

August 2020

# ambassador

Public and Staff Membership Magazine

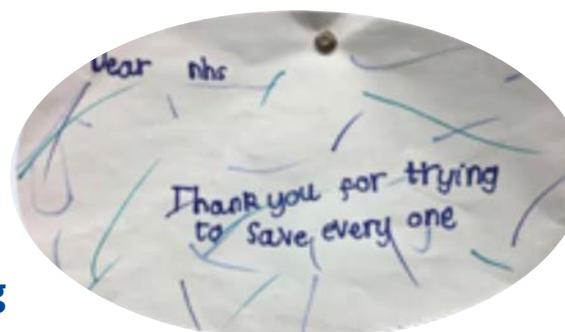
**Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable  
University Hospital merged on  
1st April 2020. We are now called...**

**Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**



## Inside this issue

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# welcome to ambassador

*Ambassador* is our way of communicating with you, our hospital members. We want to ensure that we keep you up to date with developments at the Trust and how you can get involved. We now have more than 25,000 members and we are keen for as many of you as possible to play an active role in shaping how the organisation is managed and developed for the future.

*Dear Member,*



Welcome to our Ambassador magazine.

I must first of all take this opportunity to welcome aboard our members and newly appointed governors in the Bedford constituency following the merger of the Luton & Dunstable and Bedford Hospitals. This partnership will open numerous new doors for service improvement.

As governors of our hospital we are committed to keeping members informed of developments and we hope this issue of our Ambassador will do just that – given that over the past few months so much has been happening. Major work in connection with our redevelopment programme has commenced and will continue for some time to come; the merger between our 2 hospitals that took place in April, and all in the midst of a health crisis that engulfed the world, Covid19! The speed and scale at which the pandemic spread was of true concern, and you can read on pages 4, 6 and 7 of this issue just how we coped, not only at L&D but at Bedford Hospital too.

All our staff, as always, rose to the challenge and worked around the clock to keep our patients safe. Hats off to them all! Words alone cannot express how grateful we are.

The impact of the Covid19 pandemic hit our fundraising hard too. All planned events were cancelled and there was little opportunity for alternatives. We are hoping that once we have all adjusted to our 'new normal' other opportunities will present themselves and we will be delighted to get out into the community again to promote our projects.

I do hope you enjoy reading our magazine.

My best wishes to you all!

**Pam Brown**

*Public Governor and Chair of the Membership & Communications Sub Committee*

*If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Ambassador in the future please send your email address to FTmembership@ldh.nhs.uk*

## Contact us

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We hope you enjoy our Membership Magazine. If we have your **name or address incorrect** or the person to whom we have sent this magazine **no longer lives** at the address mentioned in the address label please let us know by contacting us on the number given at the bottom of this page. If you have already informed the hospital of any changes but we have not updated our *Membership* database please accept our apologies – this is because our Membership database is not linked to the *Patient* database.

## Join our Patient Participation group!

Are you keen to help us shape services and keep us informed on what is important to you as a user of the Trust (either at Bedford Hospital or the L&D Hospital)? We are setting up Patient Participation groups and are looking for members to join the meetings. If you are interested and want to know more please email [patientexperience@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperience@ldh.nhs.uk)

# Chair's Message

Dear Members,



Just in the middle of lockdown, on 1st April 2020, L&D University Hospital has locked together with Bedford Hospital to become one Foundation Trust, the Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS

Foundation Trust. So, to be clear, we are one Trust operating two hospitals, the L&D University Hospital and Bedford Hospital. We, the Board, are equally responsible for both and while we have added a new constituency from which to appoint public Governors from Bedford Borough, once appointed a Governor is responsible for overseeing the totality of the two-site Trust. Similarly, you, a Member, are a Member of the single Trust encompassing the two hospitals.

This has required all of us to think differently accepting not just our new responsibilities but also the language of the new arrangements – one Trust, two hospitals. Sometimes the language can trip us up but I assure you that the single Board and whole Trust has made an immediate transition to considering both sites equally. Covid has, to a degree, helped this and provides an easy example as to the benefits – when Bedford, the town had an increase in the infection rate, L&D shipped additional new sophisticated (Samba II) analysers up to Bedford Hospital to ensure that all asymptomatic patients would have results of their Covid test within 90 minutes of arrival. This significantly reduced the risk of admitting patients into the wrong type of ward and was remarked upon positively in the PHE review of the Bedford outbreak.

In a similar vein, pathology services were previously provided in-house at L&D and by a private provider at Bedford. We have now integrated our services to provide a single NHS Pathology Service across the two sites using hub and spoke models, relevant for each pathology discipline and linked to clinical need and patient pathways. As we all appreciate from the commentary surrounding

the pandemic, knowing quickly the diagnosis of any condition is essential if we are to battle a pandemic, or indeed, if you are going to give a patient the best treatment quickly.

But there are other ways in which the new Trust has responded to the pandemic with great imagination and determination: the opening of Well-Being Hubs on both sites. These have been areas where staff can take some time out from the pressures of their work to sit and relax and have a bite of donated food before they return to the stress of their duties. We have been amazed by the generosity of the communities in both areas that have kept us stocked with snacks, meals, gifts and, of course, their eagerness to support. On the second Thursday of the national clapping, both hospitals were truly humbled by the arrival of the other two blue light services (Police and Fire) blowing their sirens and flashing their lights so that all the staff on duty could not fail to have been aware of the national appreciation. Not so, of course for Captain Sir Tom who found his own way of marking his appreciation in a quieter way that caught the national imagination. We have reciprocated by opening, in September, 'Captain Sir Tom and Pamela Moore Gardens' at Bedford Hospital. This is intended to provide a tranquil and calming environment for patients and staff that will include resting/seating areas and sensory plants.

While we are extremely grateful to all those who supported us in all these ways, this pales into insignificance when compared with the gratitude we, the Board and the Governors, feel for the immense contribution the staff and their families have made to support the patients and the hospitals. I wish particularly to pay tribute to the families who have seen their loved ones go off to do their duty knowing well that they bear essentially the same risk with none of the personal satisfaction of a shared experience and making a real impact at a time of national crisis.

When next I write I sincerely hope that the redevelopment of the L&D Hospital will be in full swing and you will be able to see

the progress on the new energy centre and, likely, the demolition of Trust Offices just as, today, you can see the demolition of the Lewsey Road car park. At Bedford Hospital too we hope that you will be able to see the arrangements for expanding car parking at the Danfoss site and the arrival of the third MRI scanner. Despite the delays of Covid, we are determined that the new Trust will continue to move forward to meet the needs of you, the Members, as representatives of the community we serve. If you know others who might want to join as Members (it's free), please get in touch with Anne Thevarajan at [FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk) or encourage them to join by visiting the membership page on our website <https://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/>

At the end of the day, it is you, the Members, who "own" the hospitals, please make sure that your participation and your voice can be heard.

As I close, I would like to pay particular tribute to two people: the Lead Governor, Roger Turner, who writes a piece on page 9 of this edition. Roger has been a pillar of immense support and challenge whose one constant had been his commitment to doing the "right thing" by the hospital he serves. The other is Gill Lungley, a Non-Executive Director who was generous enough to stand down from that role to take the executive role of leading digital when the previous incumbent went on secondment to East London Foundation Trust which provides Social and Mental Care services in our area. We are very fortunate to have kept her.

But these are individuals, the strength of the Trust over these very challenging times has been born of the fact that there has been incredible teams within both hospitals. They have been an inspiration to all who have witnessed it and allow me to look forward with confidence in an uncertain future.

Kind regards,

Simon Linnett



## Meet the Leadership Team – The Board of Directors



**Simon Linnett**  
Chair



**Gordon Johns**  
Senior Independent  
Non-Executive  
Director



**Simon Barton**  
Non-Executive  
Director  
(Vice Chair)



**Mark Prior**  
Non-Executive  
Director



**Annet Gamell**  
Non-Executive  
Director



**Richard Mintern**  
Non-Executive  
Director



**Ian Mackie**  
Non-Executive  
Director



**Steve Hone**  
Non-Executive  
Director



**David Carter**  
Chief Executive



**Cathy Jones**  
Deputy Chief  
Executive



**Dr Danielle  
Freedman**  
Joint Medical  
Director



**Mr Paul Tisi**  
Joint Medical  
Director



**Liz Lees MBE**  
Chief Nurse



**Matthew Gibbons**  
Director of  
Finance



**Angela Doak**  
Director of  
Human  
Resources



**Catherine Thorne**  
Director of  
Quality & Safety  
Governance

# We are now Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was formed on 1 April 2020 following the merger of Bedford Hospital NHS Trust and the Luton and Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The new Foundation Trust cares for a population of around 620,000 people in and around Bedfordshire, has a combined workforce of approximately 7,300 staff and is the largest NHS employer in Bedfordshire.

The new organisation has one Trust Board and continues to deliver a full range of services on both hospital sites. This includes retaining key services such as A&E, Obstetrics-led Maternity and Paediatrics at Bedford.

The merger has been incredibly important for the local health economy, but it is understandable that COVID-19 activity has naturally taken priority for the entire NHS. Providing consistent leadership within an integrated Trust is essential as we navigate through uncharted territory. The merger will help in building a more resilient workforce, working together as one Trust to provide the best care for our patients in very difficult circumstances.

The two hospitals already worked closely together for a number of years in various clinical services such as Neonatal Intensive Care, Vascular surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial (OMF), Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) and Stroke services. With strong overlap in the catchment areas served by the individual hospitals as well as shared links with commissioners, local councils and ambulance, community and mental health providers, a merger was the logical next step in collaborative working.



David Carter, Chief Executive at Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said,

“The creation of a single NHS

Foundation Trust to provide local secondary care services is a positive and significant step for healthcare in Bedfordshire. The current global health crisis with COVID-19 (coronavirus) remains our initial priority for all staff across both hospital sites, but as a single, larger organisation we are able to create a more resilient workforce to provide the best possible patient care to the increasing population of Bedfordshire and beyond and also have more resilience to respond to the current COVID-19 situation. It has been a longer than anticipated journey to get to this point and we're proud to have officially merged and are looking forward to achieving the ambitions we have for Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as soon as we move out of these incredibly challenging times.”



## What are the benefits of merging as one Foundation Trust?



A merger provides an exciting opportunity for both Trusts to join forces and bring their expertise together to provide the best quality healthcare services for the local population. Some of the ample benefits of this merger are listed below:

	A bigger Foundation Trust will attract and retain the best staff, providing more staff development opportunities	
It could enable shorter waiting times for patients, a broader range of specialist services and more joined up integrated care		It will improve patient care and experience by offering better access to specialist care 24/7
	One organisation will make it easier to share and adopt best practice	
Working together as one Trust will make the workforce more resilient across both sites		Access to the best that each hospital has to offer – people, technology and innovation

## Rapid COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing



Bedfordshire Hospitals have increased the patient testing capacity for COVID-19 within the organisation. The new SAMBA II machines enable us to carry out rapid COVID-19 testing for patients at our hospitals.

Joint Medical Director, Paul Tisi explains: “These ‘near patient testing’ machines are really important because they allow us to test any patient who needs admission and get results really quickly (the machines take 90 minutes to give a result), which helps separate patients who are positive for COVID-19 and ensure they can be allocated to an appropriate ward promptly, avoiding exposure of other patients. These machines will go a long way in helping us to manage the spread of the virus by providing a prompt and responsive service.”

**Derek Brian Smith**  
**Pam Brown**  
**Sean Driscoll**  
**Judi Kingham Deputy Lead**  
**Susan Doherty**  
**Keith Barter**  
**Malcolm Lea**  
**David Allen**  
**Jack Wright**  
**Marie-France Capon**

**Theresa Driscoll**  
**Brian Herbert**  
**Jennifer Gallucci**  
**Matthew Towner**  
**Dr Jim Thakoordin**  
**Roger Turner Lead Governor / Deputy Chair**  
**Dorothy Ferguson**  
**Linda Grant**  
**Dr Johan Schoeman**  
**Dr Jacqui Farhoud**

**Teena Ferguson**  
**Yvette King**  
**Chris Williams**  
**Dr Robert Oakley OBE DL**  
**Donald Atkinson**  
**Malcolm Rainbow**  
**Helen Lucas Deputy Lead**  
**Ann Williams Nursing & Midwifery**  
**Janet Graham MBE, Volunteers**  
**Jacqueline E McLachlan Admin, Clerical & Management**

**Dr Ritwik Banerjee Medical & Dental**  
**Belinda Chik Nursing & Midwifery**  
**Sunny Patel Prof. & Technical**  
**Malik Farooq Admin, Clerical & Management**  
**Matthew Borg Nursing & Midwifery**  
**Noreen Byrne Volunteers**  
**Thomas Moss Ancillary & Maintenance**  
**David Simms Nursing & Midwifery**  
**Steve Morgan MBE Admin, Clerical & Management**  
**Mr Joby George Malal Medical & Dental**

**TBC Ancillary & Maintenance**  
**TBC Prof. & Technical**  
**Cllr Abbas Hussain Luton Borough Council**  
**Cllr Brian J Spurr Central Beds Council**  
**Cllr Charles Royden Bedford Borough Council**  
**Dr Louise Grant University of Beds**  
**TBC University College London**

**Public - Luton**  
**Public - Central Bedfordshire**  
**Public - Bedford Borough and Surrounding Counties**  
**Public - Hertfordshire**  
**Staff & Volunteers**  
**Appointed**

**Meet your council of Governors**

**They are your voice!**

## Our Volunteers are incredible

Despite COVID-19, it's important to recognise the difference volunteers make, and the time and dedication they provide.

We have 201 registered volunteers at Bedford Hospital, and 362 at Luton and Dunstable University Hospital, all providing a vitally important role alongside staff.

Volunteers support both hospitals in roles including:

- Assisting at mealtimes
- Helping on the Wards and in A&E

- Meeting and greeting visitors on Main Reception and in the Cancer Units
- Helping make teas and coffees for patients waiting for theatre appointments
- Helping admin staff with those time consuming little jobs
- Visiting patients as a Chaplaincy Volunteer
- Assisting in Pharmacy

**These images showcase some of our incredible volunteers and the outstanding support they've been providing**

The volunteers provide an invaluable service of meeting and greeting patients at a difficult time, they may have just received bad news or are attending for their first chemotherapy treatments.

**CHRIS, NIGEL, PAT AND AMY MACMILLAN UNIT VOLUNTEERS**

“ My role as a Chaplaincy visitor is really fulfilling and means I can give back to society. I very much enjoy meeting and talking to people of all faiths, just to know that I can be there to give a little bit of comfort and support gives me great peace of mind.

**IMAM SHAHID AHMED CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEER**

If you're interested in finding out more about volunteering at either of our hospitals, you can visit <https://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/get-involved/volunteering>.

**Bedford Hospital:**  
voluntary.services@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk  
01234 792213

**Luton and Dunstable University Hospital:**  
voluntaryservices@ldh.nhs.uk  
01582 497384

We are very grateful for everything Dave is doing to help roll out new systems and equipment so efficiently and with commitment and willingness. In a time where there is so much uncertainty and distress, Dave has been a real asset to the team.

**DAVE IT VOLUNTEER**

“ I'm really enjoying being able to give back to the community, saving people time and helping to keep them safe. Everyone's efforts make such a difference at the moment.

**ANNABEL COMMUNITY MIDWIFERY VOLUNTEER**

# Thank you from Bedfordshire Hospital

All our staff have been absolutely amazing during these difficult and challenging times. The past five months have been a time where we have had to adapt and follow ever changing and evolving guidance, both at work, and of course at home, and we know these challenges continue.

These pictures offer an insight into our work life over the past few months – a picture is worth a thousand words, and the overwhelming support we have received from each other and our communities.

Please keep safe and continue to be kind and support each other, during our journey to a 'new normal'.

**Thank you to all our staff for your superhuman efforts during the COVID-19 outbreak. We asked a lot, and you've given us everything. Thank you for...**

**...leaving your teams, and redeploying to unfamiliar areas**



**...returning to the NHS front line**



**...working in difficult conditions**



**...adapting to new ways of working**



**...adapting to new ways of working**



**...adapting to new ways of working**



**...supporting each other and working together**



**...supporting each other and working together**



**...being inspired and inspiring each other**



**...being inspired and inspiring each other**



**...fighting so hard for every patient...**



**...and all those we sadly weren't**



To view our Thank You video, please visit our website: <https://www.be>

**Thank you too to our local community, who have been incredible. Thank you for...**

**...inundating us with donations to help us through the crisis**



**...inundating us with donations to help us through the crisis**



**...keeping us fed and watered**



**...volunteering and helping out in our staff hubs**



**...volunteering and helping out in our staff hubs**



**...playing your part in controlling the disease**



**...keeping us going with your amazing support**



**...keeping us going with your amazing support**



**Let's all keep going through the next phase.**

**Stay safe and take care.**



## New elected governors

We congratulate them on their role and wish them well as they take up the responsibility entrusted to them by the public and staff members. Here's what they had to say when asked the reason for nominating themselves as governors and what they hope to achieve over the next 12 months.



**Dr Jacquie Farhoud, Public Governor for Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties)**

I am honoured to have been elected as a Public Governor for the Bedford constituency of the new Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and would like to thank the members who voted for me.

Having lived and worked in Bedford for 30 years (and more), Bedford Hospital has been key for me both personally and professionally (in my role as a GP). Gaining Foundation Trust status through the recent merger represents a new beginning for Bedford.

I decided to seek election as I would like to use my experience to help my local community by supporting and promoting Bedford Hospital within the new Trust.

An important priority for me is local membership of the Foundation Trust and I hope that I can encourage more Bedford residents to become members.



**Teena Ferguson, Public Governor for Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties)**

I have been fortunate in that my career has rewarded me the opportunity to live in various countries (Canada, Singapore) and work in consulting projects across England. After taking a permanent position in a London based NHS Trust five years ago, I decided that it was time to 'settle' and I moved to Stewartby Bedfordshire. During this time I have worked hard to meet members of the community through volunteer work and networking in an effort to make Stewartby my 'forever' home. As someone who has spent their career in healthcare nominating myself as governor seemed to be the next logical step in representing as wide a range of views as possible from the community in an effort to help develop and improve the services that are offered by Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. I would like to get involved in recruiting members of the community over the next 12 months.



**Yvette King, Public Governor for Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties)**

Bedford Hospital has been central to much of my adult life, I worked as a nursing auxiliary there at the beginning of my career, had two children in its wards and my late husband Nurse/ Bed Manager there for over 20 years. I have over 35 years' experience working in health and social care; currently as a consultant responsible for evaluating health and social care cases, interventions and services throughout England and Wales. I have a great love for the hospital and would like to use my skills as a health and social care professional to contribute to the development of both the hospitals. It is important that both hospitals retain their own identities, whilst working in collaborative partnership to continue improving patient care.



**Dr Robert Oakley OBE, DL, Public Governor for Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties)**

Having actively led the opposition to the merging of our two hospitals in 1988 and again in 1999, specialisation in the delivery of secondary health care in our hospitals has progressed to the point that it is now the right time for our two hospitals to join forces and work together. My main reason for standing as a Public Governor was to try and ensure that this process occurs as smoothly as possible, without detriment to either hospital and to ensure that both hospitals work together in a synergistic fashion to improve the overall health provision within the county, particularly representing the Bedford area. Covid-19 has taxed this merger process already but it has been fantastic to see how the community has wholeheartedly backed our staff in both hospitals over this challenging start to the merger.



**Chris Williams, Public Governor for Bedford Borough (and surrounding counties)**

I want to contribute to my community and see it served by the best possible health service. I believe I have the experience, skills and resources to add value and positively contribute to the NHS at a time when the merger brings opportunities but also threats. I want to ensure Bedford Hospital prospers during this period of change.



**Noreen Byrne, Staff Governor for Volunteers**

Hello Volunteers! As a recently elected Governor for the 'Volunteers Services' in the Bedford area, I would like to thank you all for voting for me. I have been a volunteer at Bedford Hospital myself for the past four years. I am really looking forward to working with you all to meet the new challenges ahead, as part of the new Organisation. Unfortunately, with the current COVID restrictions I cannot arrange to meet with you at this time. However I am attending the monthly Council of Governors meetings (on line), to get a feel for my new role and to learn about the challenges that lie ahead for both the L&D and Bedford sites. My focus will be on Bedford as it is my local hospital. I aim to be the 'conduit' between our valuable Volunteer resources and the Board of Governors. If you have any issues that concern you, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Governors@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:Governors@ldh.nhs.uk), I will do my best to take the appropriate action. I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future; meanwhile I would like to thank you all for your ongoing hard work and commitment to Bedford Hospital.



**David Simm, Staff Governor for Nursing and Midwifery**

In April 2020, I was honoured to be elected as a staff governor of the new Bedfordshire Hospitals NHSFT to represent nurses, midwives, and clinical support worker colleagues based at the Bedford Hospital site.

I started working at Bedford Hospital in 1982 (although I was first admitted to the hospital

when I was 4!) and have seen many exciting changes but nothing I'd suggest, like the formation of the new foundation trust in April 2020. This of course, came at a time when staff across both sites were facing up remarkably to the unprecedented challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

I know that the people at Bedford Hospital are passionate about the great work that's done here, but like their Luton and Dunstable colleagues, they now have to look ahead with the same passion as one trust based across two sites, delivering the best possible services without barriers between Bedford and Luton. With an ever growing population, there's never been more need for excellent services on both sites and I'm passionate about safeguarding these as we move forward as one team, combining resources and making improvements to facilities to best serve our patients wherever they live.



**Steve Morgan MBE, Staff Governor for Admin, Clerical and Management**

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those staff who supported my application to be elected as a new

staff governor representing the staff category for 'Administrative, Clerical and Managers'.

Working at Bedford Hospital in a variety of management roles for over 28 years, and with my long involvement with Bedford Hospital Charity, I feel that I have the necessary experience and work place understanding to support and promote the views of staff at Bedford.

I am really looking forward to contributing towards supporting the new merged organisation in providing the best possible care to our patients and making Bedfordshire Hospitals an excellent place to work.

These are difficult times, and the challenges ahead to integrate both hospitals are enormous, to play a part in this organisational change is a privilege which I will not undertake lightly.

I am keen to hear from staff on the Bedford Hospital site and L&D Hospital site so that I can represent your views and hopefully influence and shape decisions which may affect you. Once again, thank you for voting for me.



**Thomas Moss, Staff Governor for Ancillary & Maintenance**

I have worked at Bedford hospital for three years in the Estates department, amongst a team of highly dedicated and skilled staff. I

have a strong passion for what I do and enjoy the complex environment in which I work, I am proud to see the patients and staff across Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust appreciate the work and continuing improvements. I am passionate about both Luton and Bedford Hospital coming together under one trust and have a keen interest in the redevelopments that this offers. In my role as governor I want to act as the voice of all staff, and become a strong ambassador between the staff I represent and the board of directors.

As a trained Mental Health first aider I strongly support the mental health and wellbeing of all staff across the trusts and will promote this through my role as governor. Please feel free to approach me.



**Mr Joby George Malal, Staff Governor for Medical and Dental**

In my role as the Chairman of the Medical Staff Committee, I have been the voice representing the Medical staff with Bedford Hospital senior managers and board members. As the two organisations merge and become a unified foundation trust, the staff Governor role would allow me to continue to represent the medical staff among the council of governors and facilitate better communication and shared development of a vision to serve our patients better.

I have proven organisational and management skills and am able to communicate to wider audiences effectively. I keep myself informed of developments around NHS policy and strategy and often share new developments with the medical community across the hospital, both by email and at meetings. My role as a Foundation Training Programme Director gives me insight into the work of departments across the hospital as well as an understanding of the viewpoint of junior doctors. As an acute speciality Consultant, I treat and interact with a large number of patients across all ages and social strata and am able to appreciate their opinion and concerns.

## We welcome our new appointed governors



**Cllr Abbas Hussain**  
*Luton Borough Council*



**Cllr Charles Royden**  
*Bedford Borough Council*



**Dr Louise Grant**  
*University of Bedfordshire*

# Reflections

By Roger Turner, Lead Governor and Deputy Chair of the Council of Governors.



At the beginning of 2020, no one could have imagined holding a meeting of the Council of Governors where all Governors joined the meeting via a video conferencing app, or telephone link. The Governors have, in the past, considered using remote access for those who cannot make meetings, but decided that it would be too difficult to manage and finding the best app would be difficult. How things have changed in such a short time. Three video conferencing meetings of the Council, attended by over 35 participants, have been held – a remarkable feat and a real challenge for the Chair. I am pleased to say that, despite some early hiccups, they were as successful as they could have been. I believe that nothing beats a face to face discussion of important issues such as how the new Governors from Bedford Borough and Bedford Hospital can be effective in their roles, difficult enough in normal circumstances, and the huge challenges of redeveloping the L&D site, and many others. However Covid-19 changed all that and we had to adapt to new ways of working. Despite the problems, I can assure you that the Board of Directors has been meeting regularly, also via video conferencing for those who have to stay at home, to monitor the performance of the Trust and that Governors have carried out their duty to discuss issues of performance with the Non-Executive Directors.

The challenge faced by the new Governors from Bedford was daunting. The Governors from the old L&D FT have not had the chance to meet with them, welcome them and discuss how we will integrate as a new Council of

Governors for Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. My two Deputy Lead Governors (Helen Lucas and Judi Kingham) and I had a video conferencing meeting with many of the new Governors recently to welcome them and this was very successful. We hope that we may get back to something near normal soon.

The pandemic has been devastating for so many and has put immense pressure, both physically and mentally, on all our staff and patients. Words cannot express adequately the thanks and gratitude we owe to them for carrying on to make sure our patients were all treated to the highest standards possible. One big change to come from the pandemic is an acceleration of remote hospital appointments with consultants. This would probably have taken a much longer time to be introduced in normal circumstances, but will, I believe make a big difference to the patient experience in that fewer trips to the hospital will be required. It is, as they say, an ill-wind.

Members will have noticed that there were no Governor Elections (apart from those in Bedford) this year. The Council of Governors agreed to postpone the elections until 2021 due to Covid 19 and invite those Governors whose terms of office end in September, to attend meetings in a non-voting capacity until the elections are held in July. This allows for some continuity in these difficult times.

I will be stepping down as the Lead Governor in September. I am pleased that the Redevelopment Programme for the L&D is close to the point where there will be construction activity on the L&D hospital site. Much has already been done to ensure a smooth integration of the two hospitals following the merger and I am sure this will continue apace. Finally, I would like to thank my Governor colleagues and the Board of Directors for their support. I have enjoyed my term of office and I wish my successor well in the future.

## Your Governors are involved:

The Governors, who represent the interests of Foundation Trust members and partner organisations in the local community, hold the Non-Executive Directors to account for the performance of the Trust Board and exercise of their statutory duties. Governors attend the working groups and committees which are listed below. Each of these groups is also supported by one of the Non-Executive Directors.

- Remuneration and Nomination Committee
- Membership and Communication Committee
- Constitutional Working Group
- Merger Working Group
- Car Parking Working Group
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Committee
- Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment (PLACE)
- Outpatient Governors Assurance Board Update
- Trust Redevelopment Programme Board
- Patient and Public Participation Group (PPPG)
- Carbon Management Programme Board
- Outsourcing Project Board
- Clinical Audit and Effectiveness Committee (CAEC) and National Institute of Health and Clinical
- Excellence (NICE) Implementation Group
- Schwartz Rounds
- Safeguarding Adults
- Nutritional Steering Group

## Impact on Governor Election in 2020 due to COVID and the decisions taken!

The Constitutional Working Group discussed options and proposals on how to approach the governor elections for vacancies that arises in September 2020 and how this would impact on those governors whose terms end in September 2020. The Constitutional Working Group submitted the proposals to delay the election in 2020 by a year in line with the guidance from NHSE/I and to keep the current governors whose terms of office ends in September 2020 in a nonvoting capacity to present and participate until September 2021. This was approved by the Council of Governors.



## Email IDs of Governors if you wish to contact them!



### They are your voice!

Public Governors have a general duty to represent the interests of the members of the public who elect them. Governors therefore interact regularly with the members of the public to ensure they understand the views of the public, and to make sure that they clearly communicate to them information on Trust performance and planning. Any public member of the hospital who wishes to contact their respective Governor can contact them via email or write to the address found at the bottom of page 2.

If a public member lives in the Hertfordshire Constituency they can contact the following Governors:

First name	Surname	e-mail address
Donald	Atkinson	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Malcolm	Rainbow	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Helen	Lucas	governors@ldh.nhs.uk

If a public member lives in the Luton Constituency they can contact the following Governors:

First name	Surname	e-mail address
Pam	Brown	Pam.Brown@ldh.nhs.uk
Sean	Driscoll	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Susan	Doherty	susan.doherty@nhs.net
Jack	Wright	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Judi	Kingham	judikingham@virginmedia.com
Marie-France	Capon	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Malcolm	Lea	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Derek	Smith	dereksmith47@virginmedia.com
Keith	Barter	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Brian	Herbert	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
David	Allen	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Theresa	Driscoll	governors@ldh.nhs.uk

If a public member lives in the Central Bedfordshire Constituency they can contact the following Governors:

First name	Surname	e-mail address
Linda	Grant	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Dorothy	Ferguson	dorothy@harryfine.com
Jennifer	Gallucci	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Johan	Schoeman	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Jim	Thakoordin	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Roger	Turner	rogerhturner10@virginmedia.com
Matthew	Towner	governors@ldh.nhs.uk

If a public member lives in the Bedford Borough Constituency they can contact the following Governors:

First name	Surname	e-mail address
Jacquie	Farhoud	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Teena	Ferguson	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Yvette	King	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Rob	Oakley	governors@ldh.nhs.uk
Chris	Williams	governors@ldh.nhs.uk

If you wish to contact staff governors or the appointed governors you can email at [governors@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:governors@ldh.nhs.uk)

## We are a smoke-free Trust!

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is now a smoke-free Trust.



This change brings the L&D in line with Bedford Hospital, which has been a smoke-free site since April 2019.

Staff, patients and visitors are asked not to smoke, or vape, within our hospital grounds.

We aim to promote a healthy environment for everyone in our hospitals.

Smoking is one of the most common causes of heart disease and lung cancer, and increases your risk of developing more than 50 serious health conditions.

### What does this mean for patients and visitors?

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will support patients and visitors to quit smoking long-term, to improve their health and wellbeing and at least in the short term to play their part in respecting our smoke-free environment and moving off-site to smoke.

You are up to three times more likely to quit if you use a combination of Stop Smoking medication with specialist help and support from your local Stop Smoking Service.

We will be:

- Encouraging smokers to accept a referral to their free NHS local stop smoking service.
- Routinely offer Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to all relevant inpatients, whether or not they accept referral to their free local stop smoking service. We will encourage self-referral by providing information.
- Providing and promoting local stop smoking services, commissioned by the local authorities. We will include information within the hospital, on patient letters and digitally via our website and social media pages.
- Having information that we are a smoke-free site around both hospital sites, with contact details of the local stop smoking service.
- Removing all smoking shelters on-site.
- Challenging those who choose not to respect the smoke-free environment. This means asking the smoker to stop, and if that is ignored they will be asked to leave the hospital grounds.

### Contact your local stop smoking service:

For advice and support, you can text **QUIT** to **88802**.



## Bedford Hospital site... New Education and Training Centre

At Bedford Hospital, the new Education and Training Centre is under construction. This will be an exciting and welcoming space for staff to access training, learning, and improve their practical skills. The centre has adaptable teaching spaces and includes a lecture theatre for nearly 120 people.

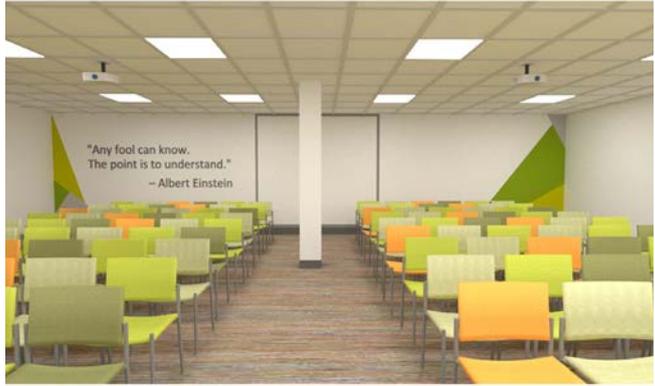
The centre, located on the ground floor of The Cauldwell Centre, will also accommodate specialist clinical training facilities, including a simulation suite, resuscitation training room, and a clinical skills lab. It will also house the Learning and Education administration team.

The plans have been developed with input from staff who will be using the facilities.

Rosa Lombardi, Medical Education Manager, said: "To know that I was an integral part of this is so rewarding and will benefit so many people".

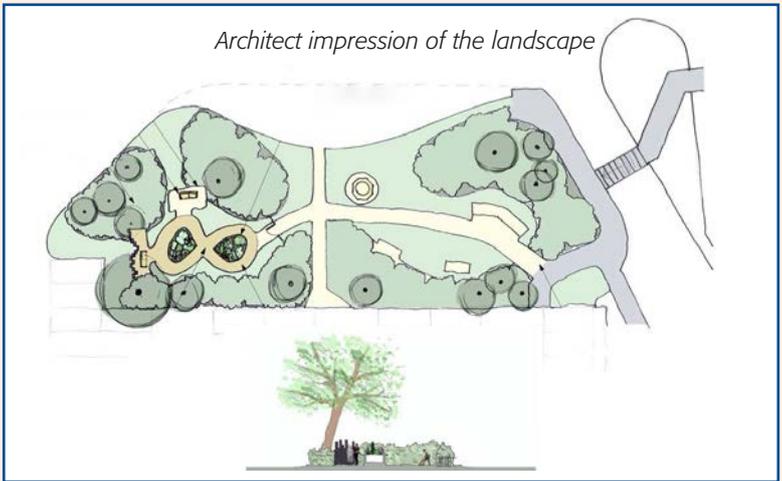
The completed development will include a Courtyard area, which has been refurbished by contractors Ashe, supported by their subcontractor team, and paid for by charitable donations. Many of those involved have given their time freely in support of NHS workers who will benefit from the space once complete.

The new centre should be ready for use by September 2020.



## Captain Sir Tom's Garden

Captain Sir Thomas Moore completed a charity walk for his 100th birthday, raising in excess of £32M for the NHS. As his local trust, we would like to recognise his efforts and create a legacy. The garden will create a wonderful facility for staff on the Bedford site to sit outdoors and take some time out. Having a space to reflect and have some space from the emotional challenges of their roles and contribute to their well-being. In addition the garden will support the wellbeing of our patients with dementia. Research has shown that being outside is ideal for people with Alzheimer's who may feel restless or agitated and provides great therapeutic benefits, allowing space for them to walk freely, providing exercise and reducing aggression, tension and anxiety.



## L&D Hospital site...

### Redevelopment Scheme

Since COVID-19, the redevelopment team has continued to work in partnership with the Trust Board, the Trust's Design team and commercial partners to progress the planned redevelopment of the hospital.

At the end of April the Trust submitted a business proposal to NHEngland/Improvement, the Department of Health and Social Care and HM Treasury, detailing the redevelopment plans of the hospital. The main scheme will see the addition of a five storey Acute Service Block, and a new ward block, on the L&D site which are essential to support Maternity, Neonatology, Critical Care and Theatres.



### New hospital car park project underway

The patient and visitor car park on Lewsey Road is now closed for construction of a multi-storey 'travel hub'.

The new car park will double the current provision for patients and visitors, and the new design will improve the flow of cars, reducing queuing and congestion along Lewsey Road.

In our pledge to provide sustainable travel, the travel hub will include 40 cycle spaces for patients and 200 cycle spaces for staff, as well as staff changing and shower facilities.

### Making use of existing space on site

To allow work on the new Acute Services Block and Ward Block to begin, enabling works will be carried out across the L&D site. Work is now underway and last month saw the demolition of the former squash court located next to the Breast Screening Unit on Lewsey Road. This site will be used to house a new modular building, being installed over the summer, which will be used by our Audiology team.

### Energy Centre update

Surveying and ground works are underway in readiness for the building of a new energy centre to start in the autumn. This is a significant project for the trust as it will deliver a much more efficient energy source; one that supports our carbon neutral agenda and ensures sustainability of key infrastructure. The new energy centre will be located on the site of the old boiler house car park.

### New CT scanning facility

At the end of the year, a new CT Scanning facility, located within close proximity to the accident and emergency department, will be installed. This will improve access for critically ill patients to lifesaving imaging, and enable clinical teams to provide outstanding care quickly.

# Join your hospitals – It's free!

Become a member of **Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

As an NHS Foundation Trust we are accountable to our local community.



Your hospitals are in your hands.

You can shape the future of your hospital and its services, and influence the way it runs its affairs, by becoming a member.

## What are the benefits?

As a member you will:

- Receive newsletters and updates about the hospitals' activities
- Have direct access to the members of the Council of Governors, to raise any concerns and offer ideas
- Receive invitations to members' meetings
- Be able to elect the Governors
- Be eligible to stand for election as a Governor
- Attend medical lectures given by Trust staff
- Be eligible for Health Service discounts via on-line shopping

Ways  
to join!



Go online to webpage

[www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/get-involved/ft-membership/become-a-member/](http://www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/get-involved/ft-membership/become-a-member/)

Email us at [FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk) or call us on **01582 718333** for a membership application form.

**Encourage your family and friends to join as members – it's free!**

## Diary Date

Important DATE!

### Annual Members' Meeting September 2020

**Date:** Wednesday 30 September, 5pm for 5.30pm start, 7pm finish

**Venue:** Held virtually

**RSVP:** To register email at [FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk) by 15 September 2020

Please note: further instructions will be sent once you have registered, but a valid email address will be required to join the meeting.

FT Members can join the online meeting to find out how Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital have been performing over the past year, and their strategy for the future. If you are a member this is your opportunity to hear from the senior staff from the Trust virtually.

Due to Government restrictions associated with COVID-19, the Annual Members' Meeting will be held online. The Agenda and Annual Report will be published on the Trust's website a week prior to the meeting.

To register to attend the Annual Members' Meeting please email [FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk](mailto:FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk) by 15 September 2020. Those who have registered will receive the joining instructions via email. (check your junk email box)

★ Only limited online spaces are available so register early ★

This magazine is sent by post to Foundation Trust members. However, we only send one copy per household, even if there is more than one Trust member living at the same address. Please help us save on paper and cost by sharing your copy with the Trust members who live at the same address.