

# TRUST MATTERS

News • Awards • Membership • Governors • Information • and much more...

## Celebrating success





# Patient Experience and PALS

☎ 01772 522972 ✉ [PALS@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS@lthtr.nhs.uk)

Our telephone line is available during the hours of  
9am – 12noon and 1pm – 3pm

Our drop-in service is available 11am – 3pm

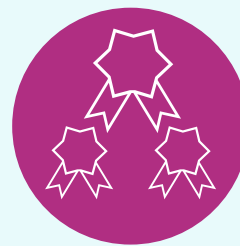
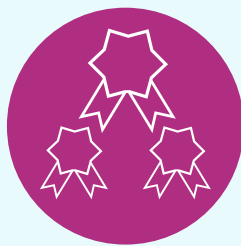
Please note the team work Monday – Friday (excluding bank holidays)



## PALS drop-in centres

Our Patient Experience and PALS office at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital is located on the main corridor of level 2, between Orthopaedic/Assessment Treatment Centre and Costa Coffee.

Our Patient Experience and PALS office at Royal Preston Hospital is located down the first corridor on the right when you enter the hospital via the main entrance.



## Patient Nominated Rewards Programme

The LTHTR Proud Rewards are a great way for our patients to recognise and reward staff at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, including our students and volunteers!

You can nominate an individual staff member or a team for a Patient Reward to thank and celebrate how they have provided you, or a family member, with excellent care with compassion.

For a patient to nominate, please use [this link to complete our form](#) to submit your nomination (or scan the QR code opposite).

The judging panel will be looking for a clear example of how an individual or team has provided excellent patient care with compassion, linking in with our Trust values.

We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating all the excellent work that happens at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals!

### Is there a deadline?

No, nominations are always open. However, the cut off for nominations is the 15th of every month for them to be considered for the following month's reward.



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## Welcome to our latest edition of Trust Matters



Dear Foundation  
Trust Members,

It's my pleasure to introduce the latest edition of Trust Matters – our digital magazine which brings you stories, updates and insights from across Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. This edition comes at an exciting time as we continue to push forward with both our operational priorities and longer-term ambitions to improve the services we provide to our communities.

Since joining the Trust as Chair in January, I've had the privilege of meeting many dedicated colleagues, patients and partners across both Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital. I've found an organisation with committed staff, an appetite for progress, and a deep-rooted connection to the communities we serve. It's clear to me that we are heading in the right direction, even as we continue to face some very real and significant challenges.

You will know that, like many Trusts across the country, we are operating under intense financial pressure. Our current deficit of around £60 million is a serious concern, and we must work together to address it. To explain why this matters, I often use the analogy of a credit card - you may be making the minimum payments, but unless you change your spending habits, the interest compounds and the situation worsens over time.

While we are still delivering care and receiving income, we are currently spending more than we can afford - and this limits our flexibility, our eligibility for investment, and ultimately our ability to achieve the ambitions we've set out for our hospitals.

What's important to understand is that this isn't just about money. For our Board, quality, safety, performance and finance all carry equal weight. You cannot truly deliver excellence in one area without keeping an eye on the others. That's why our leadership team continues to focus on strengthening our grip and control, while also listening to patients and colleagues about what is working well and what needs to improve. As part of this, each of our Board members has been assigned a specific area of the Trust to focus on, and our regular programme of Patient Safety Walkabouts ensures that real-world insight shapes our decisions.

Despite the pressures, we remain ambitious. Alongside our Chief Executive, Professor Silas Nicholls, I've been talking about a clear vision for the future of our hospitals. Our aim is to see Chorley and South Ribble Hospital become a 'good to outstanding' District General Hospital within five years - and to enable Royal Preston Hospital to realise its potential as a major tertiary centre and for the Trust to earn university status. These are not just aspirational statements; they reflect the direction we are actively working towards through our new Single Improvement Plan. This three-year plan will guide the transformation of both our clinical and corporate services, ensuring that we are better organised, better led, and better able to serve patients.

Of course, delivering on this vision will depend on the continued support of our colleagues, partners and communities. Over the past seven months, I've spent time listening - in departments, wards and waiting rooms - and while I've heard understandable frustrations, I've also witnessed first-hand the pride people have in our hospitals and the compassion shown every day. It's this dedication, combined with a strong leadership team and a shared commitment to improvement, that gives me confidence in our future.

Finally, I'd like to thank our outgoing Governors for their service and welcome those newly elected to the Council of Governors. Their role is essential in helping us stay grounded in what matters most to our patients and local people. You'll find more about their work inside this edition, along with some great examples of recent achievements, innovation and staff recognition that highlight just how much progress is already being made.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of your local NHS.

I'd also like to highlight that our Annual Members' Meeting will take place on Thursday 25th September from 2pm – 4pm at Lancashire Football Association's Sir Tom Finney Room in Leyland. More details about the event can be seen on page 17.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Thomas'.

**Professor Mike Thomas**

Chair

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust





## Transformative improvements enhance services for local children and families

Broadoaks Child Development Centre in Leyland, managed by Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTH), has celebrated a transformational new chapter in its journey to enhance services for local children and families.

Following significant roof and internal refurbishment works, the centre now offers a more welcoming and accessible environment for all who visit.

Broadoaks is a Trust-owned community facility for Children and Young People which provides community and neurodevelopmental services across Chorley, South Ribble and Greater Preston, offering specialist assessment, coordination with other services and long-term support.

The Centre had been suffering from a significant roof-related issue, creating huge challenges for the services to work around, and clouding the ongoing operation of the centre.

Thanks to Trust-based funding and the dedicated work of the LTH Estates team - who collaborated closely with the Broadoaks team, led by Queen's Nurse Victoria Atkinson, Matron for Children's Community and Specialist Nursing - the site has been significantly improved.


Extensive and critical roof work has now been undertaken, with large sections of the roof removed and replaced, which successfully resolved the issue and helped to secure the long-term operation of the centre.

In addition to this, further work to address a number of issues affecting the WC provisions at the centre has also been undertaken. This has seen existing facilities repaired, adapted and improved, providing three separate WC and baby change facilities, which have been modernised to create much enhanced and more accessible facilities for those in the centre.

The work marks a major step forward in improving the safety, comfort, and overall experience for children, families, and staff at Broadoaks.

Patient feedback has been good, with one patient, who was seen in one of the new clinic rooms, saying: "I was pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome from reception and such a nice waiting area. It was full of colour - from the activities for children, bright decorations and smart, tidy-looking information boards which were informative and helpful.

"The room itself was lovely and bright too with lots of space and felt very clean. The staff we saw were all very friendly and smiley - what a brilliant centre and an asset to NHS services in Lancashire."

 Read more on our website please [click here](#)

## Expanding Patient-Centred Renal Care

In July the Trust announced the appointment of Diaverum as the new provider of dialysis services at Clifton Dialysis Unit in Blackpool, as part of a long-term partnership to enhance renal care across the region.

Awarded through a competitive tender process, the seven-year contract with Diaverum reflects an ongoing commitment to securing high-quality, sustainable care for patients living with chronic kidney disease in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Located within the grounds of Clifton Hospital - a site recognised nationally for innovation in patient-centred care - the dialysis unit currently treats 94 patients across 24 stations, supported by a team of experienced professionals. Diaverum's arrival marks the beginning of a new chapter in renal services for the Fylde Coast, combining local continuity with the strength of a national provider network.

📖 Read more on our website please [click here](#)



## Trust re-accredited as a Veteran Aware organisation during Armed Forces Week

During Armed Forces Week in June, the Trust was re-accredited as a Veteran Aware organisation by the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance (VCHA), reaffirming our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible care and support to veterans, reservists, members of the armed forces community, and their families.

Being Veteran Aware means we:

- Understand the specific needs of veterans and the wider armed forces community
- Train staff to be aware of and responsive to those needs
- Display the Armed Forces Covenant, making our pledge visible to patients and staff
- Signpost veterans and their families to relevant support services
- Ensure policies reflect the commitment to equitable care

Silas Nicholls, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: "We are delighted to be re-accredited as a Veteran Aware Trust. This demonstrates our commitment to honouring the Armed Forces Covenant and ensuring that those who have served our country receive care that recognises

their unique experiences and needs. During Armed Forces Week, we take extra pride in highlighting our ongoing support for the military community."

The re-accreditation reflects the dedication of our teams across the Trust who work to create an inclusive, respectful environment for everyone – including those who have served in the armed forces.

To find out more about our support for the Armed Forces community, or how we're meeting our commitments as a Veteran Aware Trust, visit [Veteran Aware LTHTr](#)

📖 Read more on our website please [click here](#)

**We are officially re-accredited as**



## New Cancer Academy Partnership: Rosemere Cancer Education Hub

In June we launched a new partnership between the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance Cancer Academy, and the Rosemere Cancer Education Hub at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

Together, we are committed to advancing cancer education and training by empowering healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge to deliver outstanding care across our regions.

Following discussions with Cheshire and Mersey, and with their agreement, we formalised a collaboration to allow all staff across Lancashire and South Cumbria to access their comprehensive Cancer Academy resources. This approach avoids duplication and ensures access to high-quality, established cancer education programmes.

📖 Read more on our website please [click here](#)







### Bishop of Lancaster Celebrates Historic Mass at Royal Preston Hospital



A moment of spiritual significance and celebration took place at Royal Preston Hospital in late May, as the Bishop of Lancaster, the Right Reverend Paul Swarbrick celebrated mass at the hospital. Held in the hospital's chapel, the special 50-minute service brought together senior leaders, chaplaincy staff, patients and volunteers.

The Bishop was assisted by the Reverend Simon Gilbertson, chaplain at the Trust, Father John Mark Agulefo, from St Claire's Parish, and Father Francisco Ulogu from St Mary's, Fernyhalgh.

Following the service, guests had the opportunity to meet the Bishop informally over refreshments in the conservatory at Charters Restaurant.

The occasion also marked a meaningful moment for the Trust's chaplaincy team. During the service, the Bishop invited chaplains to publicly reaffirm their commitment to their vocation and their dedication to providing spiritual care within the hospital setting.


Lead Chaplain Reverend Martin McDonald said: "The Bishop's presence was a great honour and reflects his high regard for the work we do at the Trust."

Bishop Swarbrick paid tribute to the chaplaincy's vital role, both within the hospital and the wider community: "It was a privilege to celebrate mass at Royal Preston Hospital and to spend time with the chaplaincy team, volunteers and patients," he said. "Moments like this are a reminder of the deep value spiritual care brings to people during some of the most challenging times in their lives.

"The chaplaincy's role within the hospital is absolutely pivotal. In a world where everyone is busy and under pressure, one of the greatest tragedies is a lack of time. Chaplains offer something very precious – they give people time. Time to reflect, time to feel heard, and time to find peace.

"Even just knowing the chaplaincy is present on site gives patients and staff alike a bit of strength."

Reflecting on his own experience, the Bishop added: "While I've not served as a hospital chaplain myself, I've been at the bedside of those seriously ill or dying in the parish. In those moments, you are simply there to bring comfort – to walk with families through those final steps and to support them when they need it most."

 Read more on our website please [click here](#)





## Trust performs 1,000th robotic-assisted Prostatectomy

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals celebrated a major milestone in April, completing its 1,000th Prostatectomy using the cutting-edge da Vinci Xi robotic-assisted system at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital.

The Trust's robotic surgery journey began in May 2017, when it became the first hospital in the North of England-and only the third in the UK-to receive the da Vinci Xi surgical system. This milestone was made possible through the hard work and enterprise of a few consultants, the vision of the Trust's Executive team, and substantial funding from the Rosemere Cancer Foundation, which contributed an extraordinary £1.25 million to the project.

By 2020, the team had already surpassed 1,000 robotic-assisted cases across its Royal Preston and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital sites, with landmark procedures including the first robotic-assisted upper gastrointestinal robotic tract surgery in the North West. In 2020, a second da Vinci Xi robotic system was installed in the Chorley Elective Surgical Hub.

James Goggin of Preston was the 1,000th patient to undergo a robotic-assisted Prostatectomy at the Trust. He said: "I feel fine, the surgeon Mr Smolski explained the procedure and what is a relatively new innovation. I was pleased to be on board with that, particularly compared to the recovery time with the old way it used to be done."

"It's been fabulous at Chorley because it seems so relaxed, so quiet. I've been impressed with the whole team from start to finish, they've all been a credit to the NHS."



Consultant Michal Smolski, who performed the milestone procedure, added: "Because it is minimally invasive surgery, this means less pain, less blood loss, quicker recovery, and you can usually discharge patients within 24 hours."

"None of this would happen without all the team - my anaesthetist colleagues, Dr Mohammed Naushad and Dr Alison Waite, Ranier Delo, our surgical practitioner, Pradip Javle,

who is the surgeon who performed the first robotic-assisted prostatectomy at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, our team of Clinical Nurse Specialists, as well as the wider cancer team and the Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Rosemere invested over a million pounds in a device and thanks to that we can carry out successful robotic-assisted surgeries here and in Preston."

Read more on our website please [click here](#)

## Cutting-edge cancer treatment boost for Trust



Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is set to receive a state-of-the-art radiotherapy machine that will help improve cancer care for patients across the region.

The Trust is one of three in the North West – alongside The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust – to benefit from a share of a £70 million government investment to modernise cancer treatment through the Plan for Change.


The new linear accelerator (LINAC) machine will be installed at the Rosemere Cancer Centre at Royal Preston Hospital, later this year.

By replacing ageing equipment, the new LINACs will also reduce the number of cancelled appointments due to breakdowns, preventing as many as 13,000 appointments from being lost across the NHS.

The machines are due to be rolled out from August, as part of government plans to improve cancer care through the Plan for Change. By March 2027, up to 27,500 additional treatments per year will be delivered, including up to 4,500 receiving their first treatment for cancer within 62-days of referral, helping to treat more cancer patients in faster time.

Gillian Clarkson, Radiotherapy Service Manager at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, said: "This is a hugely positive development for patients and staff. We're proud to be part of this national effort to modernise cancer services and improve outcomes for people across Lancashire and South Cumbria."

The new generation LINAC machines will enable centres such as the Rosemere Cancer Centre to expand their delivery of Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) – a highly targeted treatment that minimises damage to surrounding healthy tissue while delivering stronger doses directly to tumours.

 Read more on our website please [click here](#)

## Refurbishment of Royal Preston Hospital Helipad



The helipad at Royal Preston Hospital (RPH) is undergoing a major refurbishment to allow for significant upgrades.

The existing structure is closed to allow essential works to be carried out between Sunday 6 July-Friday 19 September 2025.

Estates Services are undertaking the project, which includes the installation of a new landing pad, heli lighting, signage, controls, barriers, fencing, a weather station, and improved drainage systems.

After 18 months of close collaboration between Mark Bishop (Estates) and the HELP Appeal charity, the Trust has secured full funding of £720,000 for the helipad rebuild. This represents the largest single charitable donation the Trust has ever received.



## Celebrating Silver Accreditation Success!

Our Clinical Applications Training and Support Team was awarded the Silver Accreditation Standard by the Skills Development Network in June. This is not only a remarkable achievement but also a first for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. The Silver Accreditation recognises NHS training teams that consistently deliver high-quality, effective training across the North West.

Achieving this standard involved a rigorous, peer-assessed process, where the team demonstrated their commitment to training and skills development. They provided extensive evidence of their capabilities, underwent external assessment, and met demanding criteria with flying colours. The Silver level confirms that the team is delivering an advanced training service, excelling in how they design, deliver and evaluate their programmes. It's a powerful reflection of their dedication to professional growth and excellence in clinical application training.



## PED Team education nominations for Golden Roses

The Trust's Professional Education Development Team was nominated for "Course Team of the Year" at UCLan Students' Union's Golden Roses Awards, and a huge well done to Bhavana Thounaojam, Clinical Nurse Tutor, who was also nominated for "Lecturer of the Year."

The nominations read:

Course Team of the Year: Always go that extra mile, they understand the struggles us student nurses have because they have been in our position! Teaching is always explained and taught well.



Lecturer of the Year: Bhavana is an exceptional teacher and personal tutor. She is an overseas nurse who now teaches on the PBP at Preston College. She is extremely knowledgeable and delivers this knowledge to us in such a way that we understand it well. Her professionalism and organisational skills are fantastic! I can always trust she will respond to my emails in a timely manner. Bhavana is supportive and encouraging and I believe is currently undertaking her PGCE alongside delivering the newly established PBP degree and its multiple cohorts. She makes me feel like a person and not just a number. An absolute credit to UCLan and to the Nursing profession.

## Oluchi is a finalist in the 2025 Student Nursing Times Awards

Oluchi Okoroafor, Senior Healthcare Assistant with the Trust and a postgraduate student (Adult Nursing) at the University of Salford, was shortlisted for two categories at the 2025 Student Nursing Times Award.

There were approximately 700 entries for the judges to consider, with 124 shortlisted, and one winner emerged from each category.

Oluchi was shortlisted in the Student Nurse of the Year: Adult category and Mary Seacole Award for Outstanding Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion, and she said: "It was a very rigorous and highly competitive exercise, and I am super proud of myself as a first timer in the awards to be shortlisted for these two categories. Even though I did not win, I am optimistic that next year I can win!"

For her nominations, judges' information read: "Oluchi is a dedicated nursing student at the University of Salford, recognised for her leadership, academic excellence, and commitment to supporting peers. As the 2024 Student Nurse Champion, she played a key role in organising the Netherlands Nursing Students Week, fostering cross-cultural exchange and delivering lectures on UK nursing practices. Oluchi co-founded the Student Wellbeing and Academic Buddy System (SWAB) to support fellow nursing students and has been commended for her leadership, teamwork, and teaching skills. Passionate about cultural competency and compassionate care, Oluchi continues to inspire those around her through her dedication to nursing education and practice."

And judges' comments noted: "Your support for student wellbeing, especially through peer-to-peer initiatives, was very well received. Demonstrating how this has shaped outcomes could enhance your already impactful work. The student is a confident and influential advocate for both national and international nursing students, effectively using her voice to drive positive change."



### **"I feel powerful now" - Gemma's MS journey and her passion for care**



Gemma Devine, a Healthcare Assistant with the Trust, is using her journey with multiple sclerosis (MS) to inspire patients, colleagues, and young people alike - proving chronic illness doesn't have to hold you back.

Gemma, 28, works on Rookwood A, a dementia-friendly ward at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital. However, at 18, with ambitions to go to university and train to be a journalist, she suffered stroke-like conditions, including left-sided paralysis, and started a six-year wait for an official MS diagnosis.

After almost six years with no medication and no answers, Gemma admits: "I remember describing it as my life coming to a halt in the cruellest way. I fell deep into depression as I couldn't see any prospects for my life, and I couldn't see myself having a normal life."

During her time in hospital, she didn't have the strength to lift her arms high enough to brush her teeth or comb her hair and is still suffering with the consequences, having had seven teeth removed, and her cut off due to matting, which was "the most dehumanizing, devastating and humiliating moment of my life."

Today, she's thriving both personally and professionally. "The Trust has shaped me as a person, definitely," says Gemma. "There's a massive difference in my confidence and my speech. Aftab Zamir became my tutor in January and has done so much for my confidence. He's given me that moral support when I need it and just helped me generally."

Gemma, who has just passed her Band 3 apprenticeship, says Aftab helped her embrace her capabilities: "I know I'm different from everyone else - there is something wrong with my brain which requires more one-on-one support. But now I feel like I'm cemented in my job and definitely capable and competent - this is what I do every day. Aftab has made me realise I've come such a long way and got myself this far. If I can teach myself how to walk again, I can get through anything."

Her apprenticeship has helped her grow personally, too: "This course has taught me reflective practice, which is one of our modules. I look back at the place I was in, and where I am now. I don't know how I've done it, but I feel so confident and empowered, that all of these things are coming to me and I think I've manifested it. 2025 is Gemma's year for sure!"

Gemma's positivity is contagious: "Everyone has commented on how happier I am, how confident I am. My matron Chris Winster said he could see a bounce in my step, which was lovely. He's moved to Preston, but he was such a fabulous support. He would be so proud. I've also noticed a lot of patients telling me I have a lovely smile, and it is great. It makes patients feel better and trust you, especially our dementia patients. If they see a smile, it helps break that wall down."

Gemma's story is also gaining recognition beyond the NHS. "I've had email correspondence from Sir Lindsay Hoyle's secretary that he is happy to back me in sharing my story. When I graduated from the Prince's Trust programme at the start of my MS story, I met him in person, and in a speech he gave, he mentioned how inspired he was by me, which was incredible."

Now, she is giving back: "The King's Trust have asked me to talk to the young people on the programme across Lancashire. Hopefully I can inspire them. When I started on the Prince's Trust programme, I didn't have that person to look up to in a similar situation to me, and if I can be that - someone with a chronic illness, lacking confidence... I've never had confidence, and that has impacted me through my life. Now I've built it up and it is showing who I am as a person."

The Prince's Trust opened a door into the world she loves as she found her calling in healthcare: "I was job seeking and went through the reboot programme to come to the Trust. I quickly found it was my vocation in life. I am in a job that I absolutely love - the interaction with patients, making a difference to them, being able to provide a positive hospital experience. My matron told me I have a special gift, and I think I do, I don't know exactly what, but I love my job so much."

She is also a dementia champion and goes the extra mile: "I try hard to provide meaningful activities and engagement. I spend time chatting to them, because it can be lonely with dementia. I like to make connections with patients."

Living with MS has made Gemma stronger: "With any illness, you're thrown in at the deep end, with no idea what's going on, when it will end, whether it will end, and unfortunately, I won't get better. But I've learned to live with it and deal with it. I want to share that with other people. I can't get better physically but I can mentally, and that's what is happening. I personally think I am powerful, and I have manifested that power."

She's now eyeing the next step: "I've been working more with the therapy team and recently applied to be a therapy assistant practitioner. It is a jump from Band 2 to 4, which is daunting, but why not? The world is my oyster; I have momentum and hopefully there are more opportunities to come."





## Trusts collaborate on racial and ethnic health inequalities

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals hosted the fourth and final collaborative celebration event focusing on racial and ethnic health inequalities in maternal, perinatal and neonatal health.

In February last year, 10 Trusts across eight ICBs came together to work with the NHS Race and Health Observatory (RHO) to address disparities for women from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds.

The 15 month programme aimed to combine Continuous Improvement with an anti-racism lens to drive clinical transformation.

MBRRACE (Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK) statistics on maternal mortality in the UK (2021-2023), released in January, highlighted key trends and areas of concern, particularly regarding mental health and disparities in outcome for different socioeconomic and ethnic groups.

They indicated that while maternal death rate showed a slight decrease compared to 2020-22, it remains higher than the 2018-20 period even when excluding COVID-19 deaths, and women from

Black ethnic backgrounds were two times more likely to die during pregnancy or shortly thereafter than white women.

Asian women and women from mixed ethnic backgrounds had a marginally higher risk than white women, while women living in the most deprived areas faced nearly double the maternal mortality rate of those in the least deprived areas.

Nandi Simpson: Director of Implementation at the NHS Race & Health Observatory, said: "Massive thanks to the Lancashire team for hosting this latest event, and for the incredible hospitality we received. Providing us with an opportunity to bring teams together and actually share learning has been really important.

"We heard this phrase a few times during the couple of days - sharing the best of the NHS with the rest of the NHS. That's really what we want to do, to use this Learning and Action Network as an exemplar that we can spread and share ideas from."

This work was established by the RHO alongside the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and supported by the Health Foundation.

## Zoe's donation drive

At Easter, one of our own nurses from the Neurosurgical team at Royal Preston Hospital led a heartfelt donation drive to give back to the departments that have supported her and her family during life's most difficult—and most joyful—moments.

Zoe Rufus, a staff nurse on Neurosurgery Ward 2c at RPH, collected Easter eggs, treats, and toiletries to share with both patients and staff across the Neurosurgical and Children's departments.

Zoe's connection to RPH is deeply personal: "This hospital has been there for us through so much. Four years ago, I lost my beloved granddad, Frank O'Donnell. He received really good care on Ward 2B.



"I was studying to be a nurse at King's College, London, and because the staff were so positive and good with us, I thought that I wanted to be part of that team. They made a real impression. When I qualified, I became a nurse on Neuro, and I've been there nearly four years now."

RPH is also where her son Presley, now two, was born – and where Zoe recently received compassionate support following a miscarriage.

"We've had incredible care from this hospital," she said. "That's why my partner Byron and I wanted to give something back."

# ★ Celebrating our colleagues



## Dr Jha is first in the UK to achieve prestigious European certification

Avinash Jha has become the first Intensive Care Unit Consultant in the United Kingdom to achieve the European Society of NeuroSonology and Cerebral Hemodynamics (ESNCH) certification. Dr Jha was awarded the internationally-recognised neurosonology certification in Budapest, Hungary, after passing a demanding two-part exam. This much-coveted qualification now formally recognises his ability to use ultrasound to examine the brain at the bedside, a skill previously limited mainly to neurologists.

"I'm proud to be the first ICU Consultant in the UK to achieve this, and I am looking forward to contributing to service delivery and enhance patient care in the ICU," Dr Jha said.

"I have spent over a decade using point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), which has largely been integrated into my critical care decision-making. My practice of ultrasound of the brain now has formal acknowledgement and a boost to credibility to provide care at a higher level for the evaluation and treatment of patients."

Dr Jha said he intends to use his expertise to expand the use of bedside brain ultrasound: "I am dedicated to enhancing the establishment of point-of-care neurosonology in critical care. I will do this by training, mentoring and developing services to ensure that critical care staff can learn to use brain ultrasound as a new and powerful non-invasive tool to improve neurological examination and outcome of the critically ill."

He also credited the support of his team: "This would not have been possible without the support from my colleagues, especially Dr Peter Frank (Consultant Critical Care) and Dr Sudhindra Kulkarni (Clinical Director and Consultant Critical Care). I want to thank them wholeheartedly."

🖱 Read more on our website please [click here](#)



## Layla is a Rising Star!

Layla Fowler has won the Hospital Caterers Association (HCA) Rising Star Award 2025!

Layla is the Interim Assistant Manager for Domestic Services working within the Facilities Management portfolio. The award reflects Layla's commitment and dedication to supporting the first ICB-wide collaborative Facilities Management vending tender. It is believed to be the largest NHS supply chain contract relating to all snacks, hot and cold drinks and 24-hour hot food vending machines.

She attended the HCA event at Rochdale Cricket Club in July, where she received the award: "I didn't know I'd even been nominated! Andrew Dunne (Trust Catering Services Manager) nominated me for all the work that I did with the vending tender, and with the mobilisation and the installation across all the sites. Ellen Clayton, Client Account Manager from NHS Supply Chain, supported the nomination."

Layla, from Chorley, added: "It's an unusual feeling, but obviously it's nice to be recognised. It just makes me want to do more now! It was really nice to get it; I wasn't expecting it."

The vending tender involved a lengthy and challenging process, before a contract, for an initial five years with the option for an extra two, was signed with supplier North West Vending (NWV). A total of 300 products were taste-tested, with sustainability, quality and value taken into account, as well as disability access, dietary requirements and social value.

The implementation of the contract has improved out of hours hot food access for staff, patients, and visitors, with 24-hour vending machines installed at Preston Business Centre, Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital.

🖱 Read more on our website please [click here](#)





## Gregg's pride as he receives his MBE from King Charles

Former Trust colleague Gregg Stevenson was at Buckingham Palace in June to receive his MBE from King Charles.

The former Royal Engineer Commando worked for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals' Specialist Mobility Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC) as lead physical training instructor and mental health practitioner, having been referred to SMRC after losing both his legs to an IED blast while on patrol in Helmand Province in 2009.

Gregg, from Foulridge, was appointed an MBE in the New Year Honours List, for services to rowing, after winning gold in the mixed double sculls at the 2024 Paris Paralympics alongside Lauren Rowles, who was also appointed an OBE.

And he said: "It's a moment that still hasn't quite sunk in. I'm incredibly proud of this honour – not just for what it represents personally, but for what it says about the power of sport to rehabilitate and transform lives.

"From injury and rebuilding, to standing on the podium, this journey has only been possible thanks to the people who believed in me when I struggled to believe myself.

"To the coaches, teammates, and support staff who stood beside me - and especially British Rowing and Lauren Rowles MBE for providing the foundations, opportunities, and belief to push beyond limits - thank you.

"Alongside rowing, I've been privileged to work with the Veterans Covenant Healthcare Alliance, NHS Veteran Aware, helping shape an NHS that understands and supports the Armed Forces community.

"And a special thank you to the teams at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Op RESTORE – for quite literally keeping me upright and moving forward!"

Read more on our website please [click here](#)



## Sharon's passion for making hockey more accessible

By day, Sharon Bolton is a skilled and dedicated Theatre Practitioner at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, serving as Team Leader in Gynaecology Theatres.

By night and at weekends, she's an award-winning hockey coach, nurturing the next generation of talent across Lancashire.

From Walton-le-Dale, Sharon has worked in the Trust since 2006, with her current role seeing her support colorectal, gynae-oncology and obstetric surgeries in the Sharoe Green Unit.

In 2023, she received a Highly Commended Coach of the Year award at the Active Lancashire Awards, presented by former England goalkeeper Rachel Brown-Finnis at Ewood Park.

Her commitment to inclusivity in sport was evident in her eight years as Head Junior Coach at Preston Hockey Club, where she dedicated countless volunteer hours to creating opportunities for children from all backgrounds to get involved in hockey.

In September last year she stepped back from that role to become Lancashire Girls' County Head Coach and Administrator.

One of her proudest achievements has been devising and launching the Red Rose Raiders Programme – a pioneering initiative aimed at supporting talented young athletes who narrowly missed out on county selection.

Now, Sharon has furthered her coaching career, having been added to Fylde Hockey Club's coaching team as Junior Development Coach, where she will be passing on her knowledge and expertise.

Read more on our website please [click here](#)

# ★ Celebrating our colleagues



## Rachel nominated in Soldiering On Awards

Occupational Therapist, Rachel Diss has been nominated for this year's 'Soldiering on Awards', which are part of the coveted Armed Forces Community Awards run in partnership with Barclays Bank.

Rachel has been selected as a finalist in the 'Defence Inclusivity' award category for the amazing work that she does on a voluntary basis at a national level to support young people within the Army Cadet Force (ACF).

She has played a vital role over the past 15 years transforming policies, practices and culture to bring about meaningful change that reflects the diverse communities that the ACF serves.

From launching inclusive strategies and regional forums, to delivering training and developing accessible resources, Rachel's work has led to a marked rise in engagement from underrepresented groups, empowering both cadets and volunteers to lead with confidence and pride.

All finalists were honoured at a special reception in July at the House of Lords hosted by Awards Patron, the Rt Hon Earl Howe GBE PC, and the winners will be revealed at a spectacular black-tie ceremony in October 2025 at London's Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel, where Jeremy Vine will host the awards.



## Celebrating 100 Years with the Help of the Frailty Team

When Wallace, a determined and lively gentleman, experienced two falls, he was taken to Royal Preston Hospital's Emergency Department. Though initial tests were reassuring, clinicians noted a postural drop in blood pressure, prompting a review by a Frailty Specialist Nurse.

A Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment led to therapy input and the provision of a wheeled Zimmer frame and caddy. Wallace had a clear goal - to be home in time for his 100th birthday party. "I'm not going to miss it!" he insisted.

Thanks to a swift, joined-up effort, Wallace was discharged the same day with support from the Virtual Frailty Ward. He was reviewed at home by Specialist Nurse Clare Easton, who helped with medication, hydration advice, and family liaison.

The Virtual Ward Occupational Therapist followed up with equipment and environmental adjustments to reduce fall risk.

On his birthday, Clare visited Wallace again and found him confident, supported, and deeply grateful. His son praised the team for delivering on their promise.

Special thanks go to all the professionals involved, including ED colleagues, Wendy Weaver (CNS), Akin Omotoso (OT), Holly Parkinson (TTAP), and Hayley Wellerd (OT), who made Wallace's wish a reality.



## Long service award for Memuna

In June, following on from National Volunteers' Week at the start of the month, Chief Executive Silas Nicholls met with a select group of our volunteers to talk about their roles around the Trust.

There was also a special commemoration as Memuna Chohan received her 30-year long-service certificate. Memuna is a volunteer on the information desk at Royal Preston Hospital. She gives patients and visitors help and assistance to find their way around the Trust.

Memuna volunteers with us during school holidays as she works at a local school during term time.



## Terry paves the way for Radiography Apprenticeships



A pioneering degree apprenticeship scheme has opened new doors for aspiring therapeutic radiographers, with Terry Laing leading the way as the first from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals to complete the programme in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University.

Terry took the opportunity to further his career through the therapeutic radiography apprenticeship, having initially studied as a distance learner with Sheffield Hallam. He earned an assistant practitioner post before gaining valuable experience with Macmillan. When his secondment ended, the apprenticeship provided the perfect chance to complete his degree while continuing to earn a salary.

Thanks to his previous experience, Terry entered as a second-year apprentice rather than starting from scratch. He recently became the first at the Trust to complete the programme.

The hands-on nature of the apprenticeship sets it apart. Unlike traditional university routes, apprentices spend more time working directly with patients and staff, gaining practical experience with the latest radiotherapy techniques.

Therapeutic radiographers play a vital role in cancer care, using ionising radiation to destroy tumours while preserving healthy tissue. Through the apprenticeship, Terry developed essential skills in advanced radiotherapy, including surface-guided treatments and imaging techniques.

The apprenticeship model also supports recruitment into a profession facing a national workforce shortage. It appeals to people with life experience who are looking for a career change and a way to make a difference.

Terry also used the programme as a platform to improve services. His research project during the apprenticeship focused on bladder cancer treatment and identified a gap in provision at the Trust. With backing from the education team, oncologists, and advanced radiographers, Terry led a cost analysis and secured funding from the Rosemere Cancer Foundation to bring the treatment to patients.

Read more on our website please [click here](#)

## Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire thanks staff after life-altering fall



Ward 16 staff at Royal Preston Hospital had a VIP visit, as Charles Hadcock, Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire, showed his appreciation for the care he received after experiencing a life-altering fall.

The Deputy Lieutenant was rushed to Royal Preston Hospital in October last year, where he spent 18 days on the trauma ward after breaking his tibia, fibula and ankle. His injuries required complex surgery, lasting four and a half hours and resulting in extensive metalwork in his leg.

After the visit, which also saw him meet the Trust chaplaincy and Professor Mike Thomas, Chair of the Trust Board, the Deputy Lieutenant said: "The love and kindness that you get from the nurses and from all the staff, including those that make the tea and the biscuits – and I had numerous biscuits! – it just was superb. Then the volunteers would come and help as well. You are all there being cared for magnificently by everybody."

As if the ordeal with his leg wasn't challenging enough, he later required another procedure. "In the meantime, I've also been to Chorley and South Ribble District Hospital – I had my gallbladder removed. They did a really good job, I was in and out."

Throughout his hospital stay, the Deputy Lieutenant's faith provided strength at a difficult time: "I was very moved because Reverend Martin (McDonald), the lead chaplain, came to visit me and anointed me with the Sacrament of the Sick. I'm a Christian and that was really important. The chaplaincy is really lovely; that can give people a lot of strength at a time when they need it."

Read more on our website please [click here](#)





# GOVERNORS' UPDATE

## Appointed Governors



**Michelle Brown**  
Appointed Governor



**Lou Jackson**  
Appointed Governor



**Suleman Sarwar**  
Appointed Governor

## Public Governors



**Pav Akhtar**  
Public Governor



**Takhsin Akhtar**  
Public Governor



**George Bailey**  
Public Governor



**Sheila Brennan**  
Public Governor



**Darrell Brooks**  
Public Governor



**Paul Brooks**  
Public Governor



**Phil Curwen**  
Public Governor



**Margaret France**  
Public Governor



**Graham Fullarton**  
Public Governor



**Angela Kos**  
Public Governor



**Janet Miller**  
Public Governor



**Carole Oldcorn**  
Public Governor



**Enid Povey**  
Public Governor



**Graham Robinson**  
Public Governor



**Frank Robinson**  
Public Governor



**Tim Young**  
Public Governor

## Staff Governors



**Sonia Connell**  
Staff Governor



**Chooi Oh**  
Staff Governor



**Tom Ramsay**  
Staff Governor

## Being a Governor

Governors are elected by Trust members, both public and staff, or are nominated by some of our partner organisations. Elections to the Council of Governors take place at the beginning of each year, and governors generally serve a three-year term of office, beginning in April.

Governors are the direct representatives of local communities; they challenge the Board of Directors and hold the Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the board. Governors also represent the interests of NHS Foundation Trust members

and the public and provide them with information on the Trust's performance and forward plan.

The Council of Governors holds four meetings each year which are open to the public. The agenda papers are published in advance and are available on the website for the current year and the previous year. Regular workshops are arranged to support Governors to keep up to date with developments in the NHS, the healthcare needs of the local community, and our strategy and performance.

Elections are generally held in March each year, if you would like to consider standing for election, please email [corporateaffairs@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:corporateaffairs@lthtr.nhs.uk)



## New members of Council of Governors welcomed to the Trust

The Trust welcomed the new and re-elected members of its Council of Governors in April, following their success as candidates in the Council elections.

The governors come from a wide range of backgrounds and experience and were all excited by the challenge and opportunity becoming a governor presents.

The report of voting in the Governors Election is available on the Trust website [here](#)

The governors elected were: Public (in order of election) - Takhsin Akhtar (re-elected); Enid Povey; Sheila Brennan (re-elected); Darrell Brooks; Paul Brooks; George William Bailey; Carole Oldcorn; Tim Young; Staff: Nurses and Midwives - Sonia Connell.

### New and re-elected Public Governors



Takhsin Akhtar



Enid Povey



Sheila Brennan



Darrell Brooks



Paul Brooks



George Bailey



Carole Oldcorn

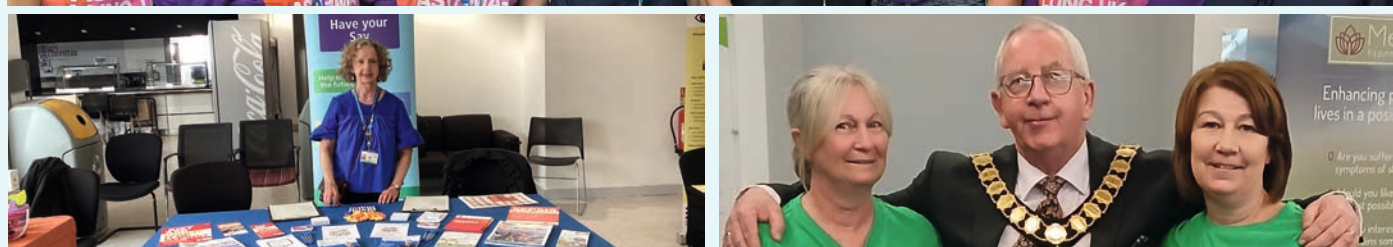


Tim Young

### Newly elected Staff Governor



Sonia Connell



## Trust well-represented at Preston Health Mela

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals was well represented at the National Forum for Health and Wellbeing's 24th annual Health Mela at the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) Foster Building in Preston.

The Health Mela had approximately 60 health related stalls from the NHS, voluntary and charitable organisations – including the LTH Research Team, LTH Neuroscience Research Team, Immunology, Smokefree team, LTH Governors and the Macmillan Cancer Information Centre.

Blood tests were carried out by members of the Blood Drop team from the Trust, under the leadership of Dr Martin Myers, Bank

Biomedical Scientist Shahid Kaleem and Penny Hemingway. Professor Satyan Rajbhandari, Consultant Physician, led the entire team.

Emmy Walmsley, senior engagement lead from Healthwatch Lancashire, and Denise Wilkinson, chair of Visual Impairment (VI) Forum, were also present.

Nearly 1,700 visitors took advantage of the information, advice and opportunity to seek further information so that they could take control of their health.



### Save the date

**Thursday 25th September, 2pm-4pm.**

**Sir Tom Finney Room, the County Ground, Lancashire FA, Thurston Road, Leyland, PR25 2LF.**

Please [click here](#) for more information



**Lancashire  
Teaching  
Hospitals  
Charity**

Supporting world class treatment,  
research and outstanding care



## Ella makes waves in tribute to dad

Clitheroe farmer's daughter Ella Mason (25) braved choppy conditions to swim two miles of Lake Windermere in the Great North Swim, raising £1,350 for the Royal Preston Hospital's Critical Care Unit in tribute to her dad William Mason.

Ella, a novice open water swimmer, took on the challenge to thank the unit's staff for going "above and beyond" in the care they gave to William, who not only farmed but taught sheep shearing throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire. Sadly, despite the treatment he received, William passed away in February aged 61 after contracting a Staph (Staphylococcus) infection.

Ella, who now helps run the family farm with mum Fiona and brother Matthew, said: "Dad was never ill. He was physically strong but he came down with what we thought was flu. Dad was never one for doctors but mum took him to the Urgent Care Centre in Burnley, and

he was taken by ambulance to the Royal Blackburn Hospital and then on to the Critical Care Unit in Preston.

"By this time, the infection had spread all way down his spine but staff on the Critical Care Unit took on a very complicated surgery to remove a spinal abscess after which dad was put in an induced coma. We were never given any guarantees but dad was so strong, he came round. He got to see Matthew, who had been working in Australia but immediately flew home when told dad was ill. Dad received the most exceptional care from all the staff, who went above and beyond. They also cared for us as a family."

Ella added: "The swim was tougher than I thought it would be because it was very windy and the waves were huge. I lost my cap and goggles in the first quarter mile, which knocked my confidence, but I made it. I'm very grateful to everyone who sponsored me."

## Burns patients get new micro-needling service



Burns patients being treated at the Royal Preston Hospital are now benefiting from a new micro-needling service, introduced to help heal scarring, after Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity spent £3,206 from its funds on a state-of-the-art Dermapen.

The Dermapen is fitted with ultra-fine sharp needles. The needles penetrate the skin to cause micro-injuries, which encourage the body to produce more collagen and elastin. When used on scarring, micro-needling can help to improve the texture and pliability of the scar,

making it look smoother, feel less tight and in some cases, helping to return skin pigment.

Lucy Clark, a fundraiser for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity, explained: "Micro-needling is something people may know as an aesthetic treatment offered by some private cosmetic clinics for skin rejuvenation, but it has a medical use as a scar treatment.

"Staff working on the Burns Unit have been keen to introduce micro-needling for some time but the equipment needed – the Dermapen – does not fall within the NHS' funding remit, which is why we have had to buy one through charitable funds."

Lucy added: "Having the Dermapen will make such a positive difference to many burns patients' lives. Prior to its arrival, these patients – at least 120 a year – would have had to rely on just pressure garment therapy or they would have had to self-fund private micro-needling treatment. As anyone who has considered micro-needling as a beauty therapy will know, it is very expensive to the point of being beyond the affordability of many people."

Among those to welcome the launch of the micro-needling service was former Burns Unit patient John Holmes and his wife Christine (pictured).

John, of St Michaels on Wyre, donated £36,302.42 to the Burns Unit last October after completing a two-day sponsored walk from Silverdale to Garstang in May 2024 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Abbeystead Disaster, which claimed the lives of 16 people and left him and many others with serious burns.



## Garden blossoms under collaboration's care



A collaboration of construction industry contractors handed over a beautiful new garden specially created from land adjoining the Lancashire SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) Centre at the Royal Preston Hospital for the benefit of the centre's staff and visitors.

Since April, teams from Conlon Construction, City Build, Equans UK, Ashlea Landscapes, Morgan Sindall Construction, Tilbury Douglas, C&W Berry, The Casey Group, F Parkinson, Russell WBHO and JH Mayor and Sons have been working together to clear the plot, landscape it, introduce a planting scheme with flowers and plants worth £500 donated by Johnson's of Whitley, add seating and erect fencing to make the garden private.

Had the teams billed for their time and materials, the project would have cost at least £10,780 but instead, they made it a gift via Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity.

Neil Conlon, of Conlon Construction, who co-ordinated the work, said: "The transformation of the SAFE Centre garden is a powerful example of what can be achieved through genuine collaboration.

"Contractors from across the North West Construction Hub came together with a shared commitment to create a space that offers calm, dignity and comfort. It's been a privilege to be part of a project that will have such a lasting and positive impact on the people who use and work at the centre."

Rebecca Arestidou, who is the charity team's trust, grant, fundraising impact & project officer, said: "Our thanks to Neil and the hub for such a wonderful example of teamwork. The garden is really beautiful. I'm sure it will help to restore a faith in humankind among the men, women and children from throughout Lancashire, who are referred to the SAFE centre.

"Referrals are generally made by the police following reports of a sexual assault. People are in trauma. Members of the centre's staff have to share in that trauma so the garden is a space for the healing powers of nature to do their work."

Members of the North West Construction Hub, which have created the SAFE Centre's new garden, including Conlon Construction, City Build, Equans UK, Ashlea Landscapes, Morgan Sindall Construction, Tilbury Douglas, C&W Berry, The Casey Group, F Parkinson and Russell WBHO, are pictured with staff above.

## Staff put dialysis patients in the picture

Staff working on the renal unit at the Royal Preston Hospital raised funds for the Trust's charity team to buy 28 brand new Smart TVs for patients undergoing kidney dialysis.

Patients in dialysis often have to attend the unit multiple times per week for treatment with each session lasting up to four hours. Watching television gives them something to do while there to help pass the time.

The new TVs are a mix of 28 and 24-inch screen Panasonic, Toshiba, Sharp and LG models, which including installation to NHS guidelines plus new and extensive cabling came to £17,792.78 for the price of the project.

Unit Sister Hannah Casey, who fundraised for the charity team, said: "Most of the patient TVs we had on the unit were redundant in that they didn't work.

"We received complaints from patients as being able to watch TV while undergoing dialysis is a distraction and can help time go faster. Having the new TVs is good for patient well-being and improves their overall treatment experience."

Unit staff contributed almost £6,000 to the cost of the project by organising a sponsored walk back in 2023. They walked the 11 miles between Chorley and South Ribble Hospital and the Royal Preston Hospital.





Supporting Babies & Mothers  
across Lancashire & South Cumbria



## Garden of hope for maternity unit

Work has started to create a garden of hope at the Royal Preston Hospital's Sharoe Green Maternity Unit for families affected by baby loss.

Staff from construction company Tilbury Douglas turned volunteer to help supporters of mums and babies charity Baby Beat, which devised the garden of hope plan to uproot overgrown shrubs from an internal courtyard at the maternity unit.

Once the land has been totally cleared, it will be transformed by the installation of seating, flower-filled planters and soft lighting paid for by a £10,000 donation from members of Leyland Round Table.

The donation will also be used to purchase a bespoke, handcrafted stainless steel sculpture of a tree from Lancashire artists collective Forjd. The tree has been commissioned especially for the project.

## Careers advisor Rachel's perfect job for brother-in-law

Garstang careers advisor Rachel Ireland found the perfect job for her brother-in-law Carlo Matichecchia – running partner in the Liverpool Half Marathon.

Rachel, who works at Lancaster University and Carlo, who is an electrician for local company Collinson's, ran together to cross the line in their two hour target time, raising more than £1,800 for charity Baby Beat.

The duo chose to run for Baby Beat to give back for the support given to Rachel's sister and Carlo's sister-in-law Kathryn and her partner Adam Briggs, whose daughter Mia, now a healthy and happy six-year-old, arrived



prematurely at 29 weeks weighing just over a tiny 3lbs.

Rachel said: "Mia spent three long months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Preston Hospital after she was born. She was cared for by its wonderful doctors and nurses and without this care, she wouldn't be with us today. We wanted to raise some money to say thank you for everything they did!"

Mia travelled to Liverpool from her Garstang home to cheer Rachel and Carlo to the finish. With Mia were her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins Aria, Eva, Oscar and Ella.

## Baby Beat nominated to receive grant

Baby Beat received a grant of £25,000 from the Eric Wright Charitable Trust after being chosen by the Construction division of the Eric Wright Group Limited as their charity of the year.

The company's employees were asked to nominate causes to receive charity of the year status. Baby Beat was nominated by an Eric Wright Construction After Care Operative, Stuart Haigh.

Stuart and his wife Jade's now thriving five-year-old daughter Stella was born at only 22 weeks and so spent her first months of life in the unit's NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), which is also Lancashire and South Cumbria's regional specialist NICU, providing care for the most premature and poorly babies and their families from across both counties, and which is supported by Baby Beat.





## Firewalk sparks over £10,000 for local Hospital charities

Supporters of the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity family took turns to brave a fire walk over steaming red hot coals, raising more than £10,000 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation, Baby Beat and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity.

Among staff to take part were Chief Medical Officer Dr Gerry Skailles, Dan Hill, the trust's head of charities, and Joanna Allitt, fundraising manager for both Baby Beat and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity. Also among the supporters was Graham Liver, host of BBC Radio Lancashire's flagship breakfast show.

Sue Swire, fundraising manager for Rosemere Cancer Foundation, who organised the event, which was sponsored by insurance brokers JM Glendinning (Lancashire), said: "Our first fire walk captured the imagination of enough people keen to test their mental resilience by taking on the challenge.

"Thank you to each and every one of them for being brave enough to give it a go and for their support of their fellow fire walkers. There was a great atmosphere of camaraderie. Thank you too to our event sponsor, JM Glendinning (Lancashire)."



## Eid dinner is fundraising feast for Rosemere



A dinner evening at Preston's Imperial Banqueting Suite to celebrate Eid raised more than £7,000 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation.

Among 140 guests were the Chief Executive of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Silas Nicholls, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Nursing Officer Sarah Morrison, Chief Strategy and Improvement Officer Dr Ailsa Brotherton and Head of Trust Charities Dan Hill.

They attended at the invitation of the dinner's founder and host, the Royal Preston Hospital's world-renowned consultant chest physician and interventional pulmonologist Professor Mohammed Munavvar.

Professor Munavvar's now annual Eid celebration for Rosemere Cancer Foundation acknowledges the charity's support and funding for a number of his groundbreaking projects. These have enabled the Royal Preston Hospital to repeatedly be among the very first in the UK to secure the latest in early lung cancer detection technology.

During the event, Professor Munavvar was presented with a cheque for £2,500 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation by representatives of the Roccia Foundation. The foundation is the charitable arm of tile, bathroom and kitchen design company Roccia, which has a showroom in Queen Street, Preston.

It was added to dinner ticket sales, pledges and an auction, boosted by fees from stall holders selling artwork, crafts, clothing and sweets, to give the overall total raised.

Dan Hill, who is also chief officer of Rosemere Cancer Foundation, said: "As always, Professor Munavvar's dinner was a great event. Not only was it a lovely way to spend the evening, it was also hugely successful in helping us raise funds to continue our work, the main aim of which is to ensure local cancer patients have access to the very latest diagnostic and treatment technologies.

"We are very grateful to Professor Munavvar for championing us, to everyone who helped him organise the dinner, including Kulsoom, who co-ordinated the stalls, to everyone who attended and to the Roccia Foundation for its fantastic support."





# ♥ Our Charities (Rosemere continued)

## Wet and wild conditions can't stop 300 Cross Bay walkers

Thank you to everyone who joined the charity team's annual Cross Bay Walk!

It was a rather wet and wild walk across Morecambe Bay this year, but we were still delighted to see around 300 people taking to the sands with us!

Our walkers (which included Chief Nursing Officer Sarah Morrison, Director of Communication & Engagement Naomi Duggan and former Trust Chief Executive Karen Partington) took part in the iconic challenge from Arnside to Grange in support of either Rosemere Cancer Foundation, Baby Beat, or Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity. Collectively across all three causes, the walk has raised over £11,000 through entry fees, donations and sponsorship, and there's more to come in – a fantastic amount that we know will help to make a real difference for patients by supporting life-changing, innovative charitable projects across the Trust.



## Walk in the Dark is huge success

The Rosemere Cancer Foundation charity team would like to give a huge thank you to all of our Trust colleagues who joined or supported us for our Walk in the Dark in April – thanks to your efforts, we're delighted to let you know that the event has raised approximately £60,000 at the time of writing!

The annual walk from Chorley and South Ribble Hospital to Royal Preston Hospital saw well over 500 people taking part, including a fantastic number of staff members from across the Trust. Thank you to all of you who completed the night-time challenge with us and thank you too to those



of you who helped in other ways to make the walk the success that it was.

We really couldn't hold such an event without the logistical support of our fantastic catering, estates, car parking and security colleagues, and of course the others who volunteered on the night, at the start to help with registration, and at the end to hand out medals or to organise the ever-popular on-the-night bake sale! We hugely appreciate all of you giving up your time to support Rosemere – this incredible total raised will help to make a real difference for cancer patients cared for here at the Trust, and across the region.

## Breast cancer patients made more comfortable

Breast cancer patients at the Royal Preston Hospital, who undergo a type of breast reconstruction surgery known as DIEP (Deep Inferior Epigastric Perforator) surgery, should now find their recovery a little more comfortable thanks to charitable donations.

We have spent £2,250 of our charitable funds on a motorised recliner chair for Ward 4, where the 12 or so patients a month, who undergo DIEP surgery, are looked after.

DIEP surgery, which can be performed at the same time as a mastectomy or as a later separate operation, involves surgeons reconstructing the breast using a flap of tissue (skin, fat, blood vessels and sometimes, nerves) taken from the patient's lower tummy rather than with an implant.







## Government review of the national New Hospital Programme

On Monday 20 January 2025, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting made a statement on the outcome of the Government's review into the national New Hospital Programme.

The review, which was announced in July 2024, was designed to ensure that the New Hospital Programme could be delivered in a realistic and costed manner.

The outcome of the review shows an ongoing commitment to delivering two brand-new hospitals on two new sites to replace Royal Preston Hospital (Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) and Royal Lancaster Infirmary (University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust), which will create better outcomes for patients and staff across Lancashire and South Cumbria. However, as referred to by Mr Streeting, the timescales for delivering these two hospitals are now delayed, with construction expected to begin between 2035 and 2039.

Under a revised delivery timetable published on 20 January 2025, construction work on a replacement Royal Lancaster Infirmary is expected to start between 2035 and 2038; and construction work on a replacement Royal Preston Hospital is expected to start between 2037 and 2039.

Work on the two Lancashire and South Cumbria New Hospital Programme schemes continued whilst the review had taken place. In December 2024, proposed sites were announced for the two brand new hospitals, with the land acquisition process supported by the national New Hospital Programme. Earlier in January, a comprehensive series of public and colleague engagement events and a survey were announced to gather feedback and insights on the proposed sites.

In light of the significant delay to the timeframes in which the new hospitals are expected to be built, the local NHS made the difficult decision to suspend public engagement on the proposed sites.

The planned programme of public events and independent market research is therefore cancelled until further notice.

Professor Silas Nicholls, Chief Executive of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"Although people will be understandably disappointed about the delayed plans for a new Royal Preston Hospital, we welcome the government's commitment to delivering the hospital albeit over a more sustainable timeframe. We will continue to work closely with all our partners and stakeholders to ensure that the need for new facilities remains high on everybody's agenda so that our communities can continue to access high quality and specialist care in an environment that truly suits their needs."

Aaron Cummins, Chief Executive of University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, said:

"Any delay to the delivery of a replacement new hospital for the Royal Lancaster Infirmary is disappointing, but we accept the need for a fully costed and deliverable timeline of investment through the New Hospital Programme. Whilst this may not be the news local communities wanted, we hope that the outcome brings some certainty that patients and NHS colleagues will get the new hospital that they deserve. Getting feedback from patients, NHS staff and the public will be just as important in that process, and we will be asking for everyone's views on our proposals again at an appropriate time."

New hospitals are just part of the picture for health services. The NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria will continue to deliver improvements in health and care across the region, including how we work together with hospitals, community and primary care, and local authorities to reconfigure our services so that they deliver the best possible outcomes for our population.

Further updates will be shared in due course.

## Dates for your diary 2025/6

The Corporate Calendar can be viewed on our website  
[lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/corporate-calendar](http://lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/corporate-calendar)

### Annual Members' Meeting

Thursday 25th September 2025	2pm – 4pm	Sir Tom Finney Room, The County Ground, Lancashire FA, Thurston Road, Leyland. PR25 2LF
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### Board of Directors' Meetings

Thursday 2 October 2025	9:15am – 3pm	Lecture Room 1, Education Centre 1, Royal Preston Hospital
Thursday 4 December 2025	9:15am – 3pm	Lecture Room 1, Education Centre 1, Royal Preston Hospital
Wednesday 5 February 2026	9:15am – 3pm	Lecture Room 1, Education Centre 1, Royal Preston Hospital

### Council of Governors' Meetings

Thursday 30 October 2025	1pm–4pm	Lecture Room 1, Education Centre 1, Royal Preston Hospital
Tuesday 20 January 2026	1pm–4pm	Lecture Room 1, Education Centre 1, Royal Preston Hospital

Members are welcome to come along to the public section of both the Council of Governors and Board of Directors meetings to observe and listen to the Governors and Board Members discussing Trust business.

Council of Governors' meetings are held four times per year and any member of staff or the public are welcome to attend. Please note that meeting dates may occasionally be subject to change.

Please email [company.secretary@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:company.secretary@lthtr.nhs.uk) if you would like to observe any of the meetings.

All public events are advertised on our website: [www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

To view **TRUST Matters** online go to: [www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/trust-matters](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/trust-matters)



## Save the date

### Annual Members' Meeting Thursday 25th September, 2pm-4pm.

Sir Tom Finney Room, the County Ground,  
Lancashire FA, Thurston Road, Leyland, PR25 2LF.  
Please [click here](#) for more information

Trust Matters is available in different versions including audio. If you require this magazine in a different format, please contact the Membership Office.

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