



What's new at The Walton Centre Stakeholder briefing

April 2017



A great place to work by Mike Gibney, Director of Workforce.

The Walton Centre has a long standing commitment to delivering health and wellbeing for its staff. The Trust developed its Health and Wellbeing strategy in 2012 and has been building upon it ever since – we're now proud to be one of 12 exemplar NHS organisations for health and wellbeing in the country, as identified by NHS England.

The programme has grown from focussing upon physical activity to promoting mental health wellbeing, reducing alcohol consumption, and tackling obesity. This has led to many benefits including reducing sickness absence, improving the patient experience, and supporting staff in improving their own health and wellbeing for themselves. This in turn has helped the Trust to achieve the Investors In People Health and Wellbeing Good Practice Award, and more recently, re-accreditation of the Workplace Wellbeing Charter; recognition that we're really proud of.

One of the great things about health and wellbeing is that it promotes fantastic staff engagement. It's an opportunity for example to work in genuine partnership, particularly with trade unions such as Unison. Last year

we trained 20 line managers in leading, promoting, and supporting health and wellbeing amongst staff, and nearly all of this group was comprised of front line staff.



Health and wellbeing is championed at Board level by Ann McCracken, the Deputy Chair of the Trust, which really reflects the Board's desire to improve the health and wellbeing of staff, and to promote a positive working culture. It's important to note that many of the initiatives we've introduced have been suggested and led by our staff.

The Walton Centre's provision includes physical activity classes, awareness days, a weight management programme, fast-track physiotherapy service, staff counselling, massage therapy and more. Jane Mullin, Trust Lead for Health and Wellbeing, feels that the next big challenge is making this support more available to our front line clinical staff. The Trust is about to launch a mindfulness

programme for example that will run weekly on a Tuesday morning for eight weeks, an accessible time slot chosen based on feedback from staff.

We're not content to rest on our laurels, and we have some great plans for the future. We're currently working with Health@Work to implement a health and wellbeing app for our staff, a project we're really excited about. The app will be made available to approximately 500 front line staff, providing advice and support on a wide range of issues including mental health, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity. The Walton Centre will be one of the first organisations in the country to do this.



At The Walton Centre we've found that excellent health and wellbeing provision goes hand in hand with staff satisfaction, and I'm looking forward to seeing how we continue to build on everything we've achieved so far.

New theatre suite development complete

The Walton Centre's new theatres development is complete with a new Intra-Operative MRI scanner now in place. The iMRI is the first of its kind for adults in the North of England which makes it a significant addition to the diagnostic suite at our hospital.



by a £2m scanner donation by the Marina Dalglish Appeal. Two new operating theatres are built around the iMRI scanner which allows the patient to

move from operating table to scanner without having to leave the theatre suite. Director of Strategy Stuart Moore said: "This is an exciting new addition to the diagnostic and treatment facilities we already have at The Walton Centre. The technology also opens up possibilities for new treatments in the future. We are extremely grateful to the Marina Dalglish Appeal for their support".

The iMRI reduces the chances of patients having to return to theatre post-operatively, and was funded

Neuro Network Partnership event success

Nearly 100 delegates attended a partnership and listening event to learn more about The Neuro Network. The Neuro Network is providing enhanced care to neurology and spinal patients across Merseyside and Cheshire, as part of NHS England's New Care Models programme.

Changes that have already taken place as a result of the programme have resulted in extra specialised neurology

nurses being available to support more people across the region, and guidelines being drawn up so that headache patients receive the most appropriate treatment in the most appropriate place.

The event gave representatives of different stakeholder groups the opportunity to influence the work of the programme. Julie Riley, the Programme Director of The Neuro



Network said: "The feedback we have received has been great. The programme gives us a significant opportunity to work in collaboration to provide enhanced services that mean better care for patients, their families and carers".

Nursing Associate Role

The Trust is one of the first organisations to pilot a new nursing support role. The Nursing Associate Role that was

announced by Health Minister Ben Gummer in December 2015 will offer a new route into nursing and bridge the gap between Health Care

Assistants who have a care certificate and registered nurses. The Walton Centre is proud to be the lead centre for the whole of north Merseyside.

Rehab service receives VR award

The Cheshire and Merseyside Rehabilitation Network has won the VR Initiative Award from the Vocational Rehabilitation Association.

The Walton Centre hosts this collaborative partnership which stretches across seven partner specialist rehabilitation inpatient units and community services in the region. The Network has a focus on getting people back to work (vocational rehabilitation) and this support is available to patients at any time during their recovery. The team received the award after achieving some significant results with 73% of patients who accepted the service being able to return to work or education. Alison Price, Rehabilitation Network Manager, said: "We are extremely pleased to receive this award which is testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone within the Network".

Speak out guardian role launched

Quality Manager Julie Kane is our Trust's Freedom to Speak Up Guardian - a point of call for anyone who spots wrongdoing, malpractice or who would like to raise a concern. Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) Guardians are a national initiative. FTSU guardians were recommended in the 2013 Francis Report.

Julie said: "Staff members have always had an avenue to speak up; we have a whistleblowing policy and we regularly hold listening events. This role creates an additional layer and puts a face to that process."

Alongside this role, staff can also contact the Medical Director Andrew Nicolson or Deputy Chair and Non-Executive lead for Raising Concerns Ann McCracken if they feel unable to raise the matter with their line manager or lead clinician.