



WorcestershireWay

For patients, staff, visitors and volunteers

DECEMBER 2018

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Work for us

Sepsis survival rates on the up thanks to improvements



Dr Mike McAlindon, Clinical Lead for the Sepsis Quality Improvement Project with Sally Wilson, Lead Sepsis Nurse, have been leading on improvements for sepsis patients.

The number of hospital patients in Worcestershire surviving from sepsis has increased by a third this year, after a successful drive to identify the deadly condition as early as possible.

Sepsis, also known as blood poisoning, is the life-threatening reaction to an infection, in which the body attacks its own organs and tissues.

But Worcestershire's three acute hospitals have ensured more patients are screened for sepsis, with those found to have the condition being treated much more quickly. After almost 3,000 clinical staff across the three hospitals were specifically trained in identifying the condition as early as possible, the death rates from the condition have been significantly reduced to better than the national average.

There are around 260,000 cases of sepsis a year in England, with around 44,000 people dying every year as a result of the condition.

Anyone can develop sepsis after an injury or minor infection, although some people are more vulnerable.

A new dedicated sepsis nursing role has been created to oversee clinical advice and staff training about the condition, and educational materials and videos have been produced to raise greater awareness amongst staff.

Sepsis can be difficult to diagnose because early symptoms can be confused with other conditions, highlighting the need for greater awareness of its causes, signs and symptoms.

Early symptoms of sepsis in older children and adults can include a high temperature (fever) or low body temperature, chills and shivering, confusion, cold or blotchy hands and feet, and not passing as much urine as normal.

As well as extensive training for staff, the project has involved introducing a new care pathway for patients which improves the prevention, diagnosis and management of sepsis. This includes key definitions, treatment guidelines and staff roles and responsibilities when caring for different patient groups.

Specialist IT improvements have also helped bring in line systems across Worcestershire's hospitals so that staff can more easily and quickly report patients who have been identified as having sepsis.

Dr Mike McAlindon, Clinical Lead for the Sepsis Quality Improvement Project at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said: "Sepsis is an important cause of death in people of all ages and is a major cause of avoidable mortality. Thanks to the hard work of staff across our Trust we've managed to dramatically reduce the mortality from sepsis.

"This is good news for patients as now they can be assured that if they come to hospital with sepsis, they will receive a good level of care, giving them a better chance at survival."

HOW TO SPOT SEPSIS IN ADULTS

Seek medical help urgently if you (or another adult) develop any of these signs:

Slurred speech or confusion

Extreme shivering or muscle pain

Passing no urine (in a day)

Severe breathlessness

It feels like you're going to die

Skin mottled or discoloured

HOW TO SPOT SEPSIS IN CHILDREN

If your child is unwell with either a fever or very low temperature (or has had a fever in the last 24 hours), call 999 and just ask: could it be sepsis?

A child may have sepsis if he or she:

- 1. Is breathing very fast
- 2. Has a 'fit' or convulsion
- 3. Looks mottled, bluish, or pale
- 4. Has a rash that does not fade when you press it
- **5.** Is very lethargic or difficult to wake
- 6. Feels abnormally cold to touch

A child under 5 may have sepsis if he

- 1. Is not feeding
- 2. Is vomiting repeatedly
- 3. Has not passed urine for 12 hours

sepsistrust.org

Welcome



Sir David Nicholson, Chairman of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Welcome to the latest edition of Worcestershire Way.

I would like to start by extending a sincere thank you to Chief Executive Michelle McKay, who leaves the Trust on December 14. Under Michelle's leadership our hospitals have made considerable improvements, not least to the safety and quality of patient care.

When Michelle announced that she would be leaving my priority was to find an outstanding permanent replacement for her to ensure that we had a stable leadership team to take us on the next stage of our journey.

And I am delighted to say we have achieved exactly that. Matthew Hopkins, who joins us as our new Chief Executive in January, is a highly experienced NHS leader with a strong track record of delivering significant improvements in quality and safety of patient care, empowering and engaging staff and building strong partnerships.

His dynamic leadership has transformed a number of Trusts facing very similar challenges and I have no doubt that he will build on the progress we have made and bring extra focus and momentum to our efforts to improve patient care.

Matthew - who joined the NHS as a nurse - has been chief executive of Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals and, most recently, Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals which he successfully led out of Special Measures in 2017.

Matthew emerged as the clear favourite to be our new Chief Executive after a rigorous selection process during which he met, and was questioned by, clinicians, patient and public representatives and members of our Board, before an in-depth interview.

I am confident that with a permanent and stable leadership team, a clear vision for the future and a commitment to maximising the benefits of our 4ward programme we can work together to build a better future for our patients, our hospitals and the people who work in them.

Help Us Help You (Do Do Do Do) choose the right health service

Nurses, doctors, pharmacists, community hospital staff and 111 call handlers from across Worcestershire have taken starring roles in a short promotional music video to remind patients and members of the public of all of the healthcare services available to them this winter, as alternatives to Accident and Emergency.

The 'Help Us Help You (do do do do)' video, sung to the tune of the viral sensation 'Baby Shark' by Pinkfong, highlights pharmacy services, improved access to GP appointments, the 111 service and Worcestershire's Minor Injury Units - all of which can provide information and advice on a range of medical conditions. It also reminds those eligible of the importance of getting their flu jab.

It is hoped the lighthearted video, which has been shared across the county's NHS social media channels, will reach as many

people as possible, helping to signpost them to alternatives to A&E, reducing inappropriate attendances and helping improve patient flow through the Alexandra and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals over the busy winter period.

In the meantime, why not learn the lyrics yourself?!

Help Us Help You (do do do do) Know what to do (do do do do) Don't get the flu (do do do do) Advice for you

Help Us Help You (do do do do) We'll talk it through (do do do do) There's MIU (do do do do) More GPs too!

You can watch the video and find out more information at worcestershire.nhs.uk/winter





Countdown to Christmas...What's on guide

Events for: ★ Staff ★ Public ★ Staff, patients and public ★ Staff and patients

Venue: WRH - Worcestershire Royal Hospital ALEX - Alexandra Hospital, Redditch KTC - Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre ALL - All 3 hospitals		
Date	Venue	What's on
Mon 10 Dec	WRH ALEX	 ★ Launch of Food Bank. Main reception. For details of what to donate visit worcester.foodbank.org.uk ★ Launch of Food Bank. Main corridor. For details of what to donate visit redditch.foodbank.org.uk
Tues 11 Dec	ALEX ALEX ALEX	★ Carol Service. League of Friends Coffee Shop at 3.30pm.
Wed 12 Dec	WRH WRH WRH KTC KTC	 ★ Musical Duo - our very own star volunteer Barbara and Julie perform a saxophone duet. Main entrance from 2.30pm to 4pm. ★ Christmas Musical Memories (2-4pm) Tune in to Choice Hospital Radio to hear all of your favourite Christmas hits. – and maybe put in a request! On Hospedia Radio Channel 5 or visit https://choiceradio.org.uk/ ★ Give the gift of volunteering – drop in and find out more between 1pm and 3pm in the main entrance
Thurs 13 Dec	WRH WRH	 ★ Give the gift of volunteering – drop in and find out more between 1pm and 3pm in the main entrance. ★ Carol Service. Main entrance at 2pm.
Fri 14 Dec	WRH ALL ALEX	 ★ Poetry Reading. From a patient poet and our Side by Side Alzheimer's Co-ordinator/poet. Published poets are expected too – all welcome! At the Charles Hastings Education Centre from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. ★ Christmas Jumper Day christmasjumperday.org ★ Worcestershire Youth Jazz Orchestra. League of Friends Coffee Shop from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. ★ Then round the wards from 6-7pm.
Sun 16 Dec	WRH	★ Santa's Sunday Supplement (9am-12pm). Christmas songs and live interviews with the artists. On Hospedia Radio Channel 5 or visit https://choiceradio.org.uk/
Mon 17 Dec	WRH WRH WRH	 ★ Worcester Musical Theatre Company carolling around the wards. 6:30pm start and ending in the main entrance. ★ Kays Theatre Group bring panto to the main entrance at 7pm. ★ Santa's Afternoon Delight (2-5pm). On Hospedia Radio Channel 5 or visit https://choiceradio.org.uk/
Tues 18 Dec	WRH KTC	 ★ Musical Duo - our very own star volunteer Barbara and Julie perform a saxophone duet. Main entrance from 2.30pm to 4pm. ★ Salvation Army Band — after lunch in the main reception.
Wed 19 Dec	WRH WRH KTC KTC	
Thurs 20 Dec	WRH WRH	 ★ Aero as Santa Paws. Evergreen and Avon 4. 2- 4pm ★ Father Christmas makes a VIP appearance in Riverbank Children's Ward at 2pm.
Friday 21 Dec	WRH ALEX	 ★ Aero as Santa Paws. Riverbank Children's Ward and Acute Stroke Unit. 2pm to 4pm. ★ Chaplaincy singing group around the wards. 1.30pm.

One stop shop for antenatal care at the Alexandra Hospital



Maternity professionals and local mums have celebrated the official launch of a 'one stop shop' antenatal and postnatal service at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch on Thursday 18 October.

The development of the 'Maternity Hub' at the hospital sees community and hospital services brought together under one roof, meaning pregnant women are now able

to access and receive any care they need throughout their pregnancy and afterwards - quicker and easier.

Mums-to-be can access community midwives, scanning midwives, antenatal clinic midwives, consultants and specialist advisors who all work together - meaning they can refer women into each other's services on the same day, and often within just a few hours. Accessing services from the Hub means expectant mothers have a single point of care from as early as six weeks pregnant, from first blood tests to first scans all the way up to the point of delivery.

Lisa Gardner, Senior Midwife and Maternity Hub Team Leader, said: "Our new antenatal clinic opened in 2017 and since then we have been gradually expanding what we can offer from here. The developments are in line with the recommendations laid out in NHS England's Better Births document which sets out a vision for a modern maternity service that delivers safer, more personalised care for all women and every baby. We are hearing really positive things from our parents-to-be who like that they can access services in one place and often in one visit which is much more convenient."

"We're delighted to offer parents more support, more specialised clinics, drop in sessions as this will undoubtedly start to impact our aim of achieving better births for all women in Worcestershire."

New mum Sarah Harrison, from Redditch, said: "My recent experience at the Hub was the best care I have received during any of my three pregnancies. I was supported through the entire journey amazingly and seeing the same lovely friendly faces every appointment really made it enjoyable and easier.'

Five minutes with... Alice Ferguson, AMBER Care Support Nurse



Alice recently joined the Trust as AMBER Care Support Nurse. Alice's role is to support the use of the AMBER Care Bundle within the wards at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The AMBER Care Bundle is a communication and planning tool that supports a systematic approach for clinical teams to proactively manage the care of hospital patients who are facing an uncertain recovery and who are at risk of dying despite treatment.

Who would you invite to a dinner party, dead or alive

Louis Theroux, I just think his ability to empathise and draw out the inner stories of others is so compelling.

What was the last book that you read? When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

What advice would you give your

I'd tell myself to cherish the lack of responsibility - it's a wonderful thing to be care free!

Favourite holiday location?

Whitstable - I've had some lovely holidays there. I adore the English seaside.

Broadsheet or Tabloid? Broadsheet.

Mince pies or Christmas cake?

Mince pies. I'd eat them all your round if I could.

Best thing about your job?

Seeing patients and their loved ones supported with the AMBER Care Bundle, being fully engaged in their care by making informed decisions and sharing what important to them to try and achieve those things.

Favourite film?

A Single Man. It's just a beautiful film the look, the emotion. I'm moved each time I watch.

New nurse with serious condition fulfils dream of joining Worcester Accident and Emergency team



A newly-qualified nurse who suffers from a serious and long-term health condition has landed her dream job in **Accident and** Emergency (A&E) at Worcestershire **Royal Hospital** after being

inspired to join the team by the treatment she has received in the department.

Laura Parsons, 26, from Worcester, started work as a Staff Nurse in A&E at Worcestershire Royal earlier this month, having recently qualified at the University of Birmingham.

Laura has a rare and complicated condition which causes a number of ongoing health problems including problems with digestion, unstable joints and abnormal heart rhythms.

Her condition means that Laura's health can quickly deteriorate and leave her needing urgent emergency hospital treatment. This has led to many visits to A&E at

Worcestershire Royal where she is treated and stabilised before being admitted to a ward for ongoing care.

"I'm prone to abnormal heart rhythms that have led to me being cared for in the Emergency Department and then onward in Medical High Care multiple times", Laura explained.

It was these experiences in A&E and High Care wards at Worcestershire Royal which convinced Laura she wanted to become an Emergency Department nurse.

"I was always interested in healthcare but initially went to University to train as a teacher. I became miserable during my teacher training and as my health deteriorated I had to quit my course",

After a period of improved health, Laura decided to make the leap into healthcare and started working as a Health Care Assistant (HCA) in Brighton where she lived before moving to Worcester.

After moving to Worcester, Laura was accepted on to a nursing degree course at the University of Birmingham.

Throughout her nurse training, Laura had to come to A&E at Worcester on a number of occasions and became known to the staff in the department. It was here, receiving dedicated care from the Emergency team that she decided to apply to work directly alongside the nursing staff who had cared for her so many times.

"The nurses in A&E all knew I was doing my training and were so supportive and encouraging. They reassured me that it didn't matter to them that I would be their patient sometimes and that it shouldn't be a barrier to me joining the team", Laura said.

After applying and coming along to an interview day at Worcestershire Royal, Laura was offered her dream job working in the department and hospital that continue to care for her.

"I'm so grateful to be able to be part of a team that empower me to achieve my dreams in spite of my disability. Five years ago, I was too sick to work and honestly wasn't sure how my life would turn out, but now I'm working in my dream job, surrounded by a supportive team", said Laura.

Best of clinical research is showcased and celebrated at special awards evening



Best Team Contribution to Research - Upper GI Research Team



Best Commercial Recruiter 2015-2018Dr Helen Routledge



Best Individual Contribution to Research - Catherine Townsend, Clinical Research Midwife

Over 100 health professionals from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire attended a special event at Sixways Stadium in Worcester this week to celebrate the achievements of clinical trials and research work in the two counties.

The event showcased the best of the clinical research that has taken place in the last year, with awards being handed out for some of the most impressive schemes to help benefit patients.

Awards were presented as part of a "Developing a Research Culture" seminar where a programme of inspirational guest speakers shared their experiences, including speakers from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, Wye Valley NHS Trust, Clinical Research Network West Midlands, and University of Worcester.

Clinical trials and research aim to build evidence for new approaches to improve patient care. This is done by testing the effectiveness of new medication, diagnostics, and treatment plans to determine whether new treatments in development are better than what is currently available to patients.

Clinical research in our region is carried out by the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Research Consortium, based at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. The team is made up of consultants, specialist nurses and midwives as well as support staff.

So far this year, the group has recruited over 1,100 patients into more than 80 different research trials. These have involved everything from filling in questionnaires or providing blood samples to attending an educational programme or trying new types of medicines.

Dr David Wilson, Consultant Cardiologist and Associate Medical Director for Research and Development said: "We wanted to hold this event to celebrate the hard work and commitment of all staff involved in research.

"I believe that the potential for clinical research in our area is enormous, and I am optimistic about how this will evolve, and the benefits that this will undoubtedly bring to our patients."

Anna Walker, Assistant Research Manager said: "Celebrating the successful contribution that all staff engaged in research is so important and it was fantastic to be able to recognise this publicly with our Research Awards."

If you are interested in taking part in a clinical trial, ask your doctor, nurse or midwife if there is a clinical trial that you could join. To find out more about Research and Development in Worcestershire visit: www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/R&D or follow the team on Twitter @WAHT_Research

The full list of award winners this year is:

- Best Individual Contribution to Research - Catherine Townsend, Clinical Research Midwife
- Best Team Contribution to Research

 Upper GI Research Team (Martin Wadley; Donna Traynor; Cheng Boon; Rachel Henson; Rebekah Hart; Pamela Wilks; Amanda Holdsworth; Jayne Tyler and Dagmara Bak)
- Best Commercial Recruiter 2015-2018 -Dr Helen Routledge
- Best Contribution to Activity Based Funding 2015-2018 - Dr Lisa Capaldi
- Best Overall Contribution to Patient Recruitment 2015-2018 - Janine Birch

Glaucoma patients to benefit thanks to donation to hospital eye unit

People in Worcestershire suffering from eye conditions will benefit thanks to a kind donation from a grateful patient of the eye unit at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The patient - who wanted to remain anonymous - donated £23,000 to the specialist glaucoma unit as a thank you for the 'exceptional' care they had received from the team in the department.

The unit, which was previously voted Best Glaucoma Unit in the UK, has an exceptionally high success rate for complex cataract and glaucoma surgery.

Lead Consultant for Glaucoma, Mr Tarun Sharma has decided to use the donation to purchase two brand-new ocular response analysers, which use high-tech measurement of the cornea to give the most accurate eye pressure readings.

Mr Sharma said: "I feel proud to be the leader of such a caring and talented team. I must congratulate the whole of our Worcestershire Eye team, and especially the glaucoma team. Thank you for your constant professionalism and care. The kind donation will help our assessment of glaucoma patients in the unit. Worcestershire is one of the very few departments in UK to have this facility which will now be available at all our sites."



Mr Tarun Sharma, Lead Consultant for Glaucoma with members of the Worcestershire eye team.

Worcestershire Way 5



New Discharge Lounge opens at Worcestershire Royal

A brand-new Discharge Lounge has opened at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

The new building, situated on the ground floor has space for 18 patients with a mixture of chairs and beds, and will be run by nurses and pharmacy staff.

Helping ensure there are no delays for patients, the Lounge will cater for patients who are medically fit and due to be discharged. By moving patients to the Discharge Lounge before they leave hospital, it will make room for new patients who need to be admitted to acute hospital beds.

Could you support mums and babies with breastfeeding?

We are looking for volunteers who are prepared to give up some of their time, at least one a week for a minimum of 6 months, to help pregnant and new mothers with the art and skill of breastfeeding.

All training and support will be provided. You will need to:

- be 18 and over
- live in Worcestershire
- commit to volunteer once a week for at least 6 months
- have a passion to support women with breastfeeding

Come along to find out more and talk to current volunteers.

Date: Thursday 31 January 2019 Time: 10am - 11am Venue: Charles Hastings Education Centre, Worcestershire Royal Hospital If you are interested please contact the Specialist Midwives in Infant Feeding: Caroline Payne on 07879 440264, carolinepayne@nhs.net Becky Davenport on 07767 440971, rebecca.davenport3@nhs.net

> Visit our Facebook page: Worcestershire Welcomes Breastfeeding



Outstanding Trust mentors recognised at annual University awards ceremony



Outstanding Practice Learning Environment: Outpatients Department, Kidderminster Hospital & Treatment Centre



Outstanding Practice Learning Environment: Nursing Associate - Beech A, Worcestershire Royal Hospital

Mentors from the Trust were recognised for the outstanding contribution they make to **University of Worcester students' learning** and training at an annual awards ceremony.

The Mentor Awards ceremony recognises and celebrates nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and mentors who make an outstanding contribution to the student learning experience by building successful mentoring relationships with students from the University of Worcester and beyond.

Congratulations to all those who won awards!

Our winners were:

Outstanding Mentor:

- Nurse Susan Bett
- Midwife Beth Saunders-Smith
- Physician Associate Lydia Collins

Outstanding Practice Learning Environment:

- Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust - Outpatients Department, Kidderminster Hospital & Treatment
- Nursing Associate Beech A, Worcestershire Royal Hospital
- Physician Associate Ear, Nose & Throat, Worcestershire Royal Hospital



Outstanding Practice Learning Environment: Physician Associate - Ear, Nose & Throat, Worcestershire Royal Hospital

High-tech simulation suit will help staff experience the physical effects of ageing



A High-tech simulation suit has been donated to Kidderminster Hospital to enable staff to better understand how patients cope with ageing.

The £3,000 ageing suit was donated to Kidderminster's simulation ward, which opened in July, to be used for staff training across Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS

It was donated by Kidderminster Hospital's League of Friends, which supports patients and staff by raising funds to maintain and extend services.

The simulation suit enables hospital staff to experience the physical effects of getting older, including restricted joint movement, hand tremoring, failing eyesight and hearing loss.

It can also mimic the impacts of stroke, such as one-sided paralysis, and comes with a range of attachments and weights to imitate the conditions that can lead to changes in the way older people walk or

Gina Carter, the Trust's acting lead for dementia, said: "We often take it for granted that we can get in and out of bed and get up from chairs and we don't always appreciate that as we get older our muscle tone isn't as good and what used to be easy takes a lot more energy.

"Putting on the suit means people can feel what it might actually be like to be older and frail and they are able to experience the kind of challenges some people face when just walking or standing.

Pictured: Alice Elderton, falls lead, tries on the suit with help from Gina Carter (left), acting lead on dementia, and dementia nurse specialist Mandy Rees (right).



Consultant Urologist Mr VIncent Koo with theatre staff.

Faster treatment for urology patients thanks to new state of the art camera equipment

Patients undergoing Urology procedures at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch are benefitting from faster, more efficient treatment thanks to a new piece of camera equipment generously funded by the League of Friends.

The £9,995 'Lithoview Workstation', provides high resolution digital images, and is used by Urologists for kidney and ureter procedures.

This state of the art equipment allows Urologists to perform new complex procedures for the first time.

Because of the significantly improved vision with the Lithoview Workstation, cancer can be detected more easily and more complex and large stone work can be performed more safely and accurately. Patients benefit from having better cancer detection and clearance of complex stones.

Consultant Urologist, Mr Koo said: "We are proud to state that here in Worcestershire: we are one of the few centres that deal with large complex stone work endoscopically in the region."



The first staff from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust have successfully completed their British Sign Language (BSL) level one course.

Successful sign language course to be extended thanks to generous funding

A successful initiative to teach sign language to staff will be extended.

The Alexandra Hospital League of Friends have donated £2000 to fund an additional 10-week course in British Sign Language (BSL) for staff at the Redditch hospital.

Courses have successfully taken place at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, with 30 staff learning basic BSL enabling them to have simple conversations with deaf patients and relatives, thanks to funding from the Friends of the hospital.

It was set up following an idea by Chaplain, Rev. David Southall, and Porter, Steve Hartman, a British Sign Language tutor who himself became deaf 16 years ago due to a virus.

Staff taking the course will learn basic greetings, as well as simple conversations about food, family and daily life.

Rev. David Southall said: "We are so grateful to the League of Friends for their donation. The course has proved to be highly popular."

A course will also run at Kidderminster Hospital.

Child-friendly surgery service at Kidderminster Hospital expands number of procedures



Worcestershire youngsters are now able to undergo more surgery closer to home in a friendly and welcoming environment tailored just for them, thanks to the expansion of children's surgery at Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, has been gradually increasing the amount

of children's surgery it can perform at the hospital since 2016 – most recently adding Ear, Nose and Throat surgery such as tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies.

The Hospital has also introduced a dedicated all day children's operating list – one of the only hospital's in the Midlands which does this.

On these days the four operating theatres are converted into an exclusively paediatric environment; with child friendly screens, toys and play equipment and theatre staff even wear child friendly theatre hats. The theatre team along with children's nurses, play specialists and medical specialists all work together to provide specialist paediatric services and support.

Mathew Trotman, Theatres Matron at the Trust, said: "We are one of few Trusts who can offer a dedicated all day children's service and it makes a real difference to our patients as it is such a friendly and welcoming environment. The service has been a wonderful achievement and we are grateful to everyone who has been involved in the meticulous planning and preparation required to launch the all-day service. We're really proud of all our Trust teams providing safe, high quality paediatric care and this is reflected in the feedback as we see a high level of patient satisfaction."

Leo Leverett-Hawes, age 10, recently underwent surgery at Kidderminster. His mum Jill said: "The care was fantastic. Staff were great at letting Leo know what was going on throughout."

Quality Care

How are we doing?

Members of our Patient and Public Forum and Anna Sterckx our Head of Patient, Carer and Public Engagement held an engagement fortnight in November, chatting with the public at our three hospitals about 'what quality means' and finding out about individuals' experience of care at our Trust.

Last year we consulted with the public to inform our Quality Account and from this we developed our Quality Improvement Strategy – with the clear aim to create a culture of continuous improvement and learning which is both patient – centred and safety focused.

A year on, we've been out to see how we are doing based on three key areas; Care that is Safe, Care that is Clinically Effective and Care that is a Positive Experience for Patients and their Carers.

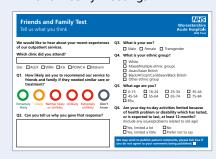
Anna said: "The response from the public has been incredibly positive and we will be looking at the best ways to share the results and inform future plans in the New Year".

We would still like to hear from you!

If you or someone you know has used our hospital services this year – please share your experience of care with our Communications team via wah-tr.Communications@nhs.net

We always want to know how we are doing – to share the good (it makes a real difference) and work to address where we can improve. There are lots of different ways you can do this:

 Please ask for and fill in a Friends and Family Card every time you visit one of our hospitals. Our staff look at every single card shared and share information on cards in daily and weekly meetings.



- You can let us know online on the national NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk
- You can tweet us @WorcsAcuteNHS

County MPs learn about new pathology tests



Camran Khan, Blood Bank Manager (pictured right) with Harriett Baldwin MP and Nigel Huddleston MP.

We were pleased to show two of our local Worcestershire MPs around our Pathology Departments at Worcestershire Royal Hospital recently. Harriett Baldwin MP and Nigel Huddleston MP took a tour to see the important tests that take place in our labs.

These include a new test for patients under assessment for colon cancer. They can now avoid having to have an endoscopy and can have a simple stool sample test instead.

The test means around 2,400 patients won't need an endoscopy – saving the Trust thousands of pounds each year. An endoscopy costs the NHS £406 and the analysis of a stool sample costs £25 per patient.

Harriett Baldwin said: "It was really interesting to visit the path lab and see some of the amazing work that is going on to help get the best possible outcomes for local patients.

"The department is carrying out great work for patients both in Worcestershire and for other hospital trusts and it was really helpful to tour the labs and chat to many of the people who work there.

"This new test is a great innovation which will reduce the need for patients to have an invasive procedure – whilst saving money with every test carried out".

Every year our Pathology teams process well over 1 million patient samples and are involved in over 70% of patient diagnoses.



A GREAT PLACE TO WORK, A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE



Worcestershire **Acute Hospitals**

Come and join us

We're looking for the next leading lights to join our friendly, talented team. Join us and we'll put you centre stage, with excellent opportunities to progress, improve, and consolidate your skills.

Join our team and benefit from:

Comprehensive education and training programmes Career development planning Health and wellbeing support Staff engagement and culture programme Employee benefits and discounts

Follow our Facebook page and keep up to date with any upcoming recruitment events. Don't miss out!

All the current opportunities are advertised on www.jobs.nhs.uk Search for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

www.worcsacute.nhs.uk

f @WorcsAcuteNHS **y** @worcsacutenhs

Join in the conversation online

Here's a sample of updates from October/November

Why not join the 22,000 people that follow us on social media and keep up to date with the latest news, announcements and stories from Worcestershire's hospitals.

Do you follow us yet? If not, then get involved and join the conversation!

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To the Bride and Groom!



worcsacutenhs Nurses at our hospitals are celebrating after being named Workforce Team of the Year at a prestigious Nursing Times Awards ceremony last week

The award went to our Professional Development Team, recognising and rewarding their excellent work to support the nursing and midwifery workforce.

The team were celebrated for a number of successful schemes they have put in place with the aim of creating a supportive environment for nurses and midwives, with opportunities to continue to develop their skills at all stages of their career.







