

A note from Damon....

We enter this year with lots to be optimistic about. The covid vaccine is being rolled out at a great pace. Many of our staff have already received it and it is hoped that all staff will be vaccinated by early February. Although we will still need to remain cautious and vigilant, following all the rules and precautions, it is hopefully the beginning of better times ahead. We do however understand that times are still very difficult and we're really keen to hear how our staff are feeling. You can fill in the "Northumbria Voice" survey each week (link in the Coronavirus bulletin), or get in touch via improvement@nhfm.co.uk or via our new communication boxes at each site.

We are looking for staff, particularly domestic assistants and porters, who are willing to work extra hours. If you are able to do this please speak to your line manager to register your availability. Please note there are new interim enhanced rates of pay for staff working overtime for covid reasons, and we are willing to pay excess travel expenses for you to work at a different site to your usual one.



Damon Kent
Managing Director, NHFM

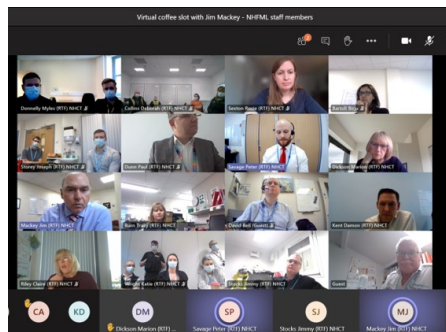
News

Covid Vaccinations

As you might know from the Coronavirus communications, thousands of staff and patients have already received their first dose of the Covid vaccine. If you haven't already done so please book in for yours. If you want more information or have any concerns about getting the vaccine you can call Occupational Health for advice.

If you have been vaccinated you still need to follow the guidelines on social distancing, hand washing and wearing PPE as you could still catch it and pass it on to others.

Virtual Coffee with Jim



On the 06/01/21 Jim Mackey held a virtual catch up with NHFM representatives. He gave his thoughts about the current situation and answered questions from our staff. He was very complimentary about how NHFM staff have responded to the Coronavirus crisis and how we have played a crucial role in the Trust's response to the virus.

Berwick MP Visit



Anne-Marie Trevelyan, MP for Berwick visited the hospital site in December to mark the start of the work on the new hospital.

Bank Staff

We have been trying to contact everyone who has a bank contract to find out how often they are able to do shifts and at which sites for Covid staffing purposes. Unfortunately there are a lot of people who we haven't been able to get in touch with. If you have a bank contract and haven't spoken to anyone about this recently please check your work emails and respond asap.

Staff Survey



Congratulations to Linda Lyall, Domestic Assistant at NSECH who was randomly selected to win the £250 voucher for completing the staff survey!

Calling all Band 1s

Following the Band 1 Contract Reform all Band 1 staff were given the opportunity to become Band 2s if they wanted to. Some opted to remain as Band 1s at the time but if you would now like to become a Band 2 please speak to your supervisor for the form and training requirements (3 workbooks to complete). This can be done at any time.

Dates for your diary

Staff Engagement Group

Date: 11/02/2021

Time: 09:00 - 10:00

Venue: Zoom (<https://zoom.us/join>)

Meeting Code: 638 779 8795

Password: NHFM1

Come along and contribute to the development of NHFM's People Plan.

You can join from any device with a camera/ microphone (eg. mobile phone, tablet, laptop).

Christmas Quiz

Well done to Jimmy Stocks & Owen Cusack who were victorious in NHFM's Christmas quiz (despite their singing...!) 

Bonus Time

Everyone should have received a £50 bonus into their bank accounts on the 05/01/21 as a thank you for your contribution during Covid. 

Communication Stations

Look out for the new NHFM Communication Stations popping up across the sites. As well as a place to get information you can also submit comments, suggestions, ideas etc. The comments will be collected in monthly. In February one comment chosen at random will win a small prize.

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.

Career Journeys

Stephen Thompson, NHCT Health and Safety Manager



How long have you worked here?
Just over 3 years now

Can you describe your career to date?

I left school at 16 and went onto a 4 year painting and decorating apprenticeship. Sadly on completion all the apprentices were made redundant so I moved to Peterborough and worked for a fibre optic cable laying company. After a few months I moved back to Alnwick and started work as a bin man - a role I did for 16 years. I put myself through my Health and Safety qualifications and then got my first H&S role in a large fish manufacturing factory in the Scottish borders. Again I was made redundant, so from there I moved to a H&S role with a different company and was lucky enough to travel across the globe with my work. Then my current role came up. I find the role very interesting and challenging and totally different to working in industry but also very enjoyable, working towards providing a safe healthy working environment for all staff, patients and anyone else who visits our sites.

Do you have any career advice for people who want to progress?

Difficult things can happen in your career but you can't let them stop you. Working in different roles, locations and industries has given me lots of experience to draw on today.

Reminders

Contact information

There are still a number of incorrect email signatures circulating so please could everyone that their email signature is in the following format:

Name
Job Title
Department
Contact Phone Number(s)



Your signature should be on all emails you send. The footer graphic is on the X drive in the Branding folder.

Lateral Flow tests

If you are doing the lateral flow tests please remember to continue logging your results online.

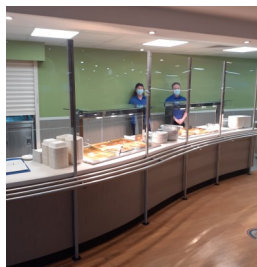
Did you know?

You can now check your work emails from home? Visit the following link and enter the user name and password you use to log on to the computers at work
<https://nhctmail.northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk/owa>

Please do not download your emails to your device as this may breach Information Governance rules - just view them online.

Feature

NTGH Refurbishments



Work has been recently completed on a new servery area in the dining room at North Tyneside General Hospital by the Estates Team. The bain-maries, heated plate dispensers, counters and fascia were all replaced and the area was refreshed with a new modern colour scheme. Wayne Roper, Kitchen Superintendent,

has praised the work the Estates team has done, commenting "it has made such a difference to the look and feel of the restaurant. We've had so much positive feedback from our staff and customers about it".

A partial refurbishment of Ward 6/7 has also been completed by the Capital team as part of the Covid recovery plan to increase surgical capacity. The scheme, which was completed in 3 weeks, included creating accessible toilet facilities on each of the six bed bays to minimise the cross contamination of patients, as well as modernising a large part of Ward 6, to incorporate it into Ward 7.

Jayne Borthwick, Matron, said, "The project allowed us to be able to maintain service during works, with minimal disruption to patient care. The project delivered on every objective and was of the highest quality throughout."

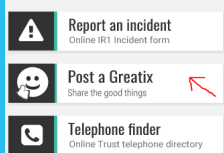


Star of the Month!



Congratulations to Kane Hannay, Chef at NSECH, who was voted Star of the Month by the NHFM Staff Engagement group.

Kane received a Greatix from his supervisor Lisa Robinson after receiving a number of compliments on the quality and presentation of the food that he prepares. Taking the time over quality and presentation makes a big difference to patients, visitors and staff and gives a positive impression of the services NHFM provides. Kane is new to the team and has never cooked in this kind of environment before and it has been noted how well he has fit in and adopted to a new working environment with ease during these challenging times.



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 go to:

<http://intranet2.northumbria.nhs.uk/home/riskmanagement/greatix/>

We would really welcome your feedback on the newsletter so if you have any feedback, news or suggestions for future issues of NHFM News please contact Rosie Sexton rosie.sexton@nhct.nhs.uk or ext 34738