Update

Helping people stay well, supporting those in need

NHS
Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Issue 24: 26 February 2021

Latest news from Torbay and South Devon

We are sending this update to keep you informed about Trust developments. Please feel free to share this amongst your networks. If you wish to unsubscribe, or you have been passed this update by someone else and you would like to subscribe please email: communications.tsdft@nhs.net

We are ensuring our website has the latest information on it so please do look there for the most up-to-date information www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk.You can also keep up-to-date by following us on Twitter and Facebook

Trust COVID-19 vaccination programme

The prevalence of COVID-19 in our communities continues to reduce, as lockdown and the vaccination programme continue.

The Trust has paused its Hospital Hub Pfizer BioNtech vaccination programme, until second doses are due to commence on 22 March. In the meantime, our team of roving vaccinators are supporting delivery of the Astra Zeneca vaccination to inpatients in priority groups 1-6. Patients will not be offered a vaccine if they:

- are acutely unwell and have a fever
- have had an operation in the previous 48 hours
- have started intravenous antibiotics within the previous 48 hours.

Anyone receiving their first dose as an inpatient will be referred to their GP for the second, follow-up dose.

Service and ward changes

During the pandemic, we have had to make a number of changes, including relocating some wards and services, to continue providing safe care for our patients. As the number of COVID-19 cases in the community continues to fall, we are focussing on planning how we step back services that have been paused or have been running at a lower level in recent weeks and months. We still have to remain vigilant with full infection prevention and control measures in place, and be flexible to deal with an increase in COVID-19 cases in future.

Here is a guide to the most recent and forthcoming changes:

- **Dawlish Community Hospital** has re-opened to inpatients again.

- **Brixham Community Hospital** has returned to non-COVID inpatient activity
- **Simpson Ward** is closed while we carry out essential work on improving the floors and adding new doors for enhanced infection prevention and control. We expect the ward to open again in mid-March.
- **Ella Rowcroft** re-started orthopaedic joint surgery this week
- **Ricky Grant and SSPAU** were temporarily relocated in November, and have now returned to their original locations**.** This also means that maternity services have expanded back into McCallum Ward
- **Medical Receiving Unit (MRU), Surgical Receiving Unit (SRU) and Day Surgery Unit (DSU)** will be moving back into their original locations next month. The first set of moves are planned to start the week beginning 15 March and should be completed the week beginning 29 March, with the first patients receiving their procedures back in DSU.

Please visit our COVID-19 information page to see the latest information. If you are having difficulty contacting a specific service or ward, or locating a family member in hospital, please contact our switchboard on 0300 456 8000.

New base for Riverside Midwifery team

The Riverside Midwifery team is now enjoying a new office in Totnes Community Hospital thanks to a £10,000 donation from the Totnes Hospital League of Friends.

Formed in March 2020, the team cover locations in the 'Moor to Sea' area of Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, which ranges from Strete to as far across as Ashburton and the surrounding areas. They will be assisting in the implementation of the 'Better Births' five-year plan, set up in 2016, in order to set out recommendations relating to increasing and improving continuity of care for women using maternity services.

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HIP2 update

The government's Hospital Infrastructure Plan (HIP) offers a once in a generation opportunity to improve healthcare for the people of Devon, and ensure services are efficient and sustainable to meet the current and future needs of local populations.

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust has been allocated a share of the £3.7 billion government funding for a digitally-led brand new hospital development by 2030. Through this funding we will develop hospital facilities which will offer our patients high quality care across our acute, community and primary care pathways, whilst using our resources most efficiently. We are working with our partners across the Devon STP to develop plans that will deliver on the ambitions of Devon's Long-Term plan and support our vision of providing integrated care for local people in their homes and communities, preventing a hospital stay wherever possible and supporting them to return home as soon as clinically appropriate. In order to secure these objectives, we recognise the requirement for significant investment into our digital systems, which we believe will enable improvements in patient care in advance of the investment into our estate.

We are at an early stage in our planning, developing a detailed case for change that will support a clinical strategy to deliver better access to diagnostics, improvements to urgent and emergency care environments and separate planned care services. Healthwatch has been working with us at this very early stage and, as our plans develop, we will create opportunities for much wider discussion, debate and engagement with our communities.

HIP2 Strategic Medical Director appointment

We are delighted to announce that Dr Joanne Watson has been appointed as HIP2 Strategic Medical Director for our Hospital Infrastructure Plan (HIP2). This is an incredibly important Board level appointment that will support clinical leadership of the Health and Care Strategy for the HIP2 Programme.

We know that Joanne will provide not just the skills and experience this vital role needs, but she will also bring her passion for ensuring our patients and clinical colleagues are at the centre of every decision. The appointment took effect from 1 February 2021.

Sessions for carers

Torbay Carers Service is now offering monthly virtual drop-in sessions on Microsoft Teams offering support, advice and information to people in a caring role.

Monthly on Thursday evenings (7.30pm – 9pm)

- Starting 18 February
- Join on your computer or mobile app - Click here to join the meeting

Monthly on Tuesday lunch times (12.30pm – 2pm)

- Starting 2 March
- Join on your computer or mobile app - Click here to join the meeting

If you don't have access to Microsoft Teams or these times don't work for you, then please call Signposts for Carers on **01803 666620** or email signposts@nhs.net to discuss other options.

The service also wants to set up a Peer Support Group for Staff who are carers, so staff are being encouraged to get in touch using the contact details above if interested.

White paper on integrating health and care

Earlier this month the government published its White Paper on integrating Health and Care. It confirms the journey we have been taking as an integrated care organisation: working across organisational boundaries to focus on better health and wellbeing, and better-quality services.

Integrated Care Systems will replace Clinical Commissioning Groups. Our Trust will work with partners in primary care, the voluntary sector and local authorities to form a local care partnership. These new organisations should be fully up and running by April 2022.

Jane Milligan is joining in April 2021 to lead the development of the Devon Integrated Care System. Jane has worked for the NHS for 33 years and has extensive experience at a senior level. Her appointment marks a return to Devon, having previously spent six years working as a clinician in the county and in Cornwall.

Playing your part in the ongoing pandemic

Stay at home: The best thing you can do to help the NHS is to stay at home as much as possible. Every time you leave your home you risk coming into contact with an infected person or touching a surface or door handle or petrol pump, which may

be contaminated. Any one of these interactions could be a crucial link in the chain of transmission of COVID-19. If everyone does their bit, our hospitals and other services will cope.

Have a vaccine: When you get your call from the NHS for your vaccine, please take it up. The NHS will get in touch with you when it's your turn to be vaccinated. You will not be offered a choice of which vaccination you receive – both approved vaccines are rigorously tested, safe and effective.

Please help us by not calling your local hospital or GP practice about getting the vaccine – the NHS will contact you when it's your turn.

You may still transmit COVID-19 after you have been vaccinated. Having the vaccine should protect you from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19**,** but you may still be a risk to others if you are exposed. It is crucial that you continue to observe the 'stay at home' and 'hands, face, space' advice until advised that it is no longer necessary.

Continue to follow the government guidance: 'Hands, Face, Space'.

Use the NHS in the best way: Think 111 first; or choose the right service for your needs: self-care, pharmacists, local minor injury services or your GP.

Follow the Trust on social media

Click on the icons to view our social media profiles. Please follow us to receive our latest updates in your social media news feeds. You will find personal and professional stories from our staff, our patients and news about your local services.