

Issue 18 – 27 November 2020

## Latest news from Torbay and South Devon

We are sending you this update to keep you informed about Trust developments. Please feel free to share these updates 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.tsdf@nhs.net](mailto:communications.tsdf@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](http://www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk). You can also keep up-to-date by following us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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## Planning to redevelop our hospital



We were delighted to be awarded £3.7million of funding in March to proceed with the planning of a £350 million project to transform our estate and digital technology. This transformation will involve services and teams from right across our organisation. We are branding the project as 'Building a Brighter Future'.

Although the funding allocated to us sounds a lot, meeting our population's future needs will be hugely challenging, so we need to think innovatively about how and where we provide care. We have appointed a strong project team, who are working to the following planning timetable:

**Strategic Outline Case (June 2021)** will provide a broad overview of the project and indicative costs/design of the new systems and hospital infrastructure

**Outline Business Case (June 2022)** this element of the process provides all the detail of the preferred option in terms of cost, design and staff implications

**Full Business Case (September 2023)** the final stage will provide the final tendered costs of the project and once approved will allow for construction / system implementation to commence.

At each stage, we have to gain approval from NHSE England/Improvement to release funding for us to proceed to the next stage. We are now looking at how we can involve staff and local people in designing our future services.

## Flu and COVID-19 vaccination update

This winter's flu vaccination campaign is well underway and from 1 December, GPs and community pharmacies will be able to offer the vaccine to all 50-64-year olds.

We know that there are several COVID-19 vaccines in the final stages of approval and the NHS has been asked to prepare to start vaccinating priority groups as early as December. We understand there will need to be a gap between having the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine, so we are urging everyone eligible for a flu jab to have their vaccination as soon as they can.

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## NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter opens for COVID-19 patients

The NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter opened to inpatients from Thursday 26 November.

Since the beginning of July, the Nightingale Hospital Exeter has been providing local people with fast and safe access to a range of important diagnostic tests. These additional services will now stop at the Nightingale facility to allow the hospital to care for COVID-19 patients. Diagnostic tests will continue to be available to those who need them through existing diagnostic services across the region.

The 116-bed hospital, based in Exeter, is one of seven Nightingale Hospitals commissioned earlier this year as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter is being staffed by some health and care staff from across our neighbouring Trusts. Work has been undertaken to ensure sufficient numbers of named staff can be released to safely open the Nightingale.

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## Update on beds and temporary ward moves

This winter, as well as managing and responding to the usual pressures, and coping with the second wave of the pandemic, we are investing in improvements to our emergency and urgent care pathways, including creating a new Medical Receiving Unit, which will relieve some of the pressure on our Emergency Department.

We are also working hard to keep as many services running as possible, and this involves some temporary moves and relocations to allow for building work and COVID-safe pathways of care. We are grateful to our staff for their flexibility and professionalism in carrying out all the moves safely, and to our patients and public for their understanding.

The latest developments and moves are shown overleaf.

## Brixham Hospital and Totnes Hospital

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Our inpatient wards in Brixham and Totnes Community Hospitals are being used to provide support for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering. They still need some clinical support, but no longer need to be receiving specialist acute care in Torbay Hospital.

### **Cromie**

Cromie is our dedicated COVID-19 ward.

### **Ella Rowcroft**

Ella was being used temporarily for COVID-19 patients. Following the discharge of all its COVID-19 patients, the ward was subject to a deep clean and is being left empty for 72, hours, before reverting to an elective orthopaedic ward from Monday 30 November.

### **Ricky Grant and children's assessment area**

Planned temporary relocations of Ricky Grant (Oncology/Haematology day unit services) and Short Stay Paediatric Assessment Unit (SSPAU) at Torbay Hospital took place this week. This is to allow us to make changes to the children's area ahead of an expected surge of Bronchiolitis in the winter months.

**Ricky Grant** moved to McCullum Ward – to be known temporarily as **Ricky Grant on McCullum**

**SSPAU** moved to Ricky Grant Ward – to be known temporarily as **SSPAU on Ricky Grant**

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## **Discharge lounge update**

The new discharge lounge function has been running in the Hetherington day rooms for the last 2 weeks and to date 54 patients (15% of total discharges during this period) have benefitted from the experience. We have reviewed the early weeks and made a few changes to ensure continued safe levels of staffing, accessibility and Infection prevention and control.

### **The following changes came into effect from 24 November 2020:**

1. Hetherington block will run daily discharge lounges on George Earl and Simpson wards only
2. Surgical block will run daily discharge lounges on Ainslie and Allerton wards

A discharge lounge area is an important part of our work to discharge people effectively and make their bed space ready for an acutely unwell patient who needs to be admitted. The discharge lounge function is open from 9.30am until 8pm Seven days a week

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## Staff testing

This week we have started to rollout lateral flow testing (rapid result saliva testing kits) to our patient-facing staff. Asymptomatic staff are given kits to test themselves at home twice a week before they come to work. Pilots elsewhere in the country have found this to be a really helpful tool in reducing spread of the virus. Anyone who receives a positive result then has to self-isolate and have a swab test. Over the next few weeks, we will be rolling out this testing programme to all our patient-facing staff in the community and in our hospitals.

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## Changes to mini-stroke clinics

We have recently made some changes to our TIA ('mini-stroke') services, bringing us in line with our neighbouring trusts. Attendance will be by appointment only, rather than walk-in and we will be limiting the number of patients seen in each clinic session. We aim to see people by 12-midday on the day their referral is received.

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## Strength and balance classes

The strength and balance 12-week programme, previously running as face-to-face groups in the community is now being run in a COVID-19 safe way by:

- an initial ONE to ONE home visit (unless COVID-19 rules change) for assessment and teaching of exercises
- an instructional DVD, electronic link or a booklet guide, coaching telephone support and options of exercises programme
- a final home visit assessment at week 12

The aim of the strength and balance service is to reduce falls risk and improve confidence.

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## More NHS Volunteer Responders needed across England

There is a renewed campaign to recruit NHS volunteer responders. Details of the volunteer roles and a sign-up link are available on the [NHS Volunteer Responders website](#).

Previously registered volunteers are also encouraged to return to the scheme as the need for their services is rapidly increasing. If you have previously joined the scheme but have not recently been 'on duty', you can simply sign in again through the GoodSAM app or call 0808 196 3646 for advice.

The national volunteer scheme was set up by the NHS in England in March this year to help win the battle against COVID-19. It is supported by Royal Voluntary Service and the GoodSAM app, and will continue until at least March 2021.

The volunteers help people who are vulnerable to the virus to stay well by staying at home. They also directly support the NHS by delivering equipment and supplies, providing patient transport, and directing patients at NHS sites.

The scheme is operated through a smartphone app which means volunteers can set convenient times to go 'on duty'. This makes it easy to fit around work, family or other volunteering commitments.

Volunteer safety is central to the scheme and NHS Volunteer Responders **do not** come into direct contact with COVID-19 patients.

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## Film provides ventilation advice

DHSC has produced a film about the need for proper ventilation in indoor spaces to help reduce risks of infection with COVID-19. It forms part of its Hands, Face, Space campaign for use across digital and social media.

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## Government Spending Review

The government's Spending Review 2020 was launched this week. It prioritises funding to support the government's response to Covid-19 and to support the UK's recovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused exceptional hardship for individuals, families and businesses across the UK. The spending review confirms an additional £38 billion for public services to continue to fight the pandemic this year, bringing total support for public services to £113 billion in 2020-21, and total spending on the COVID-19 response this year to over £280 billion. It also earmarks a further £55 billion of support for the public services response COVID-19 next year. This funding is targeted to:

- control and suppress the virus
- increase support to public services
- support jobs and businesses.

Additional investment is promised for health and social care, and NHS staff are exempt from the planned freeze on public sector pay. Our Chief Finance Officer is analysing the impact on this Trust of the Chancellor's spending review announcements.

# Update

Helping people stay well, supporting those in need



**Torbay and South Devon**  
NHS Foundation Trust

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## 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.



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