

New specialist nursing team for end of life care

A new specialist nursing service has started that will give additional support to ward nursing and medical teams who provide end of life care to patients.

While the Hospital Palliative Care Team currently treat patients who have complex physical, psychological and emotional needs, the new specialist nurses will give extra support to ward staff caring for patients who need less complex support.

They will also have a staff education and training role around the introduction of new personalised care plans.

These ensure that patients who may die within a few days receive clear communication on any decisions, that there is sensitive communication between staff our patients and those important to them and that we take into consideration at their personal needs and act on them.

Lorna Wilkinson, Director of Nursing said: "With an aging population we are seeing more older people with complex conditions requiring hospital care or treatment and some of them may also be nearing the end of their life. It's essential that patients who are coming to the end of their life have the very best all round care that we can provide and our staff have the support they need to do so."

Volunteers needed to act as ward companions for dementia patients

Staff are looking for new volunteers who can give up some of their free time to provide companionship to patients with dementia to support them in hospital, as part of a new pilot on Redlynch and Pitton wards.

While the Trust runs the successful Engage programme, where volunteers increase social interaction for patients through quizzes, discussion groups and memory games, ward companions will act as "friends", giving additional support and company for patients during their hospital stay.

Jo Jarvis, Voluntary Services Manager said: "Our volunteers find the work and time that they give to our patients interesting and rewarding. We are looking for people who have good

communication and interpersonal skills, an approachable friendly and caring manner and would be able to give up around two to three hours a week for a morning or afternoon. Interviews and checks would be carried out, and training provided for successful candidates."

People interested in becoming a ward companion should contact Jo Jarvis, Voluntary Services Manager on 01722 336262, extension 4026 for more details.

Hospital above average for cleanliness, food and the environment

Cleanliness, food quality and patients' overall experience of facilities and support have been rated highly in the latest national report on the Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment (PLACE).

The national report follows an assessment made by patient and public representatives and modern matrons.

In summary, the scores were:

- Cleanliness – **scored 99.3%** (national average 97.57%)
- Food – **scored 94.57%** (national average 88.93%)
- Privacy, Dignity and Wellbeing – **scored 89.47%** (national average 86.03%)
- Condition, appearance and maintenance – **scored 95.31%**

(national average 90.11%)

- Dementia standards – **scored 84.66%** against a national average of 74.51%.

Ian Robinson, Head of Facilities said "These results are good news for our patients and visitors and reflect the commitment and professionalism of our staff."



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Salisbury in top 120 healthcare organisations to work

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Salisbury in top 120 healthcare organisations to work

For the second year running, comments from staff have placed The Trust in the best healthcare organisations in the country in which to work.

The Health Service Journal gathered a range of information from employers and staff and these were then analysed by independent workplace research firm Best Companies Group who used this to benchmark organisations and identify the top 120.

There are over 150 general hospital Trusts in the country and a further 300 community, mental health Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The publication took into account the results and comments from staff surveys, and a range of information



from the quality of leadership and staff communication and engagement, to the working environment and training and development.

Alison Kingscott, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development said 'We feel that it's essential that our staff are supported at work, both in the care that they provide for our patients and in their own health and wellbeing, and this again highlights Salisbury as a good place to work and progress a career in the NHS.'

Self Care and Staying Healthy this Winter

Hospital staff and local people had an opportunity to find out more about how they can improve their own health and pick up potential signs of serious illnesses during Self Care Week.

Throughout the week specialist staff were on hand to provide information on a wide range of areas, from how to protect against flu, preventing illness and healthy eating to more specific support around alcohol and stop smoking advice. It was also an opportunity to remind people that their local pharmacy is a recognised source of very good health information and to understand which health service is suitable for their health needs.

More information on how to stay well this winter be found on NHS Choices at www.nhs.uk

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Salisbury District Hospital to take part in major new National research

Salisbury District Hospital is one of the first sites in the country to be involved in a major clinical trial in the UK to see whether aspirin can prevent cancers from coming back.

The ADD ASPIRIN trial will be run in around 100 centres within the country and will involve people who are having, or have had, treatment for early cancer.

Stef Scott, Head of Research said: "This is an excellent achievement for Salisbury and another example of where reputation, local expertise, knowledge and a 'can do' attitude has been recognised enabling us to be one of the first hospitals to offer patients an opportunity to take part in this high profile and important research project."

"In Salisbury we will be looking to involve around 40 to 50 patients a year with their consent, we expect the trial to last around 12 years. Patients who are interested in taking part in the ADD ASPIRIN trial should talk to their doctor, who will be able to consider whether they are suitable for the trial."

Dementia Community Roadshow

Staff, patients and visitors had an opportunity to visit the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Roadshow. The aim of the roadshow was to increase local awareness and understanding of the condition which affects more than fifteen hundred people in Salisbury and staff were on hand to provide advice to anyone with queries about the condition, as well as helping to promote the benefits of an early diagnosis.



Staff and patients celebrate three years of mobile chemotherapy

As part of Chemotherapy in the Community Week, staff, patients and carers joined the team from Hope for Tomorrow to celebrate the first three years of the Mobile Chemotherapy Unit (MCU).

The MCU visits locations in Gillingham, Westbury, Ludgershall and Fordingbridge and has so far saved patients over 20,000 hours in travel and waiting time.

Senior Sister Sara Dear said: "Over the last three years we have delivered over 500 treatments for patients in a relaxing and comfortable environment in their own communities, avoiding the stress and strains of travelling long distances to hospital."



National award for Salisbury blood clot services

Salisbury nurses who assess, manage and treat people for blood clots have won a national Quality in Care (QiC) Programme Award.

The nurse-led Venous Thrombosis (VTE) and Anticoagulation Services cover all aspects of care in this area, with the VTE Service assessing and treating patients in outpatient clinics and the Outreach Anticoagulation Service assessing patients in hospital and providing support and guidance for ward staff.

In this award our staff were “head and shoulders” above the rest, with the judges impressed by the way in which nurses are used in this role.

Lorna Wilkinson, Director of Nursing said: “They were also impressed with our streamlined integrated care



pathway, collaboration with other departments, the assessment of care and the involvement of people who use the service. All supported by a wealth of positive feedback.”

Annual Flu Vaccination Programme for Frontline Health Staff

Frontline staff are being vaccinated as part of the Trust's programme to protect patients and staff from the virus.

Comprehensive staff vaccination can help reduce the risk of flu spreading across patient areas and affecting vulnerable patient groups. It can reduce staff sickness within the Trust.



Director of Nursing Lorna Wilkinson receiving her flu jab.

Fundraising continues as Salisbury's first Breast Unit becomes a reality

Thanks to your generous support of the Stars Appeal Breast Cancer Unit Campaign we'll soon be building Salisbury's first dedicated Breast Unit.

Due for completion in summer 2016, the new unit will provide the best possible facilities for patients with dedicated waiting, diagnostic, treatment and counselling rooms. The Breast Team are enjoying working with patients and designers to create a calm, light and dignified environment.

Miss Vicky Brown, Consultant Surgeon and joint chair of the fundraising campaign said: “We have always aimed for the highest standards, but being able to provide

all our outpatient services in a purpose-built environment will make a massive difference by enabling us to provide quicker diagnosis and better, more holistic care.”

The unit will be named after Salisbury's David Brown, (pictured right with the Breast Team) who made a particularly substantial donation to the campaign. The many other generous donors will also be recognised within the Unit and there will be a chance to see the Unit once complete - please get in touch with



the Stars Appeal office on 01722 429005 for more details.

People are continuing to support the campaign since the initial target was reached. These vital funds will be used to further enhance the new Unit and to provide extra support to the many local people who will be treated there.

Team Salisbury win military challenge

Staff from Salisbury District Hospital won the South West NHS Military Challenge on Dartmoor. The 10 strong team, including executive directors and clinical and managerial staff, beat 14 other hospitals in seven of the nine challenges. This included the assault course led by the Royal Marines, a number of physical and mental tests and the delivery of care and the building of communication systems under fire. In awarding the team their medals, 243 (Wessex) Field Hospital praised Salisbury's team working and leadership which was really put to the test under the most extreme conditions. The team also raised over £1,500 for the hospital's Stars Appeal.



The Salisbury Hospice

We all hope for a dignified death when the time comes, and we are fortunate to have in Salisbury a hospice whose job it is to help end of life care needed by patients and their families.

Our Hospice has been open since 1987, a specialist 10 bedded unit of the hospital with all the usual staff - doctors, nurses, etc. Being on the hospital site is particularly valuable as it gives full access to all the other essential services that the hospital provides. Out of the 155 acute hospitals in England, only 23 have hospices attached.

Salisbury Hospice Charity funds nearly half of the running costs of the unit, and needs to raise £1.5 million each year to do this through donations and fundraising. Neither Macmillan Cancer Care nor Marie Curie has a major presence in South Wiltshire at present.

Built at the south end of the hospital site, the beautifully designed, purpose-built unit has ten inpatient beds and a day care centre, overlooking a garden filled with birdfeeders, a pond and a view across the Chalke valley to Clearbury Ring on the hills opposite. The emphasis is of course on helping patients and their relatives to cope with the difficulties that may arrive at the end of life - physical and emotional pain being a large part of this. So this stress-free and peaceful environment is an essential ingredient for success.

I went to see the Salisbury Art Trail exhibition in the hospice meeting room in early October. One could not help being moved by the lovely sale of paintings, so many done by

patients' relatives. There does seem to be a real feeling of 'family' in the hospice, of calm, and of dignity. The day care centre, open four days a week, and named after our eminent physician Peter Gillam, provides a social meeting place so that patients do not feel alone in their illness. They also have access to all the expertise based at the hospice.

As well as providing care in the hospice itself, there is a specialist outreach team that visits the wards in the hospital and goes out into the community, advising on the care of patients who would benefit from their skills. The community team works alongside GPs and district nurses supporting patients to remain as long as possible in their own homes. In the New Year, Salisbury Hospice Charity will be funding a Hospice at Home service for the next three years, so that specially trained carers will be able to provide hands on care in patients' own homes.

I feel that we are profoundly fortunate to have this unit to call on when needed. It deserves the full support of our community every bit as much as other parts of the hospital.

For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk, or telephone 01722 416353

Dr Alastair Lack
Lead Governor

Successful AGM

Foundation trust members turned out in force again to the Annual General Meeting at the Salisbury Arts Centre to find out more about how the hospital had performed last year and hear specialist presentations from staff in A&E.

The presentations highlighted the day to day work staff do in A&E and the Trauma Unit which links in closely with the main centre in Southampton. One of Salisbury's strengths is its high quality burns, plastic surgery, rehabilitation and spinal presence on the site, which is an addition and advantage when compared with most other trauma units across the country.

"We enjoy tremendous support from the local community and the turnout once again highlighted the interest people have in the NHS and our local health services," said Nick Marsden, Chairman of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust.

"While the AGM gave us an opportunity to look at the real challenges that lie ahead, it also enabled us to focus on the good performance throughout the year and celebrate the enormous achievements of our staff. I want to thank all those that came along to this successful event and thank you again for all your support."



Georgina and baby Henry Chalke of FJ Chalke of Mere who supply the car, and hospital Chief Executive Peter Hill

Stars Appeal

A brand new Kia Picanto car worth over £8,000 is the top prize in the Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle. Second prize is £1,000, third prize £500 plus lots more cash prizes! Tickets are just £1 each and you will find two books enclosed. If you would like to buy them, simply fill out and return the stubs, along with a cheque for the appropriate amount (payable to the Stars Appeal), in the enclosed envelope. To help raise as much as possible from the raffle, tickets will also be sent out with other hospital newsletters. If you also receive these, perhaps you would be kind enough to pass the tickets on. If you can help sell tickets, please contact the Stars Appeal office on 01722 429005. Readers of this newsletter helped raise a wonderful £28,000 from last year's Christmas raffle. We hope to raise even more this year. Thank you for your continued support and have a very Happy Christmas.

Getting in touch...

Get in touch with your Governor by going onto our Website: www.salisbury.nhs.uk, click on the Foundation icon, and then Council of Governors. Once there, choose the Governor who represents your constituency, or contact us by post at the following address, Salisbury District Hospital, Trust Offices, Odstock Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8BJ.

To help with our costs, where possible we would like to send this newsletter by email. If you are happy to receive it this way, please contact Isabel Cardoso at: Isabel.cardoso@salisbury.nhs.uk, or on tel: 01722 429390.

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