

Your TRUST

NHS
The Dudley Group
 NHS Foundation Trust

Trust is in the running for prestigious awards

Celebrating the incredible work of our teams
A message from outgoing chairman Dame Yve Buckland and chief executive Diane Wake

Welcome to the latest edition of Your Trust. In this edition we are proud to celebrate some of the incredible work that our teams are involved with to ensure the people of Dudley receive the best treatment possible.

We are now over two years on from the first positive COVID case in the UK and we have faced one of the most challenging times in the history of our NHS.

In mid-2022, we are in a better position to tackle COVID but, as our recent return to face coverings has proven in light of increasing community COVID rates in Dudley, we are still having to adapt our working practices to avoid the spread of the disease.

So firstly, we give thanks to our wonderful workforce who have had significant challenges thrown at them during this pandemic. Secondly, thanks to our patients and visitors who help to keep our most vulnerable patients safe by adhering to our COVID guidance. Remember, if you have flu or cold symptoms please don't attend our sites.

One of our key challenges for 2022/23 is workforce and ensuring we have the right skills mix and number of staff to treat and care for our patients. Increased demand and high levels of sickness due to COVID-19 brought this into even sharper focus.

We have undertaken some really targeted recruitment and this has been successful, but we would always encourage people from our own area to consider a career with us in Dudley.

Another major positive for us here in Dudley is that our staff networks have really taken off and become the powerful forces we hoped they would be. The networks are raising awareness of important issues and helping to shape our workforce policies.

As we all enjoy this wonderful hot summer, we already have one eye on the winter and the challenges that brings and Flu and COVID vaccinations will be an important priority for us.

But we hope you enjoy this edition of Your Trust, thank you for trusting us with your care and for always supporting your local NHS workers.

The Dudley Group has been revealed as a finalist for their ground-breaking paediatric virtual ward program.

The Dudley Group Foundation Trust is thrilled to announce that they have been selected as finalists for a prestigious Royal College of Nursing (RCN) award and Nursing Times Award for their innovative Paediatric Virtual Ward that allows children to be safely cared for in their own home and avoids them staying in hospital longer than they need.

The first of its kind in the UK, the Paediatric Virtual Ward aims to further provide outstanding care to young patients. Patients who would otherwise be treated in hospital, are able to be treated in their homes, enabling earlier supported discharge and reduce admissions, all whilst maintaining specialist care.

Trailblazing

The trailblazing program, which to date is completely unique, has been driven by the children's services team at Russells Hall Hospital with the support of Black Country and West Birmingham CCG (BCWB CCG).

Patients who are identified as needing to be monitored whilst not requiring acute care are able to return home, where their family or carers can comfortably monitor and share their vitals through NHS issued tablets that provide consistent contact with the Virtual Ward team. Regular telephone contact is also maintained, and community care where suitable.

Anum Shazady, who uses the virtual ward for her son, said: "Now my son is on the virtual ward I can record his observations as many times as I want throughout the day, recording them onto the virtual ward pad and a member of staff calls me twice daily which reassures me that he is safe in our home environment."

Since its launch, the virtual ward has reduced the length of hospital stay by an average of three days per child. Parents and carers now feel fully supported when caring for a sick child at home. This has reduced the need for GP appointments and the use of emergency services.

The Trust's head of children's services Karen Anderson said: "We are thrilled that our virtual ward



The Paediatric team has been short-listed for an award for the ground-breaking virtual ward scheme



Young patients can remain at home and be monitored remotely



Volunteers queue for staff while they completed their survey

program has been recognised by the Royal College of Nursing and that the phenomenal work of our paediatrics team is being highlighted."

There has been considerable interest in the virtual ward model, and it is being adopted by paediatric services within BCWB CCG: Sandwell and Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Chief Executive for The Dudley Group Diane Wake said: "The virtual ward is just one way the team are supporting children and their families, and it also demonstrates this Trust's dedication and commitment to service innovation and building a workforce for the future."

■ Our Communications Team has been shortlisted for a Health Service Journal NHS Communications Initiative of the Year award.

They are nominated for their "Engaging staff for a better future: NHS Staff Survey" project which among other things allowed volunteers to queue for members of staff while they completed their feedback forms.

The collaborative project enabled the Trust staff survey re-

turn rates to go from 46% to our highest ever figure of 59% which is fundamental in ensuring we can make Dudley the very best place to work and thrive.

This incredible 13% rise was one of the largest increases across all 217 NHS trusts involved in the survey and compares to an overall average increase of 2% in response rates.

The HSJ Awards will take place on the 17th November.

Some of the photos featured in Your Trust were taken when mask wearing in the Trust was not mandatory.

Minister takes tour of site in factfinding trip



New Zealand Minister for Health Andrew Little MP at Russells Hall Hospital

In May, we were delighted to host Mr Andrew Little MP, Minister for Health for New Zealand, who spent time in Dudley as part of a wider visit to local NHS services.

Mr Little joined members of the Dudley Integrated Health and Care Team throughout the day to understand more about the integrated care model and how we look after people in the community where possible and hospital when necessary to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.

Incredibly, he had decided to make a stop in Dudley on his way from Geneva to New Zealand because he had heard so many positive things about our NHS services.

During his time at Russells Hall Hospital, Mr Little visited our Emergency Department, Rainbow Unit, Same Day Emergency Care and our Long COVID and virtual wards.

Service

He was able to spend time with Karen Kelly, chief operating officer; Julian Hobbs, medical director; Mary Sexton, deputy nurse; Rachel Wakeman, ED matron; Ahmed Ismail, ED clinical lead; Deb Vasey, matron; Murali Veerabahu, consultant; Jane Dale, chief of medicine; Claire Weatherstone, deputy matron; Phil Brammer, deputy medical director; Paul Hudson, deputy medical director and Liz Abbiss, director of communications.

Mr Little was accompanied by Dr Richard Bramble on his visit to Russells Hall Hospital where he specifically came to take a tour of our new Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) service and to learn about the care we are offering to patients suffering with long COVID.

During the day he also learnt more about the Integrated Care Team (ICT) hosted by Lion Health and met one of the GPs who leads the (ICT), Dr Simon Carvell.

Lion Health is the largest GP practice in Dudley and has a very effective ICT which brings multi-disciplinary professionals together to discuss vulnerable patients.

Army medical team pay Trust a visit

The Trust was delighted to host a team of 16 senior Army medical officers from the Pakistan Armed Forces Postgraduate Medical Institute (AFPGMI) on a study tour as part of a Msc Healthcare Administration program.

The afternoon started with presentations on the NHS systems and processes focusing in particular on governance and human factors in preventing patient harm.

The team spent the rest of the afternoon touring outpatients, wards and theatres and had detailed discussions with the managers and matron in these areas. The feedback from the team was excellent and they were impressed with the systems and pathways in place in these key areas to streamline patient care.

The afternoon concluded with a note of thanks from the chair Dame Yve Buckland and the Commandant of the visiting team and was attended by executive directors and senior clinicians.



Senior Army medical officers from the Pakistan Armed Forces Postgraduate Medical Institute (AFPGMI)

Work to cut carbon footprint recognised



Clare Nash, head of clinical products management, with her award

The Dudley Group is celebrating after one of its employees won an outstanding contribution award at the NHS Midlands Excellence in Supply Awards.

Clare Nash, head of clinical products management for the Black Country Alliance at The Dudley Group, was recognised for her Outstanding Contribution to Procurement at the awards night, which was attended by professionals from NHS Trusts across the North, West and East Midlands and the East of England.

Clare's role now involves ensuring the products used by the Trusts not only provide the best possible care for patients and value for money, but also fit in with the Trusts' plans to reduce their carbon footprint.

These include moving the Dudley Group Foundation Trust to using sustainable recycled paper which has saved around 41,000 trees from the chop, rejecting a switch of syringes from a European-based manufacturer to one made in the Far East, which has prevented an additional 1.3 tons of CO2 emissions from the additional transport miles and also investing in reusable PPE including gowns and

half face masks as greener alternatives.

On winning her award, Clare said: "I am so proud of this win and to be recognised for the hard work I have put in to grow the Greener Procurement agenda across the Black Country Alliance.

"The award recognises the work our clinical teams and I have put in which is very exciting, as well as the support the wider Trust gives to the Greener NHS.

"I am not resting on my laurels though, as there is a lot to do, but we have the support of The Dudley Group Foundation Trust Board to take this further, and to engage and educate staff on what they can contribute to getting us to net zero."

Commenting on Clare's success, Diane Wake, chief executive for The Dudley Group, said: "Climate change is a health emergency, and the NHS has a target to have a net zero carbon footprint by 2045.

"To have someone as passionate as Clare working within our trust to help us achieve this goal is something we are very grateful for, and we are immensely proud of her winning this award."

Breast cancer videos bid to help ease anxiety

Two videos have been launched to help deaf and hard of hearing women recognise signs and symptoms of breast cancer.

How to be Breast Aware and A Guide to the Breast Screening Appointment feature interpreters using sign language to get across vital, potentially life-saving information on how to be breast aware, and to help deaf and hard of hearing women understand what to expect during a mammogram.

The videos have been produced, with the help of the deaf

community, by The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs the Dudley, Wolverhampton and South West Staffordshire Breast Screening Service, and the digital media team at the Ron Grimley Undergraduate Centre at Russells Hall Hospital.

They were commissioned by the charity Zebra Access to ease fears and anxieties during breast screening appointments because women in the deaf community often feel isolated and frustrated when accessing healthcare. This

has been particularly difficult during COVID.

Robina Ajimal, who was born deaf to hearing parents, has worked for an interpreting agency for nine years and appears on 'How to be Breast Aware'.

"Deaf people like to see information visually to get an explanation of what's going to happen."

Linda Beasley works for Zebra Access, a charity dedicated to ensuring that all deaf people enjoy equal participation and access without communication barriers.

"A Guide to breast screening is a very clear, step-by-step guide of what to expect during a mammogram which gives much needed confidence to deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind people," said Linda, who has also been deaf from birth.

Chief executive for The Dudley Group Diane Wake said one in seven women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and this causes 10,000 deaths annually in the UK. She stressed the importance of attending mammogram appointments when invited.

Chairman bids farewell after three years in role

It is with great sadness that I have come to the end of my time as chair of The Dudley Group. But I am also extraordinarily proud of what has been achieved by all of our staff during the three years that I have chaired the board.

I was appointed at a difficult time for the Trust but when the Governors invited me to come here I knew that this was a great organisation.

It is an understatement to say that we have come through the COVID pandemic and through some specific and more particular challenges to us here at The Dudley Group amazingly strongly. While there is still work to do and we cannot be complacent. The Trust is now positioned really well to meet the current challenges facing us and the rest of the NHS.

Recovery

And that's not just me who thinks that ... Just before he stepped down as Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, at a private lunch here in the Black Country, described Dudley as one of the strongest performing Trusts in the country for the recovery of elective care post COVID. Our Regulators NHSEI and the CQC now tell us openly and on the record that we are an improved and highly performing organisation.

Our staff morale, even in the face of some of the biggest pressures on us in history, has improved and continues to hold steady in spite of the problems in NHS staffing across the country.

A recent independent external review of how 'well led' we are across the Trust at all levels from 'Board to Ward' commented on the transformation in our leadership and governance.

Also, we as a Trust are acknowledged to be playing a key role in sup-



Chief Executive Diane Wake, Dame Yve Buckland and TV presenter Adrian Chiles

port of the new Integrated Care System (ICS) arrangements across the Black Country and are recognised as instrumental in driving collaboration and cooperation across the system to better meet patient needs.

And all of this has been a great team Dudley effort.

I would firstly like to thank CEO Diane Wake and the executive team for their leadership of the Trust. They have been courageous over the last four years in facing down a series of the biggest challenges that I have experienced facing any NHS organisation in my long years of service in the NHS and they have been open and innovative in embracing new ways of working not only in our

Dudley Group hospitals but right across our system. We have some brilliant non-executive directors on our Board who have also provided wisdom, support and challenge to me and the executives in equal measure.

Our governors have also been supportive and resilient in the face of challenge. They have placed their trust in me, Diane and the board to do the right thing for patients, staff and our community.

Most importantly I would like to thank our brilliant staff.

I am leaving now as I come to the end of my term in the firm belief that organisations need different leadership at different times. In my

view what The Dudley Group now requires, to build on these great foundations and to meet the current pressures is a new chair who can be a really active leader in our Black Country system, positioning The Dudley Group and Dudley at the heart of new integrated and collaborative working.

However, and without doubt, I will leave a piece of my heart in Dudley and I will watch its continuing progress with affection and pride. This role without doubt has been one of the most demanding and fulfilling of my career.

**Dame Yve Buckland
Outgoing Chairman**

Vascular hub hailed as best performing across country

The Black Country Vascular Hub, based at Russells Hall Hospital, has been identified as Number One in the country for ensuring patients with abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) get potential life-saving surgery in a timely manner.

Thanks to the incredible hard work of members of the Black Country Vascular Network, we have been ranked as the best performing out of 38 other AAA screening programmes for meeting standard pathway time to surgery following initial identification.

Dudley Group CEO Diane Wake said: "I am so very proud of the Dudley team and this is a result of everyone pulling together to put our patients first. The Black Country Vascular Network operates as a hub for the whole Black Country population and delivers highly-skilled, emergency and elective vascular surgery.

"The Black Country AAA Screening Programme has been run by The Dudley Group since 2012 and the staff do a truly incredible job."

Consultant and AAA screening programme director Mr Rajiv Pathak said: "Our whole team has done a great job in tackling the backlog because of COVID. We are also working towards achieving full restoration of the AAA screening programme across the Black Country."

Screening

Screening programme manager Karina Lloyd said: "AAA is a disease that primarily affects the older male population and when men reach 65 they are invited for the screening ultrasound.

"You normally do not know you have an AAA; if undetected and left untreated this can cause early death and rupture and it is why screening in men is so important."

Rebecca Farmer, NHS England Director for Delivery and Improvement in the Midlands, added: "We know that NHS colleagues across the country have been facing a real challenge in safely delivering as much elective surgery as possible as we continue to manage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a great credit to the hard work of the team at the Black Country Vascular Hub to be identified as the best performing vascular surgery programme in the country, which is benefitting local patients in getting the care they need sooner."

Specialists from The Dudley Group Foundation Trust, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust work collaboratively at the hub based at Russells Hall to achieve our excellent results.

New appointment to strengthen links



Sir David Nicholson

As our chairman Dame Yve Buckland steps down from her role at the Trust, our Trust Board and Council of Governors have considered the options available for recruitment of a new chair.

The preferred option is to move to a shared chair with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust.

Diane Wake, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We would like to thank Yve for her dedication and professional leadership during her time here in Dudley and extend her a huge heartfelt thank you.

"We are delighted to announce that Sir David Nicholson has been appointed to serve as chairman of the Trust from 1st September 2022. We look forward to welcoming him

to our Trust and building on the collaboration we have already with Sandwell."

Sir David will be moving on from his role as chair of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust in order to focus on his leadership of the two Trust boards in the Black Country.

Collaborating

Sir David Nicholson said: "I am really looking forward to joining Dudley Group as their chairman and I am keen to get the very best for the people of Dudley and Sandwell through even closer working across the two organisations.

"The trusts have already been working closely together on a number of things, such as procure-

ment, for many years and I want to strengthen that even more.

"The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has taken this decision at a time when the NHS is integrating services and collaborating to restore services for our patients.

"The Black Country provider collaborative, made up of all the acute providers (through its senior responsible officer Diane Wake) is working with senior leadership colleagues at the Integrated Care Board, to explore all options for further collaboration and integration to increase our ability to provide better, faster and safer care to the local population.

"This new role at Dudley is an exciting step on that journey."

Award for Dawn



Dawn Nixon with Paige

One of our renal assistant technical officers has won a national award after being nominated by one of her patients.

Dawn Nixon received the Cavell Star Award having been nominated by 17-year-old Paige who is undergoing dialysis and learning about haemodialysis in the home. Dawn has been training her in the preparation and her high level of care prompted the nomination.

Paige's mum Laura said: "Dawn goes above and beyond for her patients who are undergoing dialysis and nothing is ever too much trouble."

"She is a true role model to my daughter and motivates her on every session. She is a real asset to the Trust."

The Cavell Star Awards is a national programme that celebrates the dedication of nurses, midwives, nursing associates and healthcare assistants.

Alex honoured for care and dedication

A Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust employee was an honouree in this year's Queen's birthday honours list.

Alex Griffiths, 22, from Dudley, was awarded a BEM in the Queen's honours after being recognised for his dedication and commitment to helping COVID patients during the pandemic. He is also a long-term carer having cared for his mother, who has multiple sclerosis, since he was five, and later caring for his grandparents also.

Joining an apprenticeship scheme at Russells Hall Hospital in 2019 as a clinical support worker, Alex's day-to-day role involved end-of-life care and supporting seriously ill patients in what could be their final moments. He said care is "a lifelong career" which is extremely rewarding as it gives him the chance to "make somebody smile".

Now studying for a degree in nursing, Alex is part of the Trust's staff bank scheme where he works as a clinical support worker, primarily in the children's Emergency Department.

"I firmly believe caring is in me and in the fibres of my being, without trying to sound too cheesy. It's what I'm here to do, it's what I'm on the planet for and I'm grateful to



Alex Griffiths, 22, from Dudley, was awarded a BEM in the Queen's honours

have found a purpose that brings me such joy!

"I'm so thankful to have been honoured in such a way, and I wouldn't be in this position without all the amazing people who I have worked with over the years here at The Dudley Group and Russells Hall Hospital. Caring for others starts

at home, but it is also the heart of everything we do here at the NHS."

Recalling when he received his letter telling him he had been awarded the honour, he said: "I am still completely in shock; it doesn't feel real! I'm still waiting for someone to tap me on the shoulder and say it was all a dream!"

Royal reward for dedication of NHS staff



Representatives from the NHS have officially received George Cross medals on behalf of their many colleagues both past and present.

The Trust was happy to receive the award on behalf of the many tens of thousands of our colleagues who have served faithfully over many decades.

Writing in 2021, Her Majesty the Queen said: "It is with great pleasure on behalf of a grateful nation, that I award the George Cross to the National Health Services of the United Kingdom."

Throughout the COVID pandemic our staff have been there for our patients against the most trying of circumstances. This award is a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work and dedication.

The NHS becomes the third collective recipient of the George Cross following the island of Malta in 1942 and The Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1999.

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Staff at the Corbett Outpatient Centre held their own cake sale and raised over £250



Fundraising lead Nithee Kotecha, chief operating officer Karen Kelly and director of communications Liz Abbiss



Charity team members Nithee Kotecha, Karen Phillips and Georgia Homer

Raise a cuppa for the NHS

The NHS Big Tea is an annual fundraising and awareness campaign with the aim of celebrating the NHS birthday and recognising the vital work of NHS charities in supporting our health service.

In hospitals, in homes and in local communities across the country, everyone who loves the NHS was encouraged to come together with friends, family and colleagues to host a tea party and 'raise a cuppa' to the NHS.

This year The Dudley Group NHS Charity encouraged our staff, local communities, and businesses to organise a tea party by sharing a pot of tea with colleagues at work, raising a

cuppa of the nation's favourite brew at a place of worship or sports club, taking a flask outside with friends and family, popping the kettle on at home or rallying the whole street with a brew, biscuits and bunting on the health service's 74th birthday.

At Russells Hall Hospital we held a charity tombola in the main entrance which was supported by our local Starbucks who donated prizes.

The Trust HQ held an incredible bake sale where many staff members kindly baked and donated their sweet goods. Corbett Outpatient Centre and the maternity and respiratory services held their own bake sale and raised funds for their individual departments.

Local companies including Mitie,

HSBC and Starbucks all held bake sales to raise funds for our charity.

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the NHS 74th birthday and Big Tea celebrations. We raised over £1,000 for the Trust charity and allowed everyone to come together and say an enormous thank you to our incredible NHS – especially after all they have been through these last two years, and the ongoing challenges they continue to face.

The campaign was established by NHS Charities Together in 2018 to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS, with more than 4,000 parties taking place across the UK. Over £250,000 was raised for NHS charities.



Staff celebrate the NHS's 74th birthday with tea and cakes

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The Paediatric Virtual Ward scooped the Improvement Practice Award



The Team Excellence Award went to the Imaging Department



The Chief Executive Award went to the Frailty Assessment Unit



Esme Whitehouse and Simon Bill won the Patient Choice Award



Chris Walker won the Outstanding Achievement Individual Award



Gail Parsons received the Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to her family

Committed to Excellence staff awards 2022

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust held its annual awards, **Committed to Excellence**, at the Cophorne Hotel on Thursday 21st July - the first face-to-face event since the COVID pandemic.

Having delivered a virtual event last year and skipping the awards in 2020, the glittering awards, hosted by TV and radio broadcaster Adrian Chiles, acknowledged clinical and non-clinical staff for their hard work and dedication.

Among the youngest winners of the night were C5 staff nurse Esme Whitehouse and doctor Simon Bill, who were awarded the Patient Choice Award for their exemplary care and compassion shown towards a patient who was at end of life.

The Trust's volunteer drivers were given a standing ovation when collecting the Steve Ford Volunteer Award for their role in delivering medication to vulnerable patients isolating during the first wave of COVID, and showing that no job is too small.

The night's Lifetime Achievement Award went to Gail Parsons, who has given over 40 years of service to the NHS. Starting her nursing career at Corbett hospital in 1982, in April

this year Gail was appointed Director of Research and Development making her the first non-medical, and the first female, to hold this post in the Trust.

The Team Excellence award went to the Imaging Department for their effort in drastically reducing waiting times to take their place amongst the very best community diagnostic centres in the country.

The Improvement Practice award went to the paediatric team for their revolutionary Paediatric Virtual Ward, which uses state-of-the-art technology for recording observations and data allowing children to be safely cared for at home with close support from specialist paediatric nurses and doctors without the need to come to hospital.

Following the awards night, the Trust's chief executive Diane Wake said: "It's wonderful to be back in person for the Committed to Excellence awards, which are always a highlight of the year and a brilliant chance for us to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our staff - and volunteers."

The awards received support from main event sponsors Mitie and category sponsor How to Find a Care Home.



Helen Spindler received the Healthcare Hero - Individual Award



The Under 12s Vaccination Team received the Chief People Officer Award

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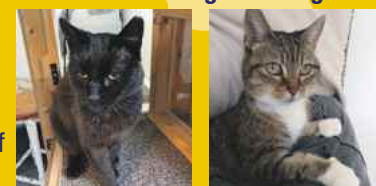
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Lilibet - 16 yrs old, owner passed away, now living with new adopted family.

Cinder - elderly boy found as a stray in Cinder bank - happy to live out the rest of his days with a lovely new mom....



Cinder

Lilibet



Elizabeth Rees was presented with the Chief Operating Officer Award



Mike Healy was the recipient of the Medical Director Award



The Rainbow Unit received the Outstanding Achievement Team Award



The Professional Development Team won the Chief Nurse Award



The Volunteer Drivers were given the Steve Ford Volunteer Award



The Healthcare Hero – Team Award went to Ward B2 Hip Suite



Simon Gregory won the Unsung Hero – Clinical Award



Dawn Martin was given the Unsung Hero Non-Clinical Award



The Digital Portfolio Delivery Team won the Chief Information Officer Award



The Excellence in Patient Care Award was presented to Jennifer Novy



Bobbie Bedford and the Renal Unit won the Director of Finance Award



Paul Hudson was the winner of the Chairman Award



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Physio praised by university



Physiotherapist Kiri Yeates has received an Outstanding Mentor award at the University of Worcester's annual celebrations thanking those who support its students while on placement.

Kiri, who works in Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's Therapy Services, was nominated for her encouraging and friendly approach.

The awards celebrate those who support the university's students whilst they are training in the workplace.

Kiri, who has been an educator for over 12 years now, said: "I have been fortunate to work alongside and have been mentored by some great therapists who have all helped to shape the educator that I am today.

"I enjoy watching the students develop and grow in confidence during their placements. Knowing that I've played a small role in that is hugely rewarding."



We were proud to light up our hospital site in green to support our colleagues at the St John Ambulance Service.

Celebrating pharmacy team



Chief Operating Officer Karen Kelly with Kadeer Akhtar

Our 2022 Pharmacy Awards rewarded excellence in our pharmacy team.

Nominations were made by pharmacy staff and their colleagues came out to celebrate the winners.

Ruckie Kahlon, chief pharmacist, said: "I was delighted to host our annual Trust Pharmacy Awards which allowed us to showcase the very best of practice across our pharmacy department

"Against the backdrop of COVID, our pharmacy staff have risen to the challenge in extreme adversity. This year we asked all

of our staff to nominate their colleagues who they felt made a difference and performed above and beyond expectations and we were proud to see so many staff rewarded for their efforts."

Winners

- **Inspirational Team Leader:** Ruth Shuard
- **Above and Beyond (Clinical):** Jite Okoro
- **Above and Beyond (Non-clinical):** Muskaan Ansar
- **Trainee Pharmacist of the Year:** Kadeer Akhtar

- **Student Technician of the Year:** Jamie Greenough
- **Apprentice of the Year:** Alicia John
- **Unsung Hero:** Jite Okoro
- **Technical Team Member of the Year:** Hannah Butcher
- **Excellence In Service Improvements:** Helen Pole
- **Most Cheerful Individual:** Kadeer Akhtar
- **Most Compassionate and Supportive Individual:** Ruth Shuard



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Kevin Stringer



Alan Duffell



Andy Proctor

New faces on Board

Kevin Stringer has joined the Trust as interim director of finance.

With more than 33 years' experience in the NHS, and 20 of those years as a Board director, he has experience of commissioning and provider organisations.

Kevin's finance director roles have been with North Birmingham PCT, a post he held for two years; Birmingham Children's Hospital for five years and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust where he has worked for 13 years. He has also held roles within regional, commissioning and mental health.

Alan Duffell joins us as interim chief people officer and brings a wide range of experience within the NHS incorporating OD, learning

and development, leadership and management development as well as other HR related roles.

He joined The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust in 2017 after previously holding the position of director of human resources and OD at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

Prior to this, Alan was the director of workforce and learning within the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and at that time was also a director for Skills for Care, representing the NHS.

Andy Proctor joins as our new director of corporate governance and board secretary.

He joins us from University

Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust where he was director of quality, clinical governance, risk and compliance.

He started his NHS career in the Ambulance Service in 2005 and undertook a range of clinical roles as a paramedic and then later in his career became assistant chief ambulance officer and director for quality improvement at West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Andy has also worked with the Care Quality Commission for eight years being involved in 19 inspections. He has extensive experience within governance, compliance and regulation and is passionate about patient safety and ensuring we provide high quality care.

Welcome for governors

The following new members have joined the Trust's Council of Governors after a vote and were formally welcomed at the quarterly council meeting on 20th June.

■ **Catherine Lane**, staff elected governor for Nursing & Midwifery

■ **Emily Butler**, Public elected governor for Halesowen

■ **Yvonne Peers**, public elected governor for Dudley North who has previously served as a governor

■ **Dr Atef Michael**, staff governor medical and dental returned for a second term

We are also pleased to welcome the following governors who have recently been appointed by our partners:

■ **Sarah-Jane Stevens**, appointed governor for University of Wolverhampton, Faculty of Education, Health and Wellbeing

■ **Cllr Alan Taylor**, appointed Governor for Dudley MBC.

We've said thank you and goodbye to our departing governors

Helen Ashby, Hilary Lumsden, Nicola Piggott, Maria Kisiel and Cllr Rebbekah Collins

The Council of Governors is made up of people of all ages and backgrounds who all share one thing in common – the continued development of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

The council represents the interests of the Trust's many members and the partner organisations with whom we work locally, for example local councils and commissioners.

The council is responsible for holding the non-executive directors to account for the Trust's Board of Directors stewardship of the organisation.

The council advises and supports the Board which is responsible for the management of the Trust on a day-to-day basis.

■ For more information about the work of the Council of Governors and upcoming meetings and events please visit www.dgft.nhs.uk



Catherine Lane



Dr Atef Michael



Emily Butler




Sarah-Jane Stevens



Yvonne Peers




Cllr Alan Taylor




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HSBC Wolverhampton Market has chosen to support the charity for 2022/2023



A fundraising raffle helped to swell coffers



Members of the maternity team will benefit from the new well-being room

Charity working hard to boost services for patients and staff

It has been a busy few months for the team behind the Dudley Group NHS Charity.

HSBC Charity of the Year

The Dudley Group NHS Charity is HSBC Wolverhampton Markets chosen charity for 2022/2023.

Six of the HSBC branches in the Wolverhampton Market are jointly fundraising for us and the total donation will be provided by 31 March 2023. So far, the team has taken part in a Tough Mudder, hosted a charity quiz night, and participated in the NHS Big Tea to raise money for the charity.

HSBC is also providing in-kind support such as financial wellbeing workshops for our staff at the Trust. The charity is also working with the Trust's volunteering service to source suitable opportunities for HSBC staff to engage in such as volunteering, networks and projects.

Volunteer Futures Fund

We are expanding our Trust volunteering offer to young people aged 16-18 who may not usually volunteer. We are offering new exciting flexible and digital volunteer roles along with a great peer mentoring programme.

If you would like to know more about the project or you may know any young people who might be interested in volunteering, please contact dgft.volunteering@nhs.net

Goodyear Ex-workers Benevolent Fund

Young patients at Russells Hall Hospital will sleep better thanks to a generous donation from the Goodyear Ex-Workers Benevolent Fund. Goodyear Ex-workers Benevolent Fund have donated £8,500 to purchase a SafeSpace Hi-Lo bed for the Children's Ward. The bed will provide a comfortable, safe environment to sleep without the risk of injury from hard surfaces or moving parts. The enclosed feeling of the SafeSpace bed helps children with sensory processing issues to feel secure. The funders visited the ward to see the bed in person and hand over the funding cheque. This was the final grant from the fund as the charity is coming to an end and since 2018 they have donated an incredible £52,395 to our Trust charity.



The Goodyear Ex-Workers Benevolent Fund donated £8,500 to the charity

Nithee Kotecha is the fundraising and communities development lead for the Trust and oversees the Dudley Group NHS Charity (Charity No - 1056979).

She said: "Our charity mission is to enhance and further improve the high-quality services offered by the Trust, providing additional comfort and benefit to our patients and staff, by focusing the funds and expenditure on areas not covered or fully supported by NHS funds."

"The Trust Charity is based on the 2nd Floor of the Russells Hall Hospital. You can contact us on 01384 456111 ext 3349 or dgft.fundraising@nhs.net"

All our DGNHS Charity news is also shared via our social media accounts.

Stay in the loop and be the first to know about our exciting events by hitting the 'Like' button on Facebook, and by following us on Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

- **Twitter:** @DGNHSCharity
- **Facebook:** DudleyGroupNHSCharity
- **Instagram:** @dgnhscharity
- **LinkedIn:** Dudley Group NHS Charity

Maternity Staff Well-being Room

We are proud to have launched a new wellbeing room for our maternity staff at Russells Hall Hospital.

During the pandemic, the charity and communications teams lead informal engagement feedback sessions which included staff representatives from Russells Hall Hospital (acute hospital), Guest Outpatient Centre, Corbett Outpatient Centre and our community services.

The staff revealed how they had been coping in the pandemic and what improvements they would appreciate to support them through the distressing period. Most of these ideas were around medical equipment, or enhancements to departments and wards to support the patients and their families the best they can.

However, the overarching theme was the need for staff well-being initiatives and in particular the need for improved indoor and outdoor spaces for staff.



Department staff. The teams wanted a 'comfy sofa', a place to lock away their phones in charging pods, as well as a calming space to reset after a difficult day!

The room was officially launched on July 15th by Diane Wake, the Trust's chief executive, who was joined by InTouch Games CFO Jennifer Chu.

Superhero Run

Join the Trust charity this summer in celebrating all the hard work of our superhero colleagues across the Trust by taking part in our 5k Superhero Fun Run!

The route will take you through the grounds of Himley Hall & Park so you can enjoy the beautiful scenery while raising money for our charity.

All proceeds from the event will go to our Thank You Appeal which supports the physical and emotional wellbeing of our staff and patients following the difficult few years we have faced due to the COVID pandemic. We welcome people of all abilities, and you are free to either run or walk the event. Tickets are only £10 per adult and £5 per child and can be purchased by emailing dgft.fundraising@nhs.net

Thank you so much for all your support and we hope to see some amazing superhero costumes on 21st August!

London Marathon 2022

Want to run for #TeamDudley? Secure your spot in this year's London Marathon taking place on Sunday 2nd October 2022 and run alongside 17,000 to raise money for our charity. We also have limited virtual places available for people to apply for, so if you feel like you are up to the challenge, please email dgft.fundraising@nhs.net

Sponsorship Needed!

We will be hosting our glitter ball for a second year on Thursday 24th November 2022 at The Copthorne Hotel. We are looking for companies who would like to support the event through sponsorship, table sales and raffle and auction prizes.

Please contact Nithee Kotecha on nithee.kotecha@nhs.net if your company would like to take this opportunity.

New chapter for health and care

Therapy dog Rosie returns to vital hospital role



Rosie is 12 years old and she has been volunteering for four years at Russells Hall Hospital and Sandwell Hospital as a therapy dog.

Rosie and owner Rowena had previously come to volunteer weekly in the Trust to visit patients and staff and have recently been allowed to return after two years following the COVID pandemic. We are very happy to see them again.

Rowena loves coming to volunteer because she likes to bring smiles to patients and staff, especially those patients who have pets at home who they desperately miss. Rosie has a very calming influence on the patients and everyone wants to give her a hug. She especially loves treats such as doggie treats, doggie gravy bones and sticks! However, like most of us, she is watching her waistline!

Our volunteers' co-ordinator Jane Goldsmith said: "We value all of our volunteers here at The Dudley Group and we have a special appreciation for our therapy pets. Our patients absolutely love Rosie and she especially makes a difference to those who have a prolonged stay in hospital."



"We would love to hear from other therapy pet owners who would be willing to come and visit us here in Dudley on a regular basis."

If you are a therapy pet owner who would be interested in getting involved, please call 01384 456111 (ext 1887).

This summer, health and care services have changed across the Black Country to meet local needs.

Each part of the country now has what is known as an Integrated Care System (ICS) – partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services to improve the lives of people in their area.

The Dudley Group Foundation Trust is now part of the Black Country ICS, known as Healthier Futures.

Our ICS brings local providers and commissioners of NHS services together with local authorities and other partners, who work collaboratively to provide care to our communities.

The Black Country ICS will be made up of two key bodies – an NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). ICBs will take on functions from the current NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which have now been dissolved, and have greater strategic responsibility for setting healthcare strategies for their local system.

The new Black Country ICB, which has been formally established, will take on the existing responsibilities of the NHS Black Country and West Birmingham CCG, and will be responsible for planning and coordinating services on behalf of 1.26 million local people, as well as managing the local NHS budget.

The ICB, which covers Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, will also bring the local health and care system together, with its board of officials comprising those from within the organisation as well as representatives from local NHS trusts, primary care, local authorities, voluntary organisations and community providers.

You can find more information by visiting the Black Country ICS website and the NHS Black Country ICB website.

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Why work for The Dudley Group?

The Dudley Group is committed to making sure patients receive the best possible experience.

Our hospitals are among some of the most technologically advanced in the country, where state-of-the-art equipment and modern, purpose-built buildings combine to help create the highest standards of patient care.

Here at The Dudley Group, we are dedicated to providing learning and development opportunities to support all employees, whether based in the hospital or in a community setting.

We aim to meet the learning needs of all our staff, no matter how big or small. We provide a variety of learning options which include classroom-based learning, e-learning and learning on the job, as well as in our nationally recognised, state-of-the-art clinical simulation centre.

We are developing new models of care to fulfil a shared vision to improve health and wellbeing for our patients, produce better outcomes and foster a more engaged community.



A diverse community

The NHS is the largest single employer in the UK, and we are proud that our workforce is extremely diverse – just like our patients.

The Dudley Group has always benefited from overseas recruitment and what this brings to both the local and health economy.

International nurses bring a wealth of skills, expertise and diverse thinking that we can learn from and use to build on the excellent compassionate patient care and

experience that we already deliver.

To further expand our internationally diverse workforce, we are currently undertaking an 18-month International Nurse Recruitment Programme, which ran from June 2021 until December 2022.

Supported

By the end of August 2022, we will have recruited more than 200 nurses from the continents of Africa and India.

The safe arrival, induction and

embedding of these new nurses into our workforce here in Dudley is our number one priority, so these international nurses undertake a full two-week induction programme with the Trust and continue to be fully supported by our Professional Development Team to help them adjust to working in the UK.

These nurses will be working alongside our well-established nursing teams at Russells Hall Hospital to maintain our excellent standards of patient care and service delivery that we offer to our patients.

Join Trust on an apprenticeship

Are you interested in a career in healthcare and looking for a change in direction?

Why not come and join us at The Dudley Group as a clinical support worker.

Here at Dudley we are proud to offer a well-established 12-month training apprenticeship which is completed in partnership with the Trust and Walsall College.

The Clinical Support Worker Apprenticeship is for people who have no prior care experience, but have a desire to begin a career in healthcare. The apprentices will work in one of our clinical areas to gain practical skills and provide high quality compassionate care for our patients.

Once the 12-month programme is successfully completed, our apprentices will have completed the Care Certificate and a Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare and, providing the qualifications have been completed, they will then be offered a substantive post within the Trust.

For enquiries about the above programme and for details on when it will next be advertised, please email dgft.professionaldevelopmentteam@nhs.net

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www.jobs.dudleygroup.nhs.uk/



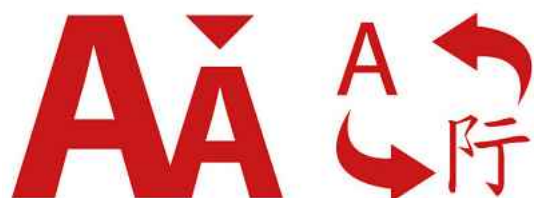
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