

GP BRIEF

Newsletter for GPs and Practice Managers in Cumbria • Issue 13 • August /Sept 2010

Tell us what you think

We are currently redeveloping our Trust website and would love your input. The new site will have a wealth of information on everything from a full directory of our services to how to find your way around our hospitals. Crucially, there will be a dedicated section for GPs, which is where we need your input.

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DIRECTORY

All our consultants, secretaries and contacts – updated each month

We are keen to make the new website an invaluable tool for GPs, practice managers and associated staff. We have drawn up a list of areas which we think would be useful. These include:

- Information about and links to the Choose and Book system
- Useful figures from our Quality Account, including infection rates, readmission rates and standardised mortality rates
- Information on using Open Access
- Details of waiting times at our hospitals
- How to access our services, with all the telephone and fax numbers you might need for referrals
- Referral forms to download and print out
- The latest information on improvements to our services and new developments
- Key contacts in our Trust, from the Board to the wards
- Links to the current and previous issues of this newsletter
- Information on PALS and patient transport

These are the ideas we have come up with but the website is for you and we really want to make sure it meets your needs and is well used. Please email natalie.rutherford@ncuh.nhs.uk and tell us the three features (or more if you have lots of ideas) you would find most useful on our website.

CLINICAL LEAD FOR ORGAN DONATION APPOINTED



Dr Colin Rodgers

The Trust has appointed a Clinical Lead for Organ Donation to increase the number of donors in the area.

Dr Colin Rodgers, Consultant Anaesthetist at the Cumberland Infirmary, will work alongside Trisha Rose, who was appointed Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation for the Trust last year.

The new roles are part of a national drive by the Organ Donation Taskforce which was set up by the Government to identify obstacles to organ donation and provide solutions to increase UK transplantation.

The Trust is setting up an Organ Donation Committee, with representatives from all the clinical areas involved in organ donation, which will be committed to full consultation on, and approval of, a Trust-wide donation policy. Dr Rodgers will give progress reports back to the Trust, through the committee.

The UK has one of the worst organ donation rates in the developed world with just 13 donors per million population.

Dr Rodgers said: “We want to increase awareness of organ donation, so it is seen as the default position, and try to increase the rate of referral.

“Everybody could be a potential donor, so we would like it to be routine, rather than exceptional. The aim nationally is to increase organ donation by 50% in the next five years.”

CUTTING CARBON EMISSIONS

The Trust has been accepted on the Carbon Trust’s Carbon Management Scheme – a 10-month programme aimed at developing a strategy to embed carbon emissions reduction into the day-to-day operations of the Trust.



A Carbon Management Group, made up of 14 members of staff including an executive director and a non executive director, has been formed to be the driver of the scheme, with the full support of the Chief Executive. It met for the first time last week, and will meet once every six weeks from now on.

The programme gives us access to specialist consultation, totally free of any charge.

The UK has committed to an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2050 and a 34% reduction by 2020. The public sector is a major source of emissions so the NHS needs to play its part. Our Trust currently generates about 15,000 tonnes of carbon in our daily activity, not counting carbon related to travel etc.

WEST CUMBERLAND HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

There was unfortunately some disappointing news on the funding front in July with confirmation that, following the recent announcement of the abolition of regional development agencies, the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) will no longer be providing £10 million towards the redevelopment.

We are currently trying to identify other potential sources of funding to make up the shortfall, but we are also working with clinicians in the hospital and primary care to look at options which would allow the development to proceed without the additional funding if we are not successful.



An aerial photo showing the demolition which had taken place at West Cumberland Hospital by July 2010

The demolition of Buttermere, Crummock and Windermere wards (P and B blocks) is now complete. The contractor cabins and site set-up are now complete on the top field, which has allowed the demolition of block W2 (the former estates workshops and linen room).

The 1:50 scale plans of the new hospital are due to be signed off by the user leads in mid-August. A3 folders containing the plans have been sent out to every department, including departmental and individual room layouts and the technical data associated with each room.

BREAST SCREENING

Following the suspension of our breast screening service, the independent review of 1,570 patient care records is progressing well with the help and support of other screening centres.

As the reviews are completed, women who would benefit from a further assessment are being contacted and clinics being organised. Women who do not need to be recalled are also being contacted.

The review relates only to those women who were called back for further assessment following their routine screening from 1 April 2007. The Trust continues to work with NHS Cumbria to manage the incident.

NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Simon Rames, Consultant Surgeon, is stepping down as the Trust's Executive Medical Director to dedicate more of his time to surgery.

Mike Walker, Consultant Surgeon, has been appointed in his place from September, and Mr Rames will support him in this role as one of the two Deputy Medical Directors.

Chief Executive Carole Heatly said: "Simon has worked tirelessly over the last few years in helping to turn the Trust around into the high performing organisation it is today. He has built a strong clinical governance department as well as providing high profile leadership and direction for the development of all clinical services.

A graphic featuring a spotlight beam shining down on the word "Spotlight" in a stylized, white, serif font against a dark blue background with a starry pattern.

WET AGE RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (wet AMD)

Hundreds of patients will benefit from a new treatment introduced at both the Cumberland Infirmary and West Cumberland Hospital which could save their sight.

The Trust is delighted to announce it is now able to treat wet age related macular degeneration (wet AMD) at both hospitals. AMD is the leading cause of sight loss and severe visual impairment in older people in the UK but until now sufferers in north Cumbria have had to travel to Newcastle for treatment.

Around 150 new patients a year are expected to be treated in north Cumbria as a result of the introduction of this service.



Dry AMD is untreatable but wet AMD can be treated with intra-vitreous injections. It is vital for successful treatment of wet AMD that patients are referred as soon as possible.

Gerard Ainsworth, Eye Surgeon and Clinical Director for Ophthalmology, said: "This is really excellent news for older people in north Cumbria. It is very important to catch wet AMD as early as possible to prevent further sight loss so we are delighted to be able to offer this treatment now, both in Carlisle and Whitehaven. Even in untreatable cases we will be able to offer help and support."

The repatriation of wet AMD treatment is part of a new model of care for ophthalmology services, intended to modernise and develop existing services at both hospitals.

This new model, introduced earlier this year, means that surgery, including cataract operations, and outpatient services continue to be carried out across both hospital sites, with more complex work being undertaken at the Cumberland Infirmary. It has brought together the two consultant teams to give greater alignment and consistency of patient pathways whilst allowing for improved training and supervision within a single clinical team.

Earlier this year Mr Ainsworth and Ed Tallis, Divisional General Manager for Surgical Services, were shortlisted for a prestigious award for their work to reconfigure ophthalmology services in the Trust. They were runners-up in the 'Leaders Tackling Inequality' category at the NHS North West Leadership Awards in May.

Who's Who and How to Make Contact

West Cumberland Hospital – For those numbers without direct dial, please call 01946 693181 and ask for the extension number

| DEPARTMENT | CONSULTANT | SECRETARY | EXT |
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| A & E | Mr Mike Greene Mr Charles Brett Ms Claire Summers | BRANTHWAITE Carol | Ext 4270 |
| Elderly Care | Dr Nicholas Russell | MCALEAVY Judith | (01946) 523902 |
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| | Dr Ahmed Zeidan Dr Arnold Gotsman | WALKER Linda | (01946) 523085 |
| Cardiology | Dr Kate Willmer | LAMB Suzanne/JOHNSEN Linda | (01946) 523016 (01946) 523005 |
| Respiratory | | CONNOR Mary-Rose | (01946) 523007 |
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| Surgical | Mr Amro Salem (Locum) | ELLIOT Carol | (01946) 523042 |
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Cumberland Infirmary Contact Numbers

| DEPARTMENT | CONSULTANT | SECRETARY | EXT |
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| A&E | Mr Vincent Foxworthy | BRENNAN Lesley/MELDRUM Jackie | (01228) 814401 |
| Anaesthetics | Dr Adrian Shanks/Dr Yoav Tzabar Dr Mark Tidmarsh/Dr Jon Sturman Dr Ewa Jankowska/Dr David McColl Dr Julian Harrison/Dr Dylan Jones Dr A Linsley/Dr Martin Payne Dr Colin Rodgers/Dr M White Dr Peter Stride/Dr Mark Tidmarsh Dr S Kennedy/Dr Simon Jones Dr Chris Flucker/Dr Jenny Fraser Dr Gail Fitzsimmons/Dr Ruth O'Dowd Dr Jon Sturman | WILTON Janette/BUSBY Helen | (01228) 814312 |
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| Dermatology | Dr Marinela Nik Dr Khurshi Bazmi | HALLIBURTON Ann/CAMPBELL Marie | (01228) 814150 |
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| | Dr Hilary Sawers | BOUCH Wendy | (01228) 814140 |
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| | | SHECKLEY Marie | (01228) 814033 |
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| | Miss Carol Brignall | PESCOD Alison | (01228) 814756 |
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| | Dr Mark Boxall | LYNN Gillian | (01228) 814782 |

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