

# MEMBERSHIP matters

YOUR BOLTON NHS FT MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 03 | APRIL 2024



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artwork  
competition

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# News

Our latest news is always on our website, but here's a snapshot of what's been happening during the last few months.

## Industrial action and pressures

**We continue to have frequent periods of junior doctors and consultants taking industrial action.**

We prioritised urgent, emergency and critical care during each period of action to help keep the sickest patients safe, but we did see disruption as a result of the action. Winter also brought with it pressure on our services, with winter viruses leading to increased attendances at our emergency department. However, the incredible work of our staff helped to look after those who needed our help most, and each other, through every challenging moment.

Thank you to everyone in our communities for supporting us through these times and for only using our Emergency Department for urgent and emergency care. When you use the right NHS service, you get the right treatment sooner. There is an amazing range of NHS services available to you and your family, so when you're not feeling well, or need treatment straight away, **get to know where to go.** 

-  Self-care
-  NHS 111
-  Mental health support
-  Pharmacy (Chemist)
-  Dental care
-  Optician
-  Your local GP
-  Emergency Department/999
-  While you wait

## Our new strategies have launched

We've launched two new strategies in recent months, our new Trust strategy and new clinical strategy.

Our new Trust strategy has five core ambitions to ensure we provide high quality and safe services across Bolton, meeting the needs of our diverse population, with a happy and skilled workforce which innovates and develops and works with our partners and communities.

Our new clinical strategy launched in January and is shaped by the collective knowledge, experience and ambition of our clinical workforce. It describes what we want to achieve when it comes to improving the services we provide and the outcomes we deliver.



## New Non-Executive Directors appointed

Late last year we were pleased to announce the appointment of three new Non-Executive Directors and an Associate Non-Executive Director, who all joined our Board of Directors.

**Tosca Fairchild, Seth Crofts, Sean Harriss, and Fiona Taylor** play an important role in ensuring the quality and safety of healthcare services, education, training and research delivered by the Trust.

They also make sure the Trust works effectively, efficiently, and economically for the benefits of its staff and patients as part of our board.

## Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete at Royal Bolton Hospital

In November we identified RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) on our hospital site and have since taken a number of measures to ensure the safety of our patients, their loved ones and our staff. The affected areas have been decanted to allow for maintenance teams to carry out their work, while a full survey of the hospital site continues.

## National maternity survey praises Bolton pregnancy care

Findings from a survey of more than 600 women who gave birth in 2023 show that they think our staff are amongst the best care providers in Greater Manchester during pregnancy.

The survey involved 121 NHS Trusts in England and is designed to build an understanding of the risk and quality of maternity services and care.

It highlights women's views on all aspects of their maternity care from the first time they see a clinician or midwife, through to the care provided at home in the weeks following the arrival of their baby.

## Celebrating our fantastic staff

On Friday 24 November hundreds of our healthcare workers were celebrated at our annual sponsored staff awards, the **For a Better Bolton Awards**. 18 winners were revealed after judges had the difficult job of reading through a record 827 inspirational nominations that had been submitted by staff and patients.

This year our People's Choice winner was sister Mary Hart, who received a standing ovation in recognition of her care and compassion, with dry eyes at a premium in the room as we heard directly from a patient she recently helped.

Hundreds of our healthcare workers were celebrated at our annual sponsored staff awards in November. The **For A Better Bolton (FABB) Awards** recognise the incredible work of those on the frontline, and the staff working behind the scenes, who care for patients and their loved ones day in, day out. On Friday 24 November, 18 winners were revealed after judges had the difficult job of reading through a record 827 inspirational nominations that had been submitted by staff and patients.



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# Our Bolton NHS Charity update

Tens of thousands of pounds has been raised during the past six months for Our Bolton NHS Charity, helping to make a lasting and meaningful difference.



In October, some of our stroke patients took on a special walking challenge that celebrated their recovery and the progress they have made.

Affectionately nicknamed the 'stroke warriors', ten patients who survived a stroke took part in a sponsored walk on the 400m race track at Leverhulme Park, raising £7,000 for our Community Stroke team.



At Christmas people right across Bolton donated more than £12,000 worth of presents, to help lift the spirits of patients and staff.

We didn't stop there when it came to empowering our patients and communities with vital information about their health and wellbeing.

During the past few months, our teams spread life-saving health messages through health talks to Overbury and their sub-contracted employees who worked within the Community Diagnostic Centre construction site, in return for donations to us for each talk.

Support us here.



The impact of Our Bolton's work has also been recognised through the results of a pilot scheme to fund bespoke counselling for parents who sadly experience baby loss.

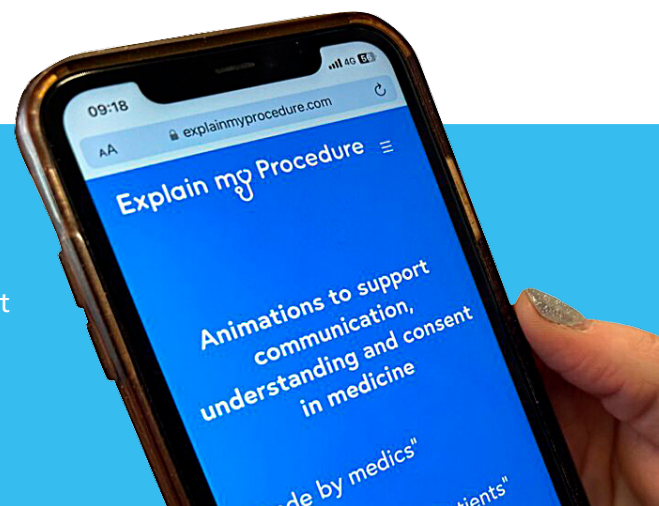
Seventeen couples or individuals have benefitted from 69 counselling sessions since Our Bolton NHS Charity started funding the pilot with Lighthouses Therapy Services in February 2023.

71% reported a positive change to their relationship following counselling and a significant reduction in their levels of depression and anxiety.



- Stroke warriors celebrate after finishing challenge
- Bolton Wanderers Football Club visit Royal Bolton Hospital
- Overbury donate Christmas gifts to Enhanced Care Lounge

We started 2024 by trialling new animated videos to improve patient information about surgical procedures for breast cancer. Funded by Our Bolton NHS Charity, the twelve-month pilot will provide hundreds of patients with access to online videos which explain different breast operations, their benefits and risks, and any alternative management options.



# Brand new Community Diagnostic Centre opens

Communities across Bolton will benefit from our brand new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) that will provide thousands of patients with quicker access to vital tests and scans.

The multi-million-pound investment opened in March, and will create modern health facilities equipped with the latest technology, transforming older parts of the hospital estate into a state of the art testing facility.

Two MRI scanners and an X-ray scanner have recently been installed to help diagnose thousands of patients for various conditions, ensuring they receive the appropriate care and treatment.



## State-of-the-art theatres open

A brand new state-of-the-art theatre complex has opened on our hospital site.

The new £19.6m Elective Care Centre, which opened to patients on Monday 15 January, has four ultra-modern theatres which are being used to help with waiting lists and treat approximately 5,000 patients a year.

As well as the four new theatres, two integrated wards have also been built as part of the development.

## Bolton's Institute of Medical Sciences due to open this year

Bolton's Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), a new medical and clinical skills training facility located at our hospital site, is due to open this year.

IMS will provide unrivalled training opportunities for aspiring and existing healthcare professionals, and is expected to serve as a transformational blueprint for training NHS staff.

A collaborative project between us and the University of Bolton, Bolton College, and Bolton Council, IMS will give people a direct route into clinical healthcare employment.





## Making a difference for the people of Bolton

For many years, us at the Trust, Bolton Council, voluntary and community organisations, and our other health partners have worked together on the issues that affect the people of Bolton.

Together, we call ourselves the **Bolton Health and Care Partnership**, which is a commitment to working closely, understanding our own pieces of the puzzle, and working together to solve problems.

As a partnership, we've been working on our priorities and areas of focus, based on the data we have and what our teams see on a regular basis, to form the next Bolton Locality Plan.

Last year, we visited community groups, public spaces and meetings across the town, as well as sharing an online survey, so that we could understand more about what you, the people of Bolton, needed from health and care services.

Your views helped to form our plans, and have influenced the priorities we have set in the plan.

Our plan sets out how we will work together during the next five years to achieve our priorities, and make meaningful improvements for the people of Bolton.

As part of our commitment to working with our communities to provide services that are right for you, we will continue to find opportunities to come and talk to you about what matters most.

Please get in touch with us via email at [communications@boltonft.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@boltonft.nhs.uk) if you want to share your views, or if there is anything we can do to understand more about what is important to you.

### Our top priorities across Bolton are:

- Reducing unfair differences in health
- Supporting connections in our communities
- Helping Bolton residents to live well
- Giving our children every chance to succeed
- Making the best use of our resources
- Investing in our current staff and opening doors for future generations

## Governor helps our staff and patients break the fast

We've recently celebrated the holy month of Ramadan, an incredibly important religious obligation for our Muslim colleagues and patients, but one that can often prove challenging with fasting 16 hours a day.

To offer support during this time, Bolton North East governor, Imteyaz Ali, helped to organise a range of delicious fruits, dates and water packs to help those marking Ramadan break the fast while at the hospital.

We're incredibly grateful to Imteyaz and the Bolton Council of Mosques for their generous donations during such a special time of the year for the Muslim community.



## NHS 75 artwork competition

Schools across Bolton took part in our NHS 75 children's artwork competition last year, and the winners have just been revealed.

Primary school-aged children across Bolton sent in more than 150 entries to say 'thank you' to the NHS and the thousands of staff in Bolton who provide care to the town's communities. Designs included landscape paintings of Royal Bolton Hospital, portraits of some of our nursing staff, and picture collages of what the NHS means to Bolton's young people.

The competition was so tough that judges were unable to settle on only one winner and after careful consideration chose six winners to have their incredible designs displayed at the hospital for people to enjoy for years to come.



**NHS 75**  
Bolton  
NHS Foundation Trust




# There's a place for you on our team

There are so many ways to get involved with us, whether that is simply being a member, working for us, or becoming a volunteer or governor!

## Progress your career with us

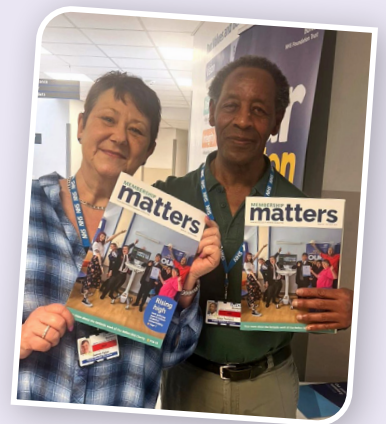
If you want to work for a warm and welcoming organisation, that puts its patients at the heart of everything we do, there's a place for you on our team. You can become part of the NHS family today.

All our current **vacancies are online**, or you can search for Bolton NHS Foundation Trust jobs. 

## Become a volunteer

Volunteering with us is a great way of supporting our staff to deliver the highest quality care and improve the experience of our patients and visitors. It is something that many people find highly rewarding. We have a number of voluntary roles, from welcoming patients, families and visitors and helping them to find their way around the hospital, to helping on the wards to enhance our patient experience and support our staff in their roles.

You can find out more about our volunteers on our website, by calling **01204 390560** or by emailing [voluntaryservices@boltonft.nhs.uk](mailto:voluntaryservices@boltonft.nhs.uk).




## Make a difference by becoming a governor

You can stand for election as a Governor this summer and help shape our services.

**Nominations open on 14 June and the deadline is 12 July.**

### There are seats available in:

-  Bolton South East x2
-  Bolton West x2
-  Rest of England x1
-  Nurses and midwives x1
-  Doctor/dentist x1

We're looking for people from all kinds of backgrounds to consider putting themselves forward. If you think you have something to offer, we want to hear from you.

Contact the Trust Secretary on **01204 390821** to find out more or visit our website. [www.boltonft.nhs.uk](http://www.boltonft.nhs.uk)