

Membership matters

Foundation Trust Members Newsletter - March 2025

News and updates from Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH).

In this issue:

- Welcome from your lead governor
- Better Care Together
- Meet your governor
- Governor observation visits
- Volunteering opportunities at WHH
- Events
- Work at WHH
- Get involved

Welcome

Welcome to our spring newsletter! In this edition, I want to share how you can influence the future of the NHS. The Government and NHS in England are seeking public input for the upcoming 10 Year Health Plan, set to be released this spring. To gather insights, WHH hosted a series of in-person and online workshops for patients, families, and caregivers associated with WHH. This plan aims to establish a modern health service that addresses the evolving needs of our population. This is the largest national dialogue about the NHS since its inception, inviting everyone to share their health service experiences. The goal is to collaboratively shape the plan with the public, patients, and staff, ensuring that everyone feels a connection to it in their everyday lives. It's not too late to contribute—find out more [here](#).



As governors, we regularly set up stands in key areas of both hospitals to gather feedback from patients and staff, aiming to address any concerns promptly. During our visit to Halton, we engaged with numerous patients about the shuttle bus schedule, discovering that some were disembarking at the main hospital without realising that the Captain Sir Tom Moore Building, was quite a distance away.

In response, we are considering updating the bus timetable to ensure it stops at both Halton locations. Staff also mentioned that the bus schedules did not align well with their shifts, and I personally found the displayed timetable confusing. We shared our insights with the Communications and Engagement Team, which has led to the redesign of the timetable. Three new options will be tested by an Experts by Experience panel for their preferred format and we anticipate rolling out the updated information soon.

If you have any suggestions that you would like us to cover in the newsletter, do not hesitate to get in touch on whh.foundation@nhs.net We look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Fitzpatrick
Lead Governor, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Better Care Together

We are making good progress on our integration programme to bring together community and hospital services across Bridgewater Community Healthcare and Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals.

Our two organisations are stronger and better together, and we are in a unique position to bring about meaningful change – improving services and pathways for the benefit of our patients and communities.

We continue to work towards becoming one single organisation and at the beginning of February our two Trust Boards approved the preferred way for us to achieve this.

After considering several options, it was unanimously agreed that the preferred way forward is for the acquisition of Bridgewater Community Healthcare by Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals. Subject to all the required approvals, we plan to become one single organisation in April 2027.

Last month we also asked for views on the future name of our partnership. The partnership name will reflect our direction of travel and will likely influence the future name of our unified organisations. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate and share their views. The survey has now closed, and we will share an update on the outcome as soon as we can.

For more information on the Better Care Together programme please visit [Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust - Better Care Together](#)

News from the Trust

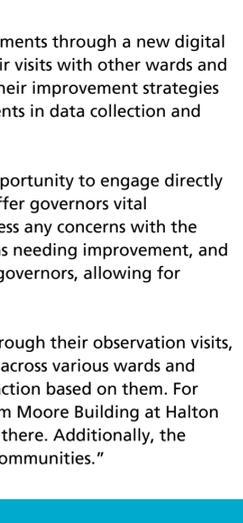
News and updates from the Trust are available to view on the [latest news pages](#) on our website.

Dedicated Warrington Hospital volunteer marks 1,500 hours of service

A dedicated volunteer has gone above and beyond to support staff and patients at Warrington Hospital with more than 1,500 hours of volunteering support.

Alan has been part of the team at Warrington Hospital since 2019 to keep himself busy and give back to the hospital for the support and care provided to his late wife.

[Read more.](#)



Hello from your governor

Margaret Bamforth

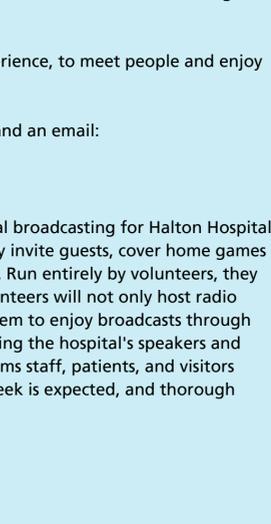
Margaret is one of our new public governors elected in December 2024, we caught up with her to find out why she became a governor at the Trust and what she hopes to bring to the role.

[Read more](#) from Margaret.

If you want to contact your governors, please email whh.foundation@nhs.net with your query or with a request for them to contact you, include your location so that we can ensure the correct governor gets in touch with you.

You can also call us on 01925 662 139.

[Find out more about your local governors.](#)



Governor observation visits

Governor observation visits are informal meetings with staff and patients aimed at understanding their experiences and concerns. These interactions enable governors to connect with those who utilise and work within the hospitals. Initiated in October 2011, there have been 116 visits, with a pause during the Covid-19 restrictions from 2020 to 2022.

The visits were established because governors sought a more proactive role in assessing care quality and forming their own perspectives on service delivery. A small team of governors engages with patients, families, and staff to gather insights and gain a direct understanding of Trust operations, ultimately compiling a report on their findings.

A recent visit addressed patient concerns about scheduling appointments through a new digital system. Additionally, governors aim to share best practice from their visits with other wards and areas in the hospital. They will visit a ward or area to learn about their improvement strategies and share effective practices to other wards, leading to enhancements in data collection and presentation methods.

As lead governor Sue Fitzpatrick explains: "Our visits provide an opportunity to engage directly with the frontline rather than just in the boardroom. These visits offer governors vital reassurance regarding the quality of care and enable them to address any concerns with the board while sharing valuable insights. We pinpoint and report areas needing improvement, and these visits also facilitate interactions between patients, staff, and governors, allowing for feedback from members and the public.

"I believe the governors have positively influenced our hospitals through their observation visits, as they have consistently seen, heard, and made recommendations across various wards and departments. The Trust values our findings and takes appropriate action based on them. For instance, governors highlighted the underuse of the Captain Sir Tom Moore Building at Halton Hospital, leading to increased surgeries and scans being conducted there. Additionally, the opening of the Breast Care Centre has greatly benefited the local communities."

WHH volunteering

Volunteers we need you.

Here at Warrington and Halton NHS Foundation Trust we truly value the diversity and added value of our Volunteer Team and how they make a difference to the patient experience.

Volunteers are a great asset to our hospitals and make a huge difference to the patient journey. If you have a bit of spare time and are interested in helping at your local hospital, we have a variety of roles that you can get involved in, so whatever your passion, skill, or ambition we can find the right role to suit you.

This is a great opportunity to pick up some new skills and experience, to meet people and enjoy working within a team serving your community.

Find out how to get involved or drop the Volunteering Team and an email: whh.volunteers@nhs.net

Radio Halton

The station, which started in 1986, not only provides traditional broadcasting for Halton Hospital but has also ventured into live streaming online. They regularly invite guests, cover home games for the Widnes Vikings, and include a daily reflection segment. Run entirely by volunteers, they are excited to welcome new members aged 17 and older. Volunteers will not only host radio shows but also interact with patients in the wards, allowing them to enjoy broadcasts through headsets or online via smartphones. Their duties include checking the hospital's speakers and collecting song requests. In addition to music, the station informs staff, patients, and visitors about local events. A commitment of at least two hours per week is expected, and thorough training will be provided.

[Read more.](#)

Radio General

Radio General has been a proud independent charity partner with the Trust since the 1950s. They are on the lookout for new members to enrich their live programming during weekdays and evenings, as well as to connect with patients in the wards and collect their requests. With summer approaching, they are eager to bring their 'Out & About' broadcast to local events. This presents a fantastic opportunity to develop broadcasting and related skills, with training available. Applicants should be at least 16 years old.

To become a part of this initiative, you will need to join the station, which involves a yearly subscription fee to support its operational expenses.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please visit the [Trust Volunteers website](#). or email radiogeneral@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

WHH in the community

Menopause programme

We have had several requests for information on menopause in the local community. Livewire's Mind Movement Menopause programme helps women going through menopause by sparking healthy discussions, building relationships with other women, and the opportunity to understand effective ways to navigate changes in their physical and mental wellbeing. More information is available on their website [here](#).

Events

International Clinical Trials Day – 20 May 2025

Join the Research, Development and Innovation Team at our annual International Clinical Trials Day event and celebrate the accomplishments of clinical research professionals in public health / medicine and their efforts in clinical trials. Stands will be held from 10am to 2pm (approx.) at Warrington Hospital's main entrance and George Lloyd Restaurant, Halton Hospital.

Warrington Armed Forces Day – 28 June 2025

Take part in a family fun day with military vehicle displays, Armed Forces Rugby League games and information stands, 9am to 6pm at Crossfield's Rugby Club, Warrington, WA5 1XU.

Disability Awareness Day (DAD) – 13 July 2025

Hosted by Warrington Disability Partnership, DAD is an annual free fun day and pan-disability event with hundreds of exhibitors and events. To support visitor accessibility the event includes free buses, wheelchair loan, park and ride facilities and mobility scooter hire available throughout the day. Join in from 10am to 4pm at Walton Hall and Gardens, Higher Walton, WA4 6SN.

For more information or to support Team WHH at these events, please contact whh.engagement@nhs.net

Work at WHH

If you are interested in a role in healthcare and with us, check out our latest vacancies.

[Click here to view our current vacancies.](#)

Get involved

Support vital research work at WHH by signing up to take part in clinical research as part of the Pathway to Research programme.

[Find out more.](#)

Experts by Experience (EbyEs) are volunteers with lived experience, who help us to understand how it feels to either access services, or to care for someone who does.

Signing up takes just a minute or two. Just fill in the form at [here](#) and we'll be in touch.

For more information, please email whh.engagement@nhs.net

Your governors

For more information on the role of governors at WHH, from some of our current governors, please watch our [YouTube video](#).

For more information on Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust visit www.whh.nhs.uk



Working Together



Excellence



Inclusive



Kind



Embracing Change