

Summer 2021



Manchester University
NHS Foundation Trust

MFT NEWS



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Dear member

Welcome to this year's edition of MFT News, our dedicated magazine for Members of Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT).

It has been another extraordinary year – one which no-one could have predicted.

I'd like to start by thanking all of you for your continuing support, as MFT has responded to the pandemic and fully immersed itself into the recovery phase.

More than a year on from the first lockdown, now is the time to reflect on the amazing response by our MFT staff and partner organisations to the unprecedented situation we have faced during 2020/21.

There have been numerous positive achievements seen by our staff across the organisation, as they have 'gone above and beyond' during the past year, to care for patients and look out for each other. It has been a tremendous team effort and we are incredibly proud of them.

You will read all about these incredible highlights in this edition including our Research and Innovation colleagues who played a key role in developing and testing potential treatments for COVID-19.

We developed support

programmes for all staff, whether colleagues were on the frontline, in support roles or shielding and working from home;

everyone was contributing to the overall COVID-19 response.

Planning and vaccinator training accelerated in Autumn 2020, with the first COVID-19 staff vaccination clinics opening in December. Vaccine clinics set up at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Wythenshawe Hospital, Trafford General Hospital and North Manchester General Hospital have been managed by our Pharmacy, Corporate Nursing, Medical, and Employee Health and Wellbeing teams, working with vaccination leads across our hospitals and Community Services.

Alongside caring for our own COVID-19 patients, we also supported delivery of a 'super surge' plan for adult critical care capacity across the whole of Greater Manchester.

There were also a number of other milestones during the last 12 months.

On 1st April 2021, we officially welcomed North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) into the MFT Family. This was the final stage of the long-held ambition to provide a Single Hospital Service for patients in the City of Manchester and Trafford.

Extending the benefits of MFT and building on the existing expertise at NMGH, enables the provision of better, safer and more consistent care to the people of Manchester, Trafford and wider communities.

In May 2021, I was delighted to see the new, lifesaving helipad on Oxford Road Campus officially open to patients, where they will be transferred to MRI's Emergency Department in less than three minutes and to RMCH's Paediatric Emergency Department in less than six minutes.

The state-of-the-art helicopter landing pad, situated on the roof of Grafton Street car park will enable critically ill or injured babies, children and adults to be airlifted straight to MFT hospitals in Manchester city centre.

A phenomenal £3.9million towards the helipad was raised in just 12 months by Manchester Foundation Trust Charity's Time Saves Lives Appeal so to see this Helipad now open and receiving patients is fantastic news.

I am also pleased to announce that our 2021 Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) is scheduled for Tuesday 21st September. In order to keep our members safe during the ongoing COVID-19 National Emergency, the meeting will again adopt a virtual format. Full meeting details will be available soon on our 2021 AMM webpage [here](#). We will also promote our AMM on our social media channels in the run up to the event.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy reading about some of our ground-breaking achievements in this edition. I'm continually impressed by colleagues at MFT for their dedication to improve and advance care for our patients year on year, especially during these extraordinary times and this most challenging of years.

Best wishes,

Kathy Cowell OBE DL
Chairman

North Manchester General Hospital formally joins MFT

On 1st April 2021, North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH), previously part of Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, formally joined MFT. This was the final stage of the long-held ambition to provide a Single Hospital Service for patients in the City of Manchester and Trafford.

Extending the benefits of MFT and building on the existing expertise at NMGH, enables the provision of better, safer and more consistent care to the people of Manchester, Trafford and wider communities.

Sir Michael Deegan CBE, Group Chief Executive said; "This marks a significant milestone in our five-year journey and is the final step in creating a Single Hospital Service for the people of Manchester and Trafford."

Kathy Cowell OBE DL, Group Chairman said; "As part of MFT, NMGH will continue to play a key



role in developing and extending the excellent services it provides to the local community. NMGH has a strong legacy and together we can ensure it has an outstanding future as part of the MFT family."

We welcomed more than 3,000 new members of staff who serve a

local population of approximately 400,000 people.

The formal transaction followed a 12-month period from April 2020 when MFT was responsible for the delivery of services at NMGH through a management agreement.

Our MFT Story

A film about 'Our MFT Story' has been produced, which is the first in a series of special films to help ensure the Trust acknowledges the effort of our staff over the past 18 months.

It is a chance to look back with pride on what we have achieved as one outstanding Team MFT, with everyone playing their part in their own way. With 28,000 staff, this is a snapshot of some of our outstanding colleagues' experiences during the pandemic, but it also represents everyone's contributions, the way we have all pulled together as one team to support each other and provide the best care to patients.

You can watch the full version of Our MFT Story [here](#).



Please note some photographs were taken before face masks and social distancing became mandatory.

First elevated helipad of its kind in the North West opens at MFT

Our new lifesaving helipad – the first elevated helipad of its kind in the North West – opened to patients on Monday 10th May 2021.

The state-of-the-art helicopter landing pad, situated on the roof of Grafton Street car park on our Oxford Road Campus (ORC), will enable critically ill or injured babies, children and adults to be airlifted straight to MFT hospitals in Manchester city centre.

The helipad will bring adults and children with life threatening injuries to the Major Trauma Centres at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH).

In an emergency, being able to land just minutes away from specialist care at MRI or RMCH is crucial. With the new helipad, patients will be transferred to MRI's Emergency Department in less than three minutes and to RMCH's Paediatric Emergency Department in less than six minutes.

Alistair Rennie, Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Major Trauma at the MRI and RMCH said;



"The helipad will benefit major trauma patients across Greater Manchester and beyond, including people who have suffered serious injuries in road traffic accidents, assaults, sudden illnesses or falls in areas difficult to reach by road ambulances.

"As a consultant in Emergency Medicine, we know the quality and speed of specialist medical care following a major trauma injury is vital to ensuring patients have the best chance of a full recovery."

A phenomenal £3.9million towards the helipad was raised in just 12 months by Manchester Foundation Trust Charity's Time Saves Lives Appeal.

This included £1.1million from the government's LIBOR fines funds in the Chancellor's Budget and a generous donation of £1.36million from the County Air Ambulance Trust's HELP (Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads) Appeal. The HELP Appeal is dedicated to funding hospital and air ambulance helipads across the country. The Charity was also grateful to receive a significant donation from The Stoller Charitable Trust.

Lorcan Duane, Paediatric Emergency Department Lead for Major Trauma at RMCH said; "The helipad will not only benefit children with major trauma injuries, but also children who need time critical transfers from other hospitals for specialist care and treatment. The speed with which a helicopter can transfer these types of patients is crucial and our new helipad will give air ambulance patients the safest and quickest place to land, directly at MFT."

You can watch a specially made film about our new helipad [here](#).



Success for MFT at the first virtual ceremony for the National BAME Awards

A total of 13 MFT staff Members were shortlisted for an award at this year's National BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Health and Care Awards – this was the highest number of shortlisted nominations for any Trust in the country.

The awards celebrate the progress made in supporting BAME staff, who thrive in healthcare organisations. The winners and those highly commended, were announced across four virtual events, which took place across April and May.

Nour Moterek and Hafsa Atique-Ur-Rehman from our Pharmacy Team were named winners in

the Workforce Innovator of the Year category.

Bindu Kurien, from the MRI was Highly Commended in the Workforce Innovator of the Year category.

Gayathri Subramanian, from RMCH was Highly Commended in the Health and Wellbeing Advocate of the Year category.

Well done to all of our shortlisted colleagues and winners.



Manchester Royal Infirmary unveils £40 million A&E transformation project

Ambitious new plans to transform the Emergency Department (ED) at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) have been given planning approval by Manchester City Council.

The redevelopment will see the facilities modernised to best meet the changing needs of the local population of Manchester. This includes increased capacity, and a more streamlined layout to ensure patients continue to receive high quality emergency treatment and care in an improved environment.

The £40 million renovation project will boost the capabilities of MRI, which is a Major Trauma Centre for Greater Manchester. Upgraded facilities will include an expanded and improved ED, including 10 (up from 6) resuscitation bays and 27 (up from 16) majors cubicles. Vanessa Gardener, Chief Executive of MRI, said: "These exciting plans lay out our vision for a new and improved department that will best support the needs



of Manchester and beyond, now and in decades to come, for the communities we serve and our staff who work in this department. The new operating theatres will likewise enable us to

modernise our surgical facilities and support our growing role as regional centre for emergency, major trauma, vascular, head and neck cancer, liver, transplant and other specialist surgery."

Seven MFT colleagues recognised in the Queen's Honours

We are extremely proud to celebrate seven MFT colleagues who have been recognised in the Queen's Honours over the last year, shining a light on those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their field of work within the NHS. Read more about their awards below.

Queen's Birthday Honours – October 2020

In October 2020, three staff Members were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours including; Chief Nurse **Professor Cheryl Lenney** who was awarded an OBE for her contribution to nursing and midwifery throughout her career, as well as her work in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cheryl has over 38 years' experience as a nurse and a midwife and has worked for MFT and its predecessor organisations since 2002.

Kev Esin, Ward Clerk on the Adult Critical Care Unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the NHS during COVID-19. During the pandemic, not only did he support his two usual areas of work, he also offered his assistance, knowledge and skills to five other areas caring for critically ill COVID-19 patients.



Professor Cheryl Lenney OBE



Kev Esin BEM

Finally, **Marie Zsigmond**, Midwife for Safeguarding, based at Saint Mary's Hospital was awarded a BEM for services to Midwifery and Midwifery Safeguarding. Marie has been a midwife at Saint Mary's Hospital since 1994 and her role now involves ensuring that expectant mothers and their babies are protected and supported during and after their pregnancy.



Marie Zsigmond BEM



Julia Bridgewater MBE

Queen's New Year's Honours – December 2020

In December 2020, two staff Members were recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours including; **Julie Cawthorne**, Assistant Chief Nurse for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) who was awarded an MBE for her contribution to patient safety over a 40-year career in nursing, as well as her vital role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the past 30 years Julie has devoted her working life to IPC in order to keep patients and staff safe.

Sarah Wallace, Consultant Speech and Language Therapist was awarded an OBE for her work as an internationally recognised leader and senior clinician within the field of dysphagia and critical care in speech and language therapy, as well as her vital role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. During her career Sarah has pioneered clinical innovations that have positively improved patients' lives in helping them to speak, eat and drink earlier.

Queen's Birthday Honours – June 2021

In June 2021, two staff Members were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours including; **Julia Bridgewater**, Group Chief Operating Officer who was awarded an MBE for her leadership in MFT's response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as her major contribution to the regional and national pandemic management strategy. Julia is responsible for the day to day operation of our £2.3bn turnover Trust which employs around 28,000 staff across 10 hospitals and community services.



Julie Cawthorne MBE



Sarah Wallace OBE



Jemma Haines MBE

Finally, **Jemma Haines**, Consultant Speech and Language Therapist was awarded an MBE, recognising her leadership within the field of upper airway respiratory disorders in speech and language therapy, in addition to her significant contribution and response to supporting modifications to practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jemma's work has influenced effective change across the speech and language therapy workforce over her 18-year career. A huge well done to all staff who have been recognised over the past year, it is a fantastic achievement.



RMCH patient is first in the North of England to receive life-saving gene-therapy drug

A life-saving drug that can improve mobility in babies and young children suffering from a rare genetic condition was given to a patient for the first time at RMCH earlier this year.

Zolgensma is a one-off gene therapy that treats Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare and often fatal genetic disease that causes paralysis, muscle weakness and progressive loss of movement.

Zolgensma, which has a list price of £1.79 million per dose, was made available on the NHS following a landmark deal struck with manufacturers Novartis Gene Therapies in March.

RMCH is one of four centres approved for the use of Zolgensma for the treatment for Type - 1 SMA, marking another significant milestone for gene therapies in the NHS.

Dr Gary McCullagh, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at RMCH said: "We are very pleased to be able to offer this treatment for our young patients affected by this debilitating, life-limiting disease. Although rare, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is still the leading genetic cause of death among young children, this new treatment will not only save lives, but will also improve quality of life for some children."

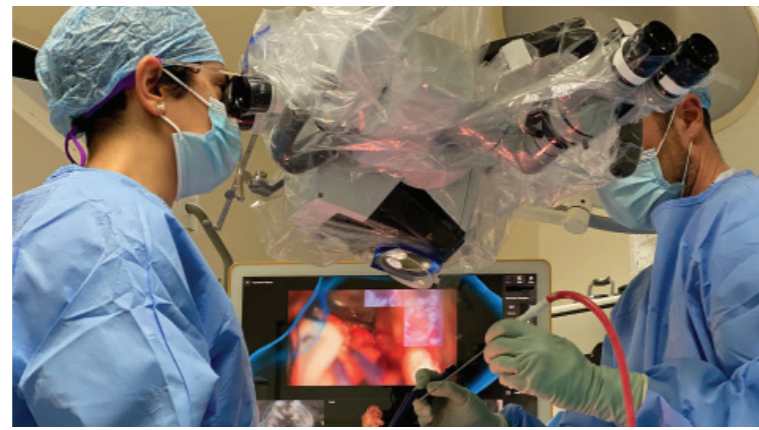
MFT Governor named as Deputy Lieutenant

Rev Charles Kwaku-Odoi, MFT Governor for Inclusive Community Groups, has been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, by the Lord-Lieutenant Sir Warren Smith JP. He joins a team of Deputy Lieutenants who serve the communities of Greater Manchester, assisting the Lord-Lieutenant in carrying out his role as The Queen's representative.

Rev Charles said: "I am incredibly delighted and honoured to be appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant (DL) of Greater Manchester, I look forward to serving alongside Sir Warren and other DLs."



MFT Surgeons at the forefront of surgical expertise and technology



Surgeons at the MRI are also amongst the first in Europe to introduce pioneering robot technology to undertake surgery on patients.

The surgical robot Versius is the first of its kind to be used at the Hospital to perform minimal access surgery (keyhole) for a range of colorectal procedures.

The cutting edge technology will benefit patients at the MRI by reducing their length of stay and improving recovery time, as well as making the procedure less strenuous on the surgeon.

Dr Jon Simpson, Medical Director at the MRI said: "At MFT we are constantly trying to innovate with patient-centred treatments and the surgical robot will enable our surgeons to continue to deliver world-leading surgical training and care. Using robotic minimal access surgery more frequently will play an important role in this and Versius will be a critical tool for our surgical teams moving forward."

The robot has multiple arms that are controlled by surgeons using a remote-control device connected to a screen in the operating theatre. The screen gives doctors a precise view of their movements by displaying the part of the body they are operating on.

Brand new pioneering equipment is now being used by paediatric neurosurgeons at RMCH, transforming how neurosurgery is performed.

The £300k investment into the new neuronavigational machine, BrainLab Curve 2 is described as a 'satnav for the brain' and provides a powerful and versatile image guided display for surgeons whilst operating.

RMCH is the first in the country to invest in this equipment, and Ian Kamaly-Asl, Professor of Paediatric Neurosurgery at RMCH said; "We always strive to provide the best treatment and care for our patients, doing this as safely as possible. This technology is a real step forward in providing the best care we possibly can by using the best technology available worldwide."

The cutting-edge equipment links in with two new state of the art microscopes and intraoperative ultrasound machine already in use at the hospital. The equipment will be a key tool for a number of neurosurgical procedures and will approximately benefit more than 100 patients a year at RMCH.

MFT's Procurement Team recognised at National Awards

MFT's Procurement Team were recognised with five awards at the National Health Care Supply Association (HCSA) Awards, for their incredible contributions to procurement in 2020. They received the 2020 President's Award, presented by Lord Philip Hunt, for their vital contributions during COVID-19.

The team were announced as winners and highly commended in the following categories:

- **Emerging Talent and Development Award** – Joint winner was awarded to James

Redmond, who is a Material's Development Management Manager in the Scan4 Safety Team.

- **Procurement Consultancy** – MFT and NHS Shared business Solutions (SBS) were highly commended for the NHS Nightingale North West Project.

- **Procurement Team of the Year** – Joint winner with NHS SBS for NHS Nightingale North West Project.

- **Procurement Team of the Year** – MFT Procurement Team Highly Commended for rising to the PPE Challenge of Coronavirus.



City Council gives greenlight

In March, following overwhelming public support for proposals to transform North Manchester and Wythenshawe Hospital sites, Manchester City Council Executive endorsed the plans.

The Strategic Regeneration Frameworks (SRF) for North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) and Wythenshawe Hospital contain an ambitious vision to create two new sustainable health campuses located at the heart of their communities.

Alongside connected health and social care facilities, each campus will offer high quality new homes and green travel options, plus access to education and training opportunities alongside more inviting public open spaces.

The redevelopment programmes will also bring wider benefits for local communities: creating new

jobs, promoting healthy lifestyles, developing skills and contributing to a zero-carbon environment for the benefit of local neighbourhoods and the wider city.

The NMGH redevelopment is one of eight hospital rebuilding projects identified to receive funding under the government's New Hospitals Programme for England. It has already been allocated £54m for site preparation work. Work will also begin to secure funding for the Wythenshawe Hospital redevelopment programme.



Christmas arrives in Manchester with the help of MFT colleagues

Manchester welcomed the festive season with help from three MFT colleagues who switched on the Manchester Christmas Lights in December 2020. Representing NHS workers in the region were Emma Davies, Clinical Scientist in Virology, Kev Esin, Ward Clerk at Manchester Royal Infirmary and Gilly Lee, Neighbourhood Lead for Manchester Local Care Organisation. They had the honour of pushing the button for this year's lights. The event was broadcast live on Manchester City Council's Facebook Page by BBC Radio Manchester and on BBC North West Tonight.



Transforming how we work: our new Hive EPR

2021 has been a busy period for Hive, MFT's largest transformation programme with an innovative Electronic Patient Record system, powered by Epic, at its heart.

In January, we announced the official go live date for Hive. On 8th September 2022 Hive will launch across our 10 hospital sites, including NMGH.

We have outlined our vision and guiding principles, recruited 140 new Members of staff to join our Hive team and put robust governance structures in place.

Around 100 Rapid Decision Groups (RDGs) have been set up and recruiting around 1,500 Members. RDGs are made up of Subject Matter Experts from across

MFT who will make the quick decisions needed to shape how Hive will work at MFT.

We are also beginning the detailed task of mapping how staff currently work and access information across the Trust to develop the most effective and relevant training to roll out before Hive goes live in September 2022.

MFT in the media

Manchester Evening News coverage at MRI and Wythenshawe Hospital

Manchester Royal Infirmary and Wythenshawe Hospital have recently featured in three in-depth and moving features in the Manchester Evening News (MEN) following a series of interviews with colleagues. A small team from the MEN were invited inside some of our busiest wards including the Acute Intensive Care Unit (AICU) and Cardiothoracic Critical Care Unit (CTCCU) in February 2021. Speaking to staff and patients, they were able to showcase the incredible work undertaken by our teams at MFT hospitals over the last year. In addition to this, the MEN shared an in-depth interview with Wythenshawe Hospital's Critical Care Speech and Language Therapist, Sarah Wallace OBE regarding the care and support they offer to patients.

LCO Crisis Team features on Granada Reports
The LCO's North Manchester Community Crisis Team featured on Granada Reports with a focus on their work supporting patients with COVID in the community. The crisis team provide wraparound care in the community for patients who might otherwise need to go to A&E and be admitted to hospital. They take referrals from ambulance crews responding to 999 calls at home, from GPs and hospital departments and provide up to 72 hours of expert care in the patient's home.

Manchester Evening News feature on the Major Trauma Centre at MRI

The Manchester Evening News visited the Major Trauma Centre at Manchester Royal Infirmary last month to interview and photograph colleagues as part of a positive, proactive feature, showcasing the fantastic major trauma services provided at the hospital following the opening of the helipad on Oxford Road Campus in May.

Clinical Lead for Major Trauma and Consultant Surgeon Stella Smith, Major Trauma Signposting Partnership Advisor Parisa Nowroozi, Advanced Clinical Practitioner Chris Knight, Major Trauma Coordinator Janine Masters and Physio and Occupational Therapist Naheed Ahmed were interviewed.

The Major Trauma Centre is the only one in Greater Manchester specifically designed to meet the widely varied needs of our patients. The Unit provides truly holistic care - an enhanced therapy team caters for the physiotherapy, occupational and rehabilitation needs of patients, including supporting them in our newly-established major trauma gym.

Manchester Evening News and The Mirror feature North Manchester General Hospital's Infectious Diseases Unit and Medical Director interview

The Manchester Evening News also visited the Infectious Diseases Unit at NMGH in June to interview and photograph colleagues as part of a positive, proactive feature on how the team prepared and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interview was published recently on the Manchester Evening News online and The Mirror.

They interviewed; Leann Johnson (consultant and clinical director), Andy Ustianowski (research lead), Katherine Adjukiewicz (consultant and deputy MD) and Helen Riley (Matron).

MFT COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

In December 2020 a huge amount of work went in to mobilising multiple COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the Trust, including locations at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Wythenshawe Hospital, Trafford General Hospital and North Manchester General Hospital. By May 2021 MFT had surpassed 100,000 vaccinations given to staff, affiliates, patients, carers and Members of the public – including

pregnant women, led by Saint Mary's Hospital.

To date over 90% of staff have been vaccinated and the vaccination programme continues to ensure the vaccination is widely available to all.

A huge well done and thank you to all vaccinators across our clinics and to all teams supporting them in ensuring the smooth running of the programme.



Monica Washington, 86, an outpatient at our Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, was one of the first patients to be vaccinated.



The team at the MRI Vaccine Clinic mark MFT's 100,000th vaccine, given by Bijo Thomas, Charge Nurse to Amanda Davies, Head of Performance at MRI (centre left and right).

Getting Vaccinated

It is important to get vaccinated against COVID-19. You can find out more about the vaccination and book your vaccination through the [NHS England National Booking system](#)

Innovative urgent eye care service launched during COVID-19 provides care closer to home

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital (MREH) joined up with local optometrists in Manchester and Trafford, through Primary Eyecare Services, to deliver an innovative new service, providing urgent NHS optometry care closer to home. The COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES) was launched in May 2020, to ensure the residents of Greater Manchester have safe, quick, and easy access to urgent eye care, without needing to go to hospital. CUES is delivered through the use of online and remote technology.

Mr Felipe Dhawahir-Scala, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Vitreoretinal Surgeon and Clinical Lead for the Emergency Eye Department at MREH said; "The implementation of CUES has been brilliant. Optometrists are seeing patients, managing them when they can and seeking additional support when needed."



Your Governors and Members in action

As an NHS Foundation Trust, we are accountable to our Members, who include our patients, local residents, staff and stakeholders.

Members are able to influence the Trust's decision-making processes through their elected representatives (Governors).

At MFT, we have 32 Governors, the majority (24) of which are elected directly from and by our Members.

Our Governors are the link between our Members, determining their need or views on the delivery of services, and our directors who make the decisions about our services. You can find out more about our Governors on our 'Meet our Governors' webpage on the Trust website [here](#).

We usually have a busy programme of engagement activities, meetings and events for Governors and Members. However, as a direct result of the ongoing COVID-19 National Emergency (social distancing, national/local lockdown restrictions etc.) and associated guidance released from our Regulators (NHS England/Improvement) has meant that all usual face to face meetings and events were stood down with alternative new ways of working and engaging being developed including virtual meetings,

sessions and film-clips being established.

Throughout the pandemic, Governors held regular bimonthly virtual meetings with MFT's Group Chairman, Non-Executive and Executive Directors, to receive updated information on the Trust's general capacity and demand, Infection Prevention and Control, the establishing and use of the NHS Nightingale Hospital North West, Vaccine and Recovery Programmes and financial frameworks. Governors were also kept updated on our dedicated workforce receiving key information in relation to staff health and wellbeing including COVID-19 risk assessments, and how the Trust has developed and established new initiatives to support individuals and teams throughout the pandemic.

A clear theme which has been apparent, is how truly valued and appreciated our workforce at MFT continues to be. During these unprecedented times, the dedication of staff has been constant, who regularly have gone above and beyond to care for and treat our patients.

Another valued factor is that throughout this challenging period, Governors have continued to carry out their roles with commitment and enthusiasm. The Trust's robust governance processes ensured that

all legislative requirements were met with Governors' statutory duties being fulfilled alongside them appropriately seeking assurance on behalf of MFT's Members.

Some key duties fulfilled over the past year include active involvement in the Group Chairman and Non-Executive Directors' Appraisal processes, and where required, approving their re-appointments, terms of office and remuneration. The Trust's External Auditor formally reported to Governors their 'Annual Auditor Report' findings, with Governors approving their re-appointment, ensuring that all due processes were followed. Governors were also regularly briefed and appropriately consulted on the North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) transaction. Another key area Governors also sought assurances, on behalf of Members, was about the Trust's recovery programme with key assurance areas being in relation to patient referrals, diagnostic procedures and out-patient consultations. Governors, throughout the past year, also regularly requested updates in relation to COVID-19 Research Projects including new emerging variants, treatments and testing regimes alongside BAME support initiatives for both staff and the wider community.

Benefits of being an NHS Foundation Trust Member

Members are given a voice with their views and opinions being valued – their support and involvement is vital to our future success.

We are committed to having a representative Membership that truly reflects the communities that we serve and we welcome Members from all backgrounds and protected characteristics. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to carry out our usual face to face public member recruitment campaign in February 2021 with alternative on-line/electronic communications and recruitment initiatives being deployed to encourage Members of the public to consider becoming a member of MFT.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Foundation Trust Membership Office (details below) for an application form, or join via our on-line Membership application form; <https://secure.membra.co.uk/MFTApplicationForm/>

E-mail: ft.enquiries@mft.nhs.uk

Post:
Freepost Plus RRBR-AXBU-XTZT
MFT NHS Trust
Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9WL

Phone: 0161 276 8661
(office hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm,
Monday to Friday; answering
machine outside these hours)

We would value a little of your time and invite you to send a 'Love Letter to the NHS' – to tell us what you appreciate most about the NHS, what they have done for you and your loved ones, and any associated hopes and dreams that you may have for the future.

Any feedback that you provide will be truly valued and appreciated and where appropriate, will be anonymised and may be used in future printed materials, reports, social media etc.

A copy of MFT's privacy notice can be found on the Trust's website [here](#).



Governor Elections 2021

The Trust holds governor elections each year for those governor seats whose term of office is ending or are vacant, on our Council of Governors. Eligible public and staff Members are invited to stand for election in the relevant public constituencies and staff classes.

The 2021 election process began on the 16th July 2021, with the formal 'Notice of Election' (which includes the list of seats that are open for election), being published on our Governor 'elections' webpage [here](#). Two Public Governor seats are currently open for election in the following Constituencies:

- Greater Manchester x1 (one)
- Rest of England & Wales x1 (one)

Following the nomination deadline (2nd August 2021), we were delighted to have received 24 valid nominations from our public member candidates, with both seats for election being contested.

Currently our eligible public Members are voting for the candidate(s) that they feel will best represent them, with the formal voting process formally opening on Friday 20th August 2021 and closing on 5pm on Thursday 9th September 2021. More information about our governor election process can be found on our Governor 'Election' webpage [here](#).

Forward Plans

The Annual Plan for 2021/22 was approved by the Board in July and can be found [here](#). It was developed over the last three months by staff from across the Trust, with input from the Council of Governors representing the views of Members.

The Plan sets out what we intend to do in the coming year in order to achieve our short-term targets (such as performance and financial targets) as well as making progress towards our longer-term vision and aims. It takes account of the national and local context, in particular the priorities described in the 'Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance' published by NHS England and NHS Improvement and the areas for focus agreed by the health and social care partners from across Greater Manchester.

The plan is formatted to show the contribution of the Corporate Teams, Hospitals, Managed Clinical Services and Local Care Organisations, to each of our Strategic Aims.

Further work is to be undertaken to set out the measures for monitoring progress and these will be used at the end of the year to review whether or not we have achieved what we set out to achieve.

MFT Annual Members' Meeting

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with national guidance, we held last year's Annual Members' Meeting virtually on 22nd September 2020. Our Group Chairman and Group Chief Executive recorded key messages which are still available to view online [here](#).

As part of this virtual format, our Directors also produced a series of key message film clips in relation to our 2019/20 Annual Report and Accounts in addition to outlining our Plans for the Future. Our Lead Governor also provided a Membership overview with the results of our 2020 Governor Elections also highlighted. By viewing these film clips you will be able to:

- Find out how our Trust is performing
- Hear how we are responding to patient and staff feedback
- Learn more about our latest developments and future plans.

Members were invited to watch the films and to submit any questions or feedback to the Trust Board Secretary with associated responses to the questions received being posted on the Trust webpage.

Save the date! Annual Members' Meeting 2021

This year, our Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) will be taking place on 21st September 2021. In order to keep our members safe during the ongoing COVID-19 National Emergency, the meeting will again adopt a virtual format. Full meeting details will be available soon on our 2021 AMM webpage [here](#) – pre-recorded AMM presentations will also be posted here on 21st September 2021 for you to view. We would welcome feedback about the AMM information presented via email to trust.secretary@mft.nhs.uk or tel. 0161 276 4841. We will then collate the feedback received and post responses via the webpage.



Remembering Jayne Bessant

Former Lead Governor and deeply valued colleague Jayne Bessant passed away peacefully at home on 14th September 2020.

Jayne played an active and pivotal role as a Public Governor, joining the former CMFT in 2008 as a Shadow Governor and became a substantive Governor in 2009 upon CMFT's authorisation as a Foundation Trust. Jayne had also been our Lead Governor since 2018. She was a truly remarkable individual who had given so much to so many over the years.

EDI – at the heart of everything we do

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is at the heart of everything we do; our Trust has a long and strong history of providing personalised care that meets the individual needs of our diverse patients, their families, carers and service users.

The Trust's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy \(2019-2023\)](#) sets out our ambition to be the best place for patient quality and experience, as well as the best place to work. To do that, this past year, we have:

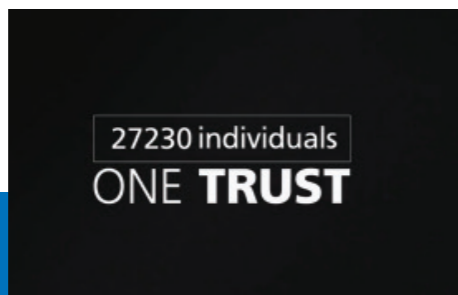
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on health inequalities, set up Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), Disabled, and LGBT+ Staff Engagement Groups who have been vital in providing lived experience and shaping the support to staff during the Pandemic.
- Created a Removing the Barriers Programme to achieve diverse representation in senior management and leadership.
- Run the Disabled People User Forum which has helped to

improve the access to, experience of, and quality of health care for disabled people within our hospitals and community services.

- Launched the Accessible Information Standard guidelines (AIS) which sets out our responsibilities in ensuring that the accessible information and communication requirements of our disabled patients are met in line with the AIS.
- Produced and undertook staff EDI learning and development needs assessment, and have then provided and commissioned training courses, such as



As part of Ramadan and Eid 2021, we shared vlogs from staff about what Ramadan means to them, and Iftar boxes were distributed to staff.



As part of Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Week 2021, we launched the '27,230 individuals – One Trust' video – [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) which celebrates our diverse workforce.

As part of the Trust's International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia Programme 2021, we hosted a Better Care for Trans Patients event, with Joshua Barraclough, Author of the National Ambulance LGBT Network's Trans Tool Kit.



As part of Black History Month 2020, we created the Making Histories e-book which consists of personal stories from staff from BAME backgrounds.

- Inclusive Leadership training and Reasonable Adjustment training.
- Completed 720 Equality Impact Assessments.
- Celebrated Diversity.



As part of LGBT+ History Month 2021, the Pride Flag was installed to the flagpole outside MRI for the entire month.

MFT at the cutting edge of Research and Innovation

MFT is at the cutting-edge of Research and Innovation (R&I) and continues to improve the health and quality of life of our diverse population by developing and delivering new treatments, innovations, products and services.

R&I takes place across our hospitals and clinical specialties, providing patients with opportunities to be the first in the UK, Europe, and the world, to take part in clinical research studies.

This enabled us to consent the first person in the world into the leading Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine study, developed by Johnson and Johnson. Our R&I Vaccine Team rapidly enlisted 405 participants onto the study, exceeding the Trust's recruitment target within just eight weeks. We have now recruited to our first COVID-19 booster vaccine trial as we continue to play our role in the continued global effort to secure a range of vaccines to help tackle COVID-19.

Our COVID-19 research has also investigated and explored new potential treatments, the behaviour of the virus in the community, and diagnostic testing. The COVID-19 National Diagnostic Research and Evaluation Platform (CONDOR) is co-led by MFT through our Diagnostic and Technology Accelerator (DiTA), and has so far evaluated more than 25 new tests for COVID-19. The 'Moonshot evaluation', carried out as part of the programme, has informed mass lateral flow testing, which is now embedded within the NHS and wider public. Almost 7,000 people have taken part in CONDOR so far, with MFT the top recruiter nationally, with almost 1,000 participants as of July 2021.



We have recruited strongly to more than 45 COVID-19 research studies we have opened since the onset of the pandemic, with nearly 12,000 participants recruited by the end of July 2021. We are one of the top 15 recruiters to the UK's flagship COVID-19 treatments trial, RECOVERY, along with leading the recruitment for both the adolescent and pregnancy arms of the trial. We are also regularly among the top recruiters to the PHOSP COVID study which is evaluating the long-term outcomes of the virus.

Whilst we have rapidly opened and delivered a range of COVID-19 studies, despite the enormous challenge of the pandemic, MFT R&I has simultaneously delivered a range of pioneering non-COVID research across our broad portfolio. More than 150 new clinical research studies opened over the last year, with nearly 20,000 patients recruited, as we continue to reactivate research activity paused due to the pandemic.

This includes a Royal Manchester Children's Hospital patient who was the first in the world to receive a pioneering new gene therapy as part of a clinical trial.

The GM1 gangliosidosis is a rare but underdiagnosed condition that causes severe and life-threatening damage to the brain and spinal cord, and there are currently no licenced treatment options available.

Research and innovation has also ensured pregnant women being cared for across our Trust are benefiting from a quick, accurate blood test to spot pre-eclampsia – a condition which can lead to serious complications if not monitored and treated. Thanks to earlier research led by MFT, Placental Growth Factor (PIGF)-based testing – a blood test which can confirm or exclude pre-eclampsia and assess the risk for complications – is now being rolled-out across Greater Manchester by Health Innovation Manchester, ensuring more people can benefit, as rapidly as possible.

You can find out more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at MFT [here](#)

Our young superstar fundraisers

In December, the Charity shared the inspirational story of best friends Hughie and Freddie as they graced various TV channels and media platforms to share their fundraising success.

Hughie is currently a patient on Ward 84 at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in September 2020. Inspired by his friend's cancer journey, best bud Freddie decided to take on a 100km challenge for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity – running 2km every day for 50 days in the run up to Christmas.

Along the way both boys have



acquired a stream of celebrity supporters – they've had a video chat with BBC Radio 1's Jordan North, appeared live on This Morning to speak with Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford (when Ruth generously added £3,000 to their fundraising total on behalf of the show) and Freddie has been running with some of his beloved Burnley FC players. They've also been on BBC

Breakfast on numerous occasions, including Christmas Day morning.

What started as a very generous £1,000 fundraising target has now seen the boys raise more than £200,000 for the hospital. This will enable them to not only support Ward 84 patients, but also fund hospital-wide projects that many of our young patients will benefit from.

Generous donation enables Arts and Wellbeing Centre for MFT staff

In December, the Charity team was excited to announce a new Lime Arts wellbeing and arts centre that will be set up to support our staff across the Trust. The state-of-the-art centre will be a global first and has been made possible thanks to a generous grant of £250,000 from Barclays.

This custom-built creative space will put MFT at the forefront of supporting NHS staff wellbeing in direct response to COVID-19.

The money was part of a £100million Community Aid Package set up by Barclays to support charities that help people and communities most impacted by COVID-19.

Some of the Barclays money will also be used to support patient-focused art and music sessions on wards at Manchester Royal Infirmary. These sessions will include sound art, music, performance and live art, dance, creative writing and spoken word and storytelling.

The new arts and wellbeing hub will be located at the Peter Mount Building at MFT's Oxford Road Campus and will be open to staff from all our hospital sites.

