

ICB updates for Wiltshire Area Board

Joint Chief Executive appointed to lead region's three acute trusts

A new Joint Chief Executive Officer has been appointed to lead the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

Cara Charles-Barks, who is the current Chief Executive Officer at the Royal United Hospital in Bath, will take up the new position from Friday 1 November.

This appointment follows a decision by the boards of each of the three trusts earlier in the year to establish a group model to deliver better outcomes for local people.

Before joining the team at the RUH, Cara had previously been Chief Executive Officer at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

She has also been listed as one of the top 50 Chief Executives working in the NHS on five separate occasions.

The new group model is a collaboration between the three existing trusts, and not a formal merger.

Each trust will remain a separate organisation, and continue reporting to its own dedicated executive team and board.

Sue Harriman, Chief Executive Officer, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, said: "Cara's appointment is excellent news for our three hardworking acute hospitals and our wider health and care system.

"True collaboration adds real value to patient care and all three hospital trusts have a unique role to play in strengthening the support that local people and communities count on at every stage of their lives.

"Under Cara's expert leadership, our hospitals will be stronger together and I look forward to seeing the benefits of these new arrangements over the coming years."

Public asked to help shape new ten-year plan

Patients, families and staff working across the NHS have been invited to have their say on a new ten-year plan that will aim to revolutionise the entire health and care service.

Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced details of the new plan on Monday 21 October.

He said: "When I was diagnosed with kidney cancer, the NHS saved my life, as it has for so many people across our country.

"Today the NHS is going through the worst crisis in its history. But while the NHS is broken, it's not beaten. Together, we can fix it.

"We need your ideas to help turn the NHS around. Our 10 Year Health Plan will transform the NHS to make it fit for the future, and it will have patients' and staff's fingerprints all over it.

"I urge everyone to go to www.change.nhs.uk today and help us build a health service fit for the future."

The new Change NHS website allows people to submit their ideas and feedback, and also provides details of upcoming in-person engagement events.

Wes Streeting is expected to publish the new ten-year plan in full in the spring of next year. Find out more at www.change.nhs.uk.

ICB awarded Armed Forces Covenant Silver Award

The ICB has been recognised with the Silver Award by the Ministry of Defence for its exceptional support of the Armed Forces.

Recognising organisations that go above and beyond in their support for serving personnel, veterans, and their families, the Silver Award is presented to those who demonstrate their commitment by signing the Armed Forces Covenant and implementing policy changes and workplace adjustments.

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise that acknowledges and understands that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve, ensuring that their contributions and sacrifices are respected and valued in the workplace.

There is a three-tier approach of bronze, silver, and gold, and the ICB is one of only four others that have recently received the Silver Award.

Sue Harriman, Chief Executive Officer, BSW ICB, said: "As a Royal Navy veteran, I know that those who have served in the Armed Forces are reliable, resilient, resourceful and committed members of our team.

"The Armed Forces community brings a unique and highly valuable set of transferable skills to the NHS.

"They demonstrate key values including compassion and willingness to serve others, which makes them a huge asset to us as we commission services in the area to improve health and enrich lives of the public."

ICB pledges support to council's new SEND strategy

The ICB has pledged its support to a new plan from Wiltshire Council, which sets out how local partners will work with families, children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Known as Meeting Needs Together, the ambitious plan was agreed by the Wiltshire Council cabinet at its meeting at the end of September.

The plan contains the following six priorities:

- Children and young people and their families will be at the centre of planning, their views and aspirations heard and acted upon, as true partners
- Getting the right support at the right time, identifying and acting on our children's needs at the earliest opportunity and through promotion of inclusive approaches and practice across the local area
- Provide opportunities for timely planning, reflective of the views of the child or young people and parent carers' current needs, that have clear outcomes
- Ensure good quality communication and information, for families to have a positive experience when navigating services, with information that is easy to access and use
- Professionals and officers across the SEND system will have the skills, knowledge and training to enable effective collaboration across services, joint assessments and sharing of good practice
- Children and young people will be prepared for adulthood and experience timely transitions, leading to increased skills, greater independence and a greater range of opportunities in life

Gill May, Chief Nurse, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, said: "One of the priorities of our ICB is to ensure all children have a great start in life, and this new plan sets out in black and white how that promise extends to our young people who live with additional needs and extra care requirements.

"The plan itself is a testament to that commitment, as we've made sure that young voices, as well as those of their parents and carers, are included throughout."

View the strategy in full via the Wiltshire Council website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

Wiltshire hospital among best for patient experience

Salisbury District Hospital has been ranked in the top 10 for most improved adult inpatient experience.

Healthcare regulator the Care Quality Commission published the list in its annual NHS Adult Inpatient Survey 2023 Benchmark Report.

The survey covered topics such as experiences of admission to hospital, care in hospital and communication with doctors and nurses.

Other survey questions covered topics including virtual wards, kindness and compassion and support when leaving hospital.

The report noted significant improvements for Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust in the seven areas patients were asked about.

Five of the results were above the national average, with the hospital scoring highly in the following areas:

- Patients getting hospital food outside set meal times
- Quality of the information patients receive while on waiting lists
- Length of time waiting for a bed
- Patients receiving help to eat meals
- Staff explaining the reasons for changing wards during the night

Judy Dyos, Chief Nursing Officer, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We continually strive to improve patients' experiences at our hospital.

"Our staff work tirelessly to provide high quality care to our local population and beyond.

"This CQC benchmark report result is a huge achievement and one for which all of our staff should be proud."

International healthcare leaders hold summit in Salisbury

Healthcare leaders from the NHS, along with many of their European counterparts, have met in Salisbury as part of an annual event that focuses on how to deliver continuous service improvement.

The Catalysis CEO Summit took place at Salisbury District Hospital and provided leading figures from the world of healthcare with an opportunity to learn more about the trust's unique Improving Together programme.

Delegates saw first-hand some of the changes that have been put in place at Salisbury, including what staff have done to dramatically reduce the number of falls that occur while patients are in hospital.

The leaders also visited the new, state-of-the-art Imber Ward, which provides the hospital with 24 additional beds in an environmentally sustainable building.

Lisa Thomas, Interim Chief Executive, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Our aim is always to deliver the highest level of care for our patients, invest in our staff so they have the resources they need and have great working relationships with our business partners.

"I am delighted that we have been able to share just a little of the great work that is going on at our hospital to improve the care we give.

"I could not be prouder of the people who work here and the commitment they make, day in day out, caring for our local communities and each other."