

HEALTH AND CARE INSIGHTS

Issue 13 – July 2018

Mairead McAlinden to take early retirement

After the recent death of her husband, Trust Chief Executive Mairead McAlinden has decided to take early retirement. This will come into effect from 1 August. Mairead joined South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust as Chief Executive in April 2015, to lead the Trust in its integration with Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust. During Mairead's tenure as Chief Executive, community and acute services came together under one integrated care organisation on 1 October 2015, and her unwavering determination to improve people's experiences of the Trust's services culminated in our Trust achieving a CQC rating of 'Good' overall and 'Outstanding' for caring. Mairead is now inspired to help others who are experiencing end of life care with a loved one, and will be working as a volunteer in her home community in Northern Ireland. Earlier this year Liz Davenport took up the role of Interim Chief Executive during Mairead's absence to care for her husband. The Board now wish to appoint a substantive Chief Executive as soon as they can; the selection process is now underway.

Lady, 91 with fractured spine receives community care and avoids hospital

Mary lives alone in a warden controlled flat, her daughter Julia lives nearby. She has osteoporosis and recently suffered a fourth fracture to her spine. In agonising pain all night, the GP visited the next day and confirmed the fracture. Mary did not want to attend hospital, but asked for morphine and see how things would improve. Julia was distressed at Mary remaining at home but the GP reassured her that Mary would receive the support she needs. A night sitter arrived from Rapid Response to care for Mary during the night before Julia arrived the next morning. However, the morphine wasn't managing Mary's pain adequately so Julia called for help and within a couple of hours an Intermediate Care nurse and physiotherapist arrived. They arranged a respite bed in a local care home for Mary, as an alternative to hospital. Later that morning Chief Executive Liz Davenport had heard about Mary and was in the area, so visited her before she was taken to the care home. Julia burst into tears while talking with Liz, and expressed the relief she felt as the burden of care and worry had been enormous for her. She said she now felt surrounded by care and compassion. This story shows the kind of care our Trust is working to provide wherever and whenever we can.



Blood Management team make top 8 in HSJ patient safety awards

Last November the Health Service Journal (HSJ) put out a nationwide call for outstanding patient safety projects and innovations, for their Patient Safety Award. Our Patient Blood Management team have over the last four years worked to refine a service which allows for a patient's own blood to be recycled and returned intra operatively. This service, along with the new pre-operative optimisation pathways, the increased use of specialist clotting drugs and an emphasis on restrictive transfusion regimes has resulted in a 38 per cent reduction of donor blood use in surgery. While the team did not win the HSJ award, they did earn a place at the top table as one of the top eight perioperative patient safety advocates in the UK, despite the disparity in Trust sizes amongst other competitors.



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Torbay's unpaid carers take a break

Unpaid carers from across Torbay recently enjoyed a host of treats, timed to coincide with National Carers Week 2018. Organised by our Trust and supported by local organisations, events ranged from learning to belly dance and how to sail a yacht around the Bay, to a treasure hunt at Torre Abbey and a return trip on the Dartmouth Steam Railway and Riverboat Company to Dartmouth, plus many other activities. Katy Heard, Carers and Volunteers Lead for the Trust said: "The role our unpaid carers play in providing expert care for some of the most vulnerable people in the community cannot be valued highly enough.

For these people - many of whom are young and still attending school, or are older people with health needs of their own – caring is not a job which starts at 9am and ends at 5pm; it is a commitment which means they can be 'on-call' 24 hours a day, seven days a week."



NHS 70th anniversary

On 5 July the whole country celebrated 70 years of the NHS, with thousands of events taking place across England to pay tribute to what many people believe is the country's most loved institution. We celebrated with a Tea Party in Torbay Hospital's Bay View, when cakes as pictured were enjoyed by staff, visitors, patients, volunteers, NEDS, Governors, League of



Friends and the local branch of the NHS Retirement Fellowship. Cakes were also delivered to hospital wards and community buildings so that tea parties could be held across the Trust. There was also a small exhibition in the main entrance to Torbay Hospital showing the changes to healthcare over the years.

Posters featuring a montage of staff from across the Trust holding NHS 70 balloons are on display in all our hospitals and community buildings, and staff and patients are encouraged to write their thoughts about their experience of the NHS on these posters. Do take a moment to read some of the comments if you happen to pass by one of these posters; the human care and compassion channelled through our NHS, along with people's deeply felt gratitude are powerfully relayed in many of the comments shared on these posters.



We hope you find this update useful and that you can see we are making real progress towards our aim of supporting more people to be well and independent. If you would like to receive future issues by email contact tsdft.communications@nhs.net