

GP Bulletin – April 2019

Bradford Teaching Hospitals' appoints new interim Chief Executive, John Holden

Following the departure of Clive Kay, Bradford Teaching Hospitals is pleased to announce John Holden as our acting Chief Executive. John takes over the post when we're on the cusp of a new financial year, will be welcoming our new Chairman, Max Mclean, in May, and starting to work in a different and innovative way with our commissioners and system partners.

We're also close to launching our Command Centre; about to begin our acute collaboration with Airedale NHS Foundation Trust; expecting the CQC to return soon to look at our services; restructuring into clinical business units (CBUs); and ensuring we're as well prepared as we can be for Brexit.

Over the last two years John has been the trusts' Director of Strategy and Integration and Deputy Chief Executive and said, "I look forward to working with you all as Acting Chief Executive: being part of a strong and committed Executive team; supported (and challenged!) by our very able Non-Executive Directors. Don't hesitate to get in touch if there is something you think I can do to help improve our service to patients."

Pathology network to be developed for West Yorkshire and Harrogate

Pathology services in West Yorkshire and Harrogate will be coming together to deliver services, following agreement by the six acute trusts to develop a regional pathology network. This is in line with the directive from NHS Improvement and will help to address the challenges that pathology services are currently facing, such as staffing rotas and upgrading equipment, and enable greater investment in improving services for patients.

Establishing a network will mean building on the informal collaboration already in place and working together to provide services, rather than as individual trusts. Work is currently underway to determine the best model for delivering services, which is likely to mean concentrating some testing into 'hubs', although each trust will retain onsite the testing necessary to support acute care and sufficient volume to deliver an efficient and productive service. No decisions have been made about how many hubs there should be or where they should be located; this will be worked through with staff and partners to find the best solution for each discipline (blood sciences, microbiology and cellular pathology), rather than developing one overall model.

A variety of meetings and workshops are being arranged to discuss possible approaches with staff and partners. This will include GP representatives and make sure primary care requirements are fully considered and factored in to the recommendations.

This work is being led through WYAAT (West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts), the partnership between the six acute trusts across West Yorkshire and Harrogate. We will keep you updated on progress but in the meantime if you have any questions or comments, you can send these to wyaatpathology@nhs.net.

New nurse-led botox clinic launches for patients with eye conditions

For the first time in Yorkshire, nurses at Bradford Teaching Hospitals are spearheading the use of Botox treatments for patients with debilitating eye conditions. The weekly clinics at the Bradford Royal Infirmary site had been run by specialist doctors since 1992 but recently two experienced and highly-trained nurses took over the role of administering injections to those people suffering from blepharospasm (twitch of the eye or cheek), epiphora (water eyes) and hemifacial spasm.

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Pilot project developed to provide extra support for mums and babies

A new midwife-led team which will support some of our most vulnerable new mums from bump to birth started work in early April. The Clover team, based at St Luke's Hospital and funded by Better Start Bradford, will help women in some of our city's most deprived areas to get ready for their babies' arrival.

We hope this new, 18-month pilot to provide personalised, continuous care for specially selected mums in the areas of Bowling, Barkerend, Bradford Moor and Little Horton, will help transform the lives of our mums and babies. Each midwife and buddy – with back-up from the team's other midwives – will provide at least 70% of a woman's midwifery care, and will act as coordinators for other care such as hospital appointments. The pilot will also provide longer antenatal and postnatal appointments, as well as home visits which will allow the woman and her midwife to establish a closer relationship. It will also ensure they have more time to discuss choices around pregnancy and birth.

Each midwife will have up to 30 women on her books, once the pilot is established. Evidence suggests that this high level of care can have a lasting effect on the family. "We hope that we can show how much more can be achieved by providing intensive support to our women, to help them get their babies off to the best start in life," added Tracey.

“We know that there are high levels of deprivation across the city and, with that, comes a high concentration of women who are deemed at ‘high risk’ with complex physical, social and emotional needs. Our aim is also to ensure that our personalised midwifery care pilot will make great headway in providing Bradford women with the highest quality, personal and continuous midwifery care, as well as improving the health and social outcomes for our women, babies and families.”

The Clover team includes Midwives Jo Brearton, Susan Gache, Sarann Mahmood, Rebecca Grice, Susan Bailey and Shaheen Akhtar, Maternity Support Worker, Kayleigh Crummack and a Ward Clerk, Rebecca Farrar.

Better Start Bradford was set up in 2014 with a £49 million lottery grant and sponsors a number of projects throughout the city aimed at helping, engaging and supporting families expecting babies or with children under four.

Bringing our new research centre to life

Building work on our Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research continues to progress at a pace. The centre, set to improve the health and wellbeing of children and elderly people – as well as enhance the safety of patients in hospitals and clinics – is now becoming a true landmark as it sits close to Women’s and Newborn Unit at BRI.

We are now more than 40 weeks into the build and the centre, a joint venture between ourselves and the Universities of Bradford and Leeds, is now well on its way to completion. To date, more than three miles of pipework have been installed, more than 300 cladding strips have been fitted and more than 100 litres of paint applied. And what’s remarkable is that more than 90 per cent of the materials used in the build, are recycled so we are really doing our bit to be as green as possible.

An official opening event will take place on 10 October 2019, and a working group is now busy developing activities for this special occasion, which will be community focused with involvement from local schools, patient/user groups, and many others.