

A note from Damon....

There feels to have been lots of news this month! The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson visited our PPE Factory at Seaton Delaval and was extremely complimentary about what has been achieved, so well done and thank you to all involved. Claire Blackhall, Chargehand Porter at Wansbeck, has won a National Award which is a great achievement to be proud of. Work is pressing ahead at Berwick, refurbishing the Theatres at Wansbeck, and the new CSSD facility at NSECH. The plans for the new Wellbeing Centre and "Project Hadrian" at the entrance to the NSECH site are also making progress. More information about these will feature in future editions of the newsletter.

As we approach the end of this financial year we now need to focus on closing off budgets, training, appraisals and annual leave, ready for a new start in April.



Damon Kent, Managing Director, NHFM

News

Prime Minister visit

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson officially opened the PPE factory on the 13th February.



Jim Mackey said "Thank you to the Prime Minister for officially opening our Northumbria Healthcare Manufacturing Hub today. It is an initiative which demonstrates exactly what innovation and collaboration can achieve. It is also playing a significant role in supporting the local economy. Thank you to all involved, you should be so proud."



Condolences

Condolences are given to the family, friends and work colleagues of Dennis Southern, who sadly passed away recently following a battle with cancer.

National Portering Award

Claire Blackhall, Chargehand Porter at WGH has won the National MyPorter award after being nominated by her manager Tracey Smith for going above and beyond to provide an outstanding service during the pandemic, despite experiencing significant personal loss. Alongside her full time role and being a single mam, Claire is also training to become a volunteer Coastguard. She won £250 for the charity of her choice (Thrombosis UK) and £250 for the Trust's Bright Charity.



A further award was also given posthumously to Dennis Southern in recognition of his contribution to Portering. This will become an annual "Dennis Southern Award" and will be awarded annually to an outstanding individual in Portering.

Happy (Chinese) New Year!

The Catering teams across our sites did an "ox-cellent" job of welcoming in the Year of the Ox with their Chinese themed days which proved extremely popular.



They have also worked hard to provide the free breakfast sandwiches for staff to show some love for Valentine's Day.

Dates for your diary

Staff Engagement Group

Date: 18/03/2021

Time: 10:00 - 11:00

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Code: 121 703 693 5

Or you can email improvement@nhfml.co.uk for a diary invite

Wansbeck Theatres

Work has started on the refurbishment of the six theatres at Wansbeck, to include a significant upgrade of the theatre equipment and space redesign to improve staff and patient flow. The creation of an enhanced environment for patients and working area for staff will improve the air flow, reducing the risk of infection during surgery.

Berwick Progress

Northumberland based construction company Merit have now been appointed to build the new hospital.

Covid Vaccines

Look out for your invite for the second dose - the roll out will be starting in the next few weeks so keep an eye on your emails.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Darren Gibbons, Estates Officer at NTGH who celebrates his 50th Birthday and 30 years' service this month!



Career Journeys

Gareth Davies, Porter, NSECH



How long have you worked here?
1 year and 2 months

Tell us your story

I've struggled with mental health problems since I was a child and have had lots of ups and downs over the years. I was working as a volunteer football coach for the Newcastle United foundation when I saw the Porter/

Security role advertised. I never thought I would be successful but when I found out I had got the job I was absolutely over the moon. Unfortunately at first I felt I didn't fit in and really struggled with my mental health. My manager Ian put his hand out to me and gave me the support I needed. Now I'm working in my dream job and I absolutely love it. I love the staff, I love the patients. I value my job so much and have so much respect for it.

I'm passionate about giving mental health the voice it deserves. People shouldn't suffer in silence - if you're struggling, speak to someone. Managers are there to help you and Occupational Health are very supportive too.

What advice would you give to someone with mental health problems who wanted to progress or change career path?

Just go for it. Don't think of the bad and don't feel scared. You are perfect as you are and just as good as anyone else.

Reminders

Stat and Mand Training and Appraisals

Please could everyone check that they have completed all of their stat and mand training and have had an appraisal for the year 2020/2021. If you haven't you need to speak to your supervisor and make a dedicated effort to get it completed asap. Remember from the 1st April 2021 if you haven't done all your stat and mand training and/or had an appraisal it could affect your pay progression. For supervisors, if all your team's training and appraisals are not complete then it could affect your pay progression. See poster on the Communication Stations.

Annual Leave

All annual leave must be taken by 31/03/21. Carry over of up to 5 days is allowed by exception only and must be authorised by a Director.

Emails

You can now access emails from home using the following link <https://nhctmail.northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk/owa> and enter your work PC username and password. However, please don't download them to your device.

Did you know?

The PPE Factory has now made over 2.2 million gowns to help frontline workers across the NHS.

Feature

Staff Network Groups

In NHFM we are committed to creating a diverse and inclusive culture and when our people feel supported and happy in the workplace the positivity reaches the people we care for and support.

Did you know that there are 7 staff network groups available to join?

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) staff network
- Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff network
- Carers staff network
- Enable Disability staff network
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans (LGBT+) staff network
- Menopause staff network
- Mental Wellbeing staff network



Why join?

They offer a safe place to come together, share experience and provide advice and support confidentially. They tackle issues for all under-represented groups and individuals within our organisations. They facilitate learning and development helping shape the delivery of organisational strategy and policy. They work to improve the staff experience on specific issues relating to each network.

There's lots of ways to get involved, for example they all have dedicated Facebook groups, and you don't have to attend meetings if you don't want to.

Email equality.diversity@northumbria.nhs.uk to join or for more information.

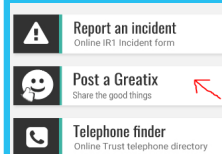
Star of the Month!



Congratulations to Ben Claxton, Bank Security Officer at NSECH who has been voted Star of the Month!

Ben has received a lot of positive feedback from both his colleagues and from nursing staff, commending how he handles patients with care and compassion, and how his friendly and approachable manner helps to calm patients down.

His colleagues have also commended his attitude and enthusiasm and feel he has become a valued and competent member of the team.



To submit a Greatix for a colleague go on the NHCT Intranet home page and click "Post a Greatix" or ask your supervisor to help you.

To read them all and vote for the next winner look out for the new "We are Great" email coming out at the beginning of the month.