical scientists are at the heart of multi-disciplinary teams in healthcare. They provide other professionals with vital scientific information, allowing them to make informed clinical decisions, ensure blood stocks are adequate at critical times, matching blood to patients, measuring chemicals to monitor patient condition, investigating disease by looking at

tumour samples and identifying micro-organisms in the fight against infection.

Led by Clinical Director Dr Mohammad Al-Jubouri and Pathology Service Manager, Kevin McLachlan, STHK Pathology Services are made up of 377 members of the team, and include a mix of medical, scientific, phlebotomy, mortuary and clerical and support staff, working across a range of disciplines including Biochemistry, Haematology and Transfusion, Cellular Pathology, and Microbiology.

Where we are

You'll find the pathology team spread across several laboratories at both STHK and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trusts, including:

- **Whiston Hospital** | Blood Sciences hub, Microbiology & Cellular Pathology Services, Mortuary Services
- **St Helens Hospital** | Urgent Haematology and Coagulation Service
- **Southport Hospital** | Blood Sciences and Transfusion Services and Mortuary Services
- **Ormskirk Hospital** | Blood Sciences and Transfusion Services

Staff
 Total team = 377
 Medical Staff - 24
 Scientific and Technical Staff - 213
 Phlebotomists - 62
 Other staff groups including Administration, Clerical and Managerial - 78

Activity
 3.4 million requests per annum resulting in 6.5 million tests



Back for 2022 - The Big STHK Thank You!

It's a privilege to say THANK YOU to our incredible staff here at STHK, for their tireless energy and commitment to caring for our patients.

And so, for the second year running, The Big STHK Thank You week returned, even bigger and better than before!

In the usual STHK style, we shouted our praise from the rooftops, sprinkled some sparkle into people's shift patterns and sent them home with a great big smile on their face.

Our dedicated week of thanks in January, saw thousands of staff across all our hospital and community sites, and not forgetting those working from home, surprised with random acts of kindness.

From balloons and bunches of flowers, to sweet treats and wellbeing bags, our staff received the recognition they deserve.

Our busy team of thank you helpers, popped up with surprise gifts at all times of the day and night. And in case you weren't lucky enough to receive a spot 'prize', every member of staff was also offered the gift of either a specially branded STHK water bottle or thermal mug, to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

No thank you will ever be big enough, but we hope you know how appreciated you truly are!

We ♥ Team STHK



2000 THERMAL MUGS

100 BALLOONS

2000 WATER BOTTLES

10 FRUIT HAMPERS

200 WELLBEING BAGS

200 GOODIE BAGS

90 BIG BOXES OF BISCUITS

50 MUGS

200 BUNCHES OF FLOWERS

100 LUNCHES

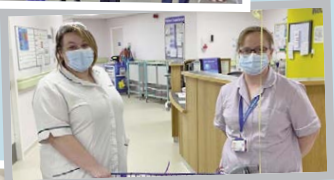
10 BIG CHOCOLATE BOXES

250 KIT KATS

200 BREAKFAST BUNDLES

HAPPY STAFF TOO MANY TO COUNT

STHK



STHK

THANK YOU



STHK **Thank you messages**



Big Thank You Week wasn't only about treats and presents though, as we gave you your very own opportunity to surprise each other. And as always, Team STHK stepped forward and blew us all away.

You left hundreds of heartfelt thank yous for your colleagues on our virtual Wall of Gratitude, in an outpouring of love and appreciation for your hardworking and 'always there for you' workmates.

Here is just a small selection of loveliness to brighten your day:

To: Lynn-Marie Garner in Ward 2E

Thank you for your continued support, being my sounding board and stress reliever and making the day a little easier to get through. Really appreciate everything you do xx

Thank you from: Tracie Cribbin in Ward 2E

To: Outpatient Management Team in Whiston and St Helens OPD

Thank you for all that you do. I couldn't do my job without each of you. I feel very privileged to be your Matron.

Thank you from: Tracey McLoughlin in Matron OPD

To: Carmel Thomason in 4B

Carmel is a dedicated staff nurse who always goes above and beyond for her patients. Carmel is the most upbeat and bubbly nurse, who keeps staff spirits high in this difficult time.

Thank you from: Phoebe Hankinson in 4B

To: Ward Manager Clare Corcoran in Ward 3F Paediatrics

I would like to say a massive THANK YOU to our ward manager Clare Corcoran for all the time she spends listening and helping individual staff including myself with any problems we may have, no matter if it's work related or personal. Clare is approachable, easy to talk to, has a fun personality and wicked sense of humour and her office door is always open. Managing our ward must be very hard but she never complains and many times it's been tough, including challenging patients, but Clare is always willing to help assist, support and offer guidance to all staff if they need it. So, from all of us on 3F, including domestic and catering staff, THANK YOU Clare!

Thank you from: Elizabeth Barry in Paediatrics 3F

To: Sister Clare Kelsey in Plastics Trauma Assessment Unit

Thank you for all your support and hard work and keeping the department going during these difficult times xx

Thank you from: Louise Odger in Plastics Trauma Assessment Unit

To: Cold Decontamination Team in Whiston & St Helens

Thank you for all your hard work and support and pulling together as a team during a very difficult time. Thank you all for being so understanding during your time redeployed. Each and every one of you are very much appreciated

Thank you from: Michelle Sullivan in Cold Decontamination

To: All Community Nurses in Community Adult Nursing

I'd just like to thank all my colleagues for all the hard work lately. With lots of staff shortages, it's been a very busy period, so thanks again colleagues.

Thank you from: Claire Pennington in Community Adult Nursing

To: Community Midwives in Maternity

As a team we can pull through anything. But it's the staff that makes all the difference. Thank you to each and every one of you for the support and love you show day in day out. For showing extra care during the most difficult times and for always being there. :-X

Thank you from: Julia Cotter in Community Midwives

To: Digital Systems Team in Digital Systems Team

Thank you, Team, for all your hard work and commitment you have shown during the pandemic. The support with setting up/changing of wards, the numerous clinic changes, staff access to clinical systems has been phenomenal, but you have achieved this working as a team. You have also ensured that other work commitments have continued, ensuring Patient care and Clinical Teams have been both supported and progressed. I am very proud of you all.

Thank you from: Tracey Graham in Digital Systems

To: DMOP and FRAILTY teams in Wards 5A, 5B, and Bevan court

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the doctors, nurses, specialists, therapists, students, catering and domestic staff that work on the DMOP and frailty wards. You are all AMAZING !! you have all worked so hard over the past 2 years, pulling together when needed and ensuring the patients and their relatives are looked after during the hardest of times. You have supported each other and are truly the best teams to work with. THANK YOU xx

Thank you from: Susan Noon in MCG

To: Infection Control Team in Infection Control

Thank you for all your help and support over the last 2 years. A challenging time but the difficulties we have overcome together have helped support both staff and patient care and that has been very important during this period. Don't know how you all do it and keep smiling too.

Thank you from: Lynne Shaw in Estates and Facilities



To: Blood Sciences at both Whiston and Southport in Pathology

I know it will be the same all over the hospital, but I would just like to thank all the staff at both sites working in Biochemistry and Haematology & Blood Transfusion for their support and dedicated hard work over the past months and particularly over Christmas and New Year at a time of unprecedented staff shortage through both leavers and COVID isolation combined. The staff kept the service going to both Trust's and primary care users by covering gaps in rotas at short notice, giving up rest days and supporting the service and each other throughout. Thank you everyone.

Thank you from: David Nixon in Blood Sciences

To: All Domestics, Porters, Catering staff, Volunteers, Shuttle Drivers in Medirest

Big thanks to all the domestics who kept our working areas clean and sanitised, the porters who delivered stock all around the hospital, the catering staff who kept us fed and the volunteers who enforce social distancing and help patients reach the department they needed to and the shuttle drivers who drive from site to site for patients, deliveries, and staff! Big huge thanks to you all for everything you have done and continue to do, especially during the pandemic!

Thank you from: Natalie in Pharmacy

To: The AMAZING Specialist Palliative Care Team in Medical Care Group

THANK YOU to ALL in the Specialist Palliative Care Team, every one of you has been amazing throughout this difficult time. You have continued to be on hand to support ward staff and provide excellent Specialist Palliative care to ALL our patients. You have pulled together and supported each other. THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thank you from: Deborah Beck in MCG

To: All the staff In Bevan Court

we see lots of our renal patients on this ward and the staff provide excellent care every time. Nothing is ever too much as long as it benefits the patient. The staff on there have had some really unwell patients under our speciality (renal) but they have provided outstanding care that we as a team appreciate. Thank you staff on Bevan Court! From The AKI team!

Thank you from: Keila Calland in Acute Medicine

To: Julie Williams In Cancer Services

Thank you for being continually amazing and supportive to our whole team. You are one in a million

Thank you from: Pat Gillis In Cancer Services

To: All the medical secretaries In all departments across both sites

I would like to say thank you to all my colleagues for keeping in touch while we are working from home. We may not be together but we remain a great team and do our very best.

Thank you from: Karen Bolton in Admin

To: Paediatric secretaries in Paediatric team, whiston

There is just not enough space to put down all the words that I want to say and thank you is just not enough for these amazing ladies. Also there will never be enough biscuits in the world to thank these fab people. Whilst doing there day job (which at the moment is very very busy, understaffed and overworked) these ladies have always helped me when I have asked and have never grumbled (much) and I just want to show how much I appreciate everything they have done for me, if now whilst working from home, they are still helping me! I miss you guys, but I'll be back!!

Thank you from: Becky Shaw in Medical Secretary

To: Phlebotomy Teams at STHK and Southport In Pathology

I just wanted to say a big thank you for the fantastic job you all continue to do. The past couple of years have been difficult and I am extremely proud of how you have all risen to the challenge. There have been big changes in the way you have had to work but you have taken it in your stride making sure patient care is always on the top of your list of priorities.

Thank you from: Sharon Roberts In Pathology

To: Mass Vaccination Team, Pat Keeley, Karen Birchall, Tracey McCloughlin and Jane Causer in Mass Vaccination Service

Just to say thank you to each and everyone who has been part of the huge effort of doing COVID vaccinations. The last year and a bit has been an experience to say the least and it has been a pleasure to work with you all. You are all fantastic.



Thank you from: Helen Burdett in Mass Vaccination

To: The Spice of Life Team in Spice of Life Restaurant @ Whiston

Big thank you to all of my staff at Whiston Spice of Life, even amongst staff shortage, product shortages and supporting with enforcing the rules & restrictions, they have still walked around with a smile on their face doing the best job that they can do. Massive well done to each and every one of you! You're all stars!

Thank you from: Rebecca Gregory in Spice of Life Restaurant, Whiston

To: Anita Gillen in Volunteer Department



Thank you to my colleagues Marie and Yvonne for staying positive and making coming to into work a happy place. To our office volunteers Penny, Sue, Jenny and

Joan for all the help and support that you provide, for changing days, stepping in to help where needed with a smile and a spring in your step! A massive thank you to ALL our volunteers who have been amazing giving their time, energy and compassion to ensure our patients and visitors have a Five Star Patient experience.

Thank you from: Anita Gillen in Volunteer Services

Thank You



Big Thank You Message from the Chief Executive

Trust Chief Executive, Ann Marr OBE, recorded a special video message to offer her own personal thanks to Team STHK.

“As part of our Big STHK Thank You week, I wanted to share my own personal message of appreciation with each and every member of our team.

On many occasions, I have said and will continue to say, how enormously grateful I am for the positive difference that you make to our patients every single day. The strength it has taken to stand at the forefront of the global pandemic must never

be underestimated, and you have done this with exceptional resilience and professionalism. In addition to this, it has been a very difficult start to the year with significant winter demands, a surge of the Omicron variant and many colleagues needing to self-isolate due to COVID-19. But yet again, you have pulled together and looked out for each other, putting your patients ahead of your own needs.

The Big Thank You week has given us all the opportunity to acknowledge our colleagues and friends for their care and support. We have really enjoyed creating the surprises for you, and we hope you've enjoyed receiving them. I remain incredibly proud to be your Chief Executive.

Please stay safe and thank you. ”



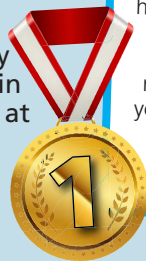
STHK A Thank You for your Thank You's

Every staff message we received was placed into a draw to win a Big STHK Thank You prize.

Three lucky winners were chosen at random from all your lovely messages.

1st Prize WINNER

Lily Noon won an overnight stay for two at Staycity Aparthotels in Liverpool, PLUS, dinner for two at Luban AND two tickets to see the Addams Family musical at the Liverpool Empire



To: **Joseph.barker @sthk.nhs.uk in 1E**

A big thank you to Joe one of our fabulous HCA's who has always supported me since my first day on CCU as a health care assistant and again as a trained nurse. He would say he taught me everything I know Joe has recently turned 60 and is retiring and returning. Thank you for the amazing work you do Joe and we can't wait to have you back!

Thank you from: **Lily Noon In 1E**



To: **Team Duffy Suite in Community team**

To every member of the marvellous team# Team Duffy. I cannot begin to put into words how proud I am to be part of such a dedicated team. It hasn't been easy over the past few years - with the challenges of the pandemic and the personal losses that some have suffered. As a work family we have rose to challenges, adapted, and supported as needed. Everyone has worked above and beyond to achieve high standards of individualised patient care. In the absence of families you have made sure no one went without - bringing an extra smile, and taking time to care when it mattered most. What a privilege it is to be your manager - THANK YOU each and every one of you for what you bring to our team.

Thank you from: **debby Glynn in community care - Duffy suite**

2nd Prize WINNER

Debby Glynn won two tickets and a meal at the Royal Court Liverpool to watch the hilarious 'The Royal'



To: **Pathology Services in Jones Jones Cellular Pathology**

I just wanted to echo really the sentiment that most people are sending in, I am really thankful to everyone in the trust, as colleague, family member and a patient. The last couple of years have been really tough in more ways than one, yet through this difficult time it has emphasised just how strong of a team we are and just how resilient we can be. I did particularly want to say thank you to my fellow colleagues in Pathology, we are a multi-disciplinary department, which requires multi-faceted skill sets from scientific work, secretarial support and mortuary services, so patients and their families can receive the treatment and answers they so desperately need. Pathology have always been a close knit community within the hospital, but I feel during this difficult time it has really highlighted to me just how robust those bonds of community are and the level of care as a department we provide. Thank you everyone for all your support you have given me and my family it is really appreciated.

Thank you from: **John-Gareth Jones in Cellular Pathology**

3rd Prize WINNER

John-Gareth Jones won two tickets to 'Buddy Holly Lives!' at the Epstein Theatre

We hope a fun-filled time is had by all!



IHM Events



Institute of
Health &
Social Care
Management

Among the many benefits of working at STHK, did you know that the Trust is also a regional hub for the Institute of Healthcare and Social Care Management (IHSCM)?

As the Regional Hub for the North West, STHK staff can sign up for an exclusive free IHSCM membership allowing you access to events and a library of online resources.

As a member, you'll benefit from:

- CPD accredited courses
- Social care resources - Support Guides and more
- Free access to events - Including all Health and Social Care Chats
- Networking opportunities with our partners and industry leaders
- Exclusive content created with our partners and members
- Innovation and specialist interest groups

REGISTER TODAY

No matter your role, FREE membership with the IHSCM is available to everyone working at STHK, including Medirest and Vinci staff.

Visit the Learning and Organisational Development section of the staff intranet to register today and take advantage of all the benefits IHSCM membership brings

SAVE THE DATE

Once you've registered your details, you'll gain immediate and FREE access to workshop opportunities led by IHSCM Chairman Roy Lilley and IHSCM Chief Executive Jon Wilks throughout the year.

First up for 2022, join one of two virtual sessions to be hosted on Tuesday 15th March by Jon Wilks, as he tackles the topic of Future Proofing within the NHS, in response to the recent shift in ways of working, the challenges faced by leaders during the pandemic, and how leadership styles have changed to support an agile workforce.

Visit the staff intranet for more details about joining this workshop and to discover the full schedule of events for this year.



Wellbeing walks with Bentley



An exciting new addition has joined our weekly wellbeing walks at the Trust, our very own Pets as Therapy (PAT) dog Bentley, and his owner Julie.

Bentley's first adventure took place around Henley Park, opposite Whiston Hospital, where staff joined our four-legged friend for a lunchtime walk around the park.

Handsome Bentley is also available for 1-1 sittings in the Rainbow Garden at Whiston Hospital, for anyone who would like to meet him there. To arrange this, please contact: Anita.Gillen@sthk.nhs.uk at the Volunteer Office.

Weather permitting, Bentley will join staff each week to stretch their legs and promote wellbeing in the workplace.

There are also plans for Wellbeing Walks to start at St Helens Hospital every Monday lunchtime and in the coming weeks dates will be announced for Newton Hospital also.

For more information contact: wellbeingevents@sthk.nhs.uk



Where & When: Whiston Hospital, every Tuesday 12:30pm.
Meet at the Red Phone Box outside Main Entrance - just turn up!

Coming soon: St Helens Hospital, every Monday, in the Lilac Centre Gardens.
Start date to be confirmed.
Newton Hospital, dates to be confirmed.

Committed to inclusion

As part of our commitment to being a diverse and inclusive employer and care provider, STHK are taking part in the rainbow badge accreditation programme, a national scheme which benchmarks and awards NHS organisations for their work in LGBT+ inclusivity.



Drew Perkins



Laura Marks

A recent Stonewall survey estimates that one in five LGBT+ people are not 'out' to any healthcare professional when seeking general medical care. It also found that one in seven LGBT+ people have avoided treatment for fear of discrimination.*

Despite the progress made towards LGBT+ equality in recent years, many LGBT+ people still face serious barriers to leading healthy, happy and fulfilling lives, with high rates of poor mental health and challenges when accessing healthcare identified as the most significant contributing factors.

By taking part in this nationwide initiative, we're aiming to show our commitment to providing open, non-judgmental, and inclusive support and care for all, regardless of how people identify themselves. We want our patients and staff to benefit from:

- relevant staff training to improve understanding of LGBT+ issues and needs
- inclusive policies
- support for LGBT+ staff
- supportive work and clinical environments

Proud@STHK Staff Network Chair, Drew Perkins said, "Accreditation for the Trust will help ensure that every corner and part of our services is evaluated on behalf of our patients and staff. By taking part, we will be supported and challenged to look at what we do well and what we can learn from so that we are truly inclusive of all genders and sexuality now and going forward."

Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Laura Marks said "Working through the accreditation process will help us to continue to strive to be a fully inclusive, open and honest working environment, where everyone is accepted for who they are, appreciated for the hard work they do, and is supported to be their authentic self."

Watch this space!

In the next few months, all staff will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts on LGBT+ matters within the Trust via an online survey.

The NHS Rainbow Badge was created by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, in partnership with Evelina London Children's Hospital. Staff wearing the badge have chosen to do so to let others know that they will offer a safe space and support to LGBT+ patients and colleagues.



Welcome Jane Thomas!

Jane joined the Workforce Team in February as Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Jane has worked in the health and equalities field since 2003 in various roles across NHS commissioning, NHS and private providers, and trade unions.

She said, "The NHS has made huge progress on equality and diversity in recent years, with the development of detailed frameworks to evaluate impact, and by setting itself challenging objectives for improvement. I am delighted to be joining the team at STHK to lead the development of a new workforce ED&I strategy to support this work."

Networks that Work for You

There is a variety of Trust staff networks open to all members of staff.

The aim of each staff network is to provide a safe and inclusive environment to meet others, discuss any concerns, and help drive behaviours that promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in all areas of the Trust. Our networks include...

- Building a Multicultural Environment (BAME)
- Building Abilities @STHK (Disability and Wellbeing)
- Armed Forces Network
- PROUD@STHK
- Carers Network
- Menopause Café

If you're interested in joining a staff network, visit the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion section of the staff intranet to find out more.

Simmo Says...

WHISTON and ST HELENS HOSPITALS' CHARITY



Hello everyone

Well, here we are in 2022, and our wonderful fundraisers are already off to a fantastic start, setting themselves challenges and smashing their fundraising goals (and it's only February). We can't thank you enough for helping us to brighten the smiles of our patients and staff.

And speaking of brighter, the lighter nights will soon be here again, giving us all the perfect opportunity to come out of hibernation and make the most of the Spring evenings.

Whether you're lacing up your trainers or looking to make a splash in your local pool over the coming weeks, why not drop me a line to find out how we can support you to raise money for your local hospitals (and make all those laps really pay off)?

If you're looking for a bit of inspiration, take a look at our fabulous fundraisers below - until next time *Simmo*

(Fund)Raising the Roof

After his daughter Carol was treated at the Lilac Centre last year, local Reiki Master Tom O Mara asked for donations in exchange for holistic therapy treatments. Tom built his own miniature Lilac Centre House to collect all the donations and after lifting its roof outside the centre itself, revealed he'd raised a whopping £357 to go towards our cancer services.



One Tough Mudder!

Thank you so much to our very own Midwife, Julie Pilkington, and her super fit maternity team who took on the challenge of Tough Mudder to raise money to makeover the High Dependency room on the Maternity Unit! Thanks to their epic efforts, the room has been brightened with lovely new artwork, a new kettle, fridge and mugs to give extra comfort to families. And with a little help from further charity funds, we have been able to purchase new cots and fold away beds for partners too! Thanks so much to you all!

**Tough Mudder challenge took place before the COVID-19 pandemic!*



In memory

Thank you so much to Michelle Mutch who raised £1100 in a Christmas raffle to raise money for the Lilac Centre after both her mum, Evelyn Glover, and mother in law, Veronica Mutch, were treated there. Sadly, Veronica passed away on the morning of the handover of the cheque, but it had been one of her last requests that Michelle should attend.

Michelle has requested to buy two chairs in their memory for the new treatment bay, as per their wishes, as they always found that sitting together and talking whilst having their treatment helped them on their journey.

We are so grateful and thank you Michelle, and your family and friends for supporting our Hospitals.



Every Little Helps

A big thank you to Elaine Overend at Tesco Linkway, St Helens for playing such a huge part in OUR Big STHK Thank You week. She launched her "Norman's Nurses" appeal in store, and colleagues and customers donated items and money, in memory of her dad, Norman, who sadly passed away at Whiston in October 2021. She provided us with fruit, cakes, cereal, and chocolate bars and much more besides! We are so grateful and look forward to working with her again in the future.



Please remember, if you are looking for a challenge or a charity to support, we are your local hospitals and we need you. You can call me on 0151 478 7568 or email: hello@wshospcharity.org I'm always here to support with advice and suggestions on the best way to go about your fundraiser.

 /WSHospCharity  @WSHospCharity  @WSHospCharity



Because you're amazing!

We regularly receive feedback about how fantastic the care is at our hospitals. Here are just some of the messages from the last few months.

★★★★★ Superb

I arrived at the Plastic Surgery dept feeling very nervous about my procedure. At every stage I was put at ease, the staff on Holbrook Unit are 1st class, and at every step of the way I was kept informed and any questions that I asked were answered fully and professionally. The aftercare is second to none and any future patients visiting this dept can go there without worry or concern. The staff are an asset to Whiston Hospital. I would like to give a big thankyou to each and every one of them. Please pass on my thanks to all staff concerned.

Thanks to the amazing staff of @sthknhs looking after my Dad who has Pneumonia. We live in Notts and though it's worrying we know he's in good hands.

★★★★★ Ward 2C excellent care

My husband was admitted to 2C with Covid. We cannot fault the care, the staff were friendly, caring, and extremely kind. Nothing was too much trouble for them. Everyone from doctor, nurses to "dinner lady" were lovely. Food was surprisingly very tasty too.

Taking shifts with my Mum, we have sat in Whiston Hosp @sthknhs for 3 days with my Nan who's at EOL. Staff on 4C have been amazing so kind and compassionate and have done everything they can to make Nan comfortable and allowing us to stay with her 24/7.

★★★★★ Efficient and Professional

I was anxious during Covid times about using Accident and Emergency to remove a large thorn deeply buried behind a fingernail. However, my reception and triage were quick, friendly, and efficient. I had a short wait in a well organised and ventilated waiting area. My treatment was pain-free and successful from a calm, friendly and experienced professional. I was able to leave after a short visit and can now use my hand again. Thank you, NHS.

@sthknhs despite the intense pressure that your staff are under I must mention how well they are treating my dad and keeping us informed. Angels all of them!!

I am so thankful to all the staff at St Helens hospital as I attended for surgery today. From Consultant to HCA, you were all amazing @sthknhs - Now time to recover #restandrecuperation

★★★★★ Surgery

Ward 4B at Whiston hospital. Couldn't fault them - absolutely amazing staff. With all that's going on, going into hospital is daunting knowing there can be no visitors and the risk of COVID etc. This was my first ever stay in a hospital and first ever surgery, 35 weeks pregnant and I was absolutely terrified! Staff were patient, supportive and understanding and couldn't do enough for me and bump, answered every question to the best of their ability, and allowed me time to process what was happening. No surgery goes without risks, but everything was explained in detail and bump was constantly checked up on throughout my stay! Can't fault them at all! So grateful for everything they did for me! And I honestly can't thank them enough! I would also like to thank the surgeons, the housekeeping, hostesses, carers... everyone that helped and made my stay in Whiston the best it could be. Thank you!

I just wanted to praise staff in Children's A&E. My 11 year old daughter was brought in this afternoon after having an accident at school. The staff who took care of her where all exceptional. The care she received was outstanding, everything was explained thoroughly and as a parent, I knew my daughter was in safe hands. From booking in at reception to seeing triage and then finally the doctor, everyone was amazing. I was also reassured that I could take her back if needed without hesitation. Thank you so very much. You are all fantastic. xxx

Brilliant service

I have unfortunately been a patient in a few hospitals and St Helens has been the best for care yet. The staff are friendly, accommodating and do their best to put you at ease. The dept is extremely clean and the surgery as painless. The surgeon and his team made me feel so comfortable and relaxed. The after care team are thorough and made sure I was completely ready to go home. Well done to the whole team. You are all stars. Can't thank you enough.

Staff News 'n' Views

Next Issue: Summer 2022

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in producing this edition, if you would like to contribute to future editions please contact:

newsnviews@sthk.nhs.uk

The deadline for submissions for the next News 'n' Views is 1st May 2022

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