



A bumper award week

It's been a week of recognition for Trust staff. **Our Chief Executive, Dame Marianne Griffiths, was named as one of the top five chief executives of the year in the HSJ awards for 2021.**

Chiefs were judged on the performance of their organisations, their leadership style and their contribution to the wider health system during the pandemic. The judging panel included NHS England chief operating officer Amanda Pritchard, Care Quality Commission chief inspector of hospitals Ted Baker and Royal College of Physicians president Andrew Goddard.

“This recognition is a true testament to the incredible dedication and exemplary compassion and care our staff have shown over the last year, during one of the most challenging times in our history,” said Marianne. “Now, as we plan to come together as a new single organisation, I look forward to us all embracing the many opportunities we have before us to further improve care of our patients and each other.”

Marianne was the first woman to take the top spot in the 2018 rankings, and retained the number one spot in 2019. She came third in 2017.

We are also pleased to announce that **the BSUH Sepsis Point of Care (SPOC) team has been shortlisted for Urgent and Emergency Care Initiative of the Year** at the HSJ Value Awards 2021.

To be shortlisted as a finalist for these awards, despite tough competition from hundreds of brilliant applicants, is a mark of real achievement. The Sepsis Point of Care Team has been selected based on their diligence, ambition and the positive impact that the project has had within their wider organisation.

The aim of the trial was to improve patient flow through the Emergency department, speeding up clinical decision making, by rapid access to white cell count differential with Point of Care Testing (POCT).

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June.



COVID-19 one minute silence – 12 noon Tuesday 23 March

A minute's silence to remember those who have died in the pandemic has been organised nationally by charity Marie Curie at 12 noon Tuesday 23 March. The first national stay-at-home order was announced a year earlier on 23 March 2020. Since then there have sadly been over 143,000 deaths linked to coronavirus in the UK. The past 12 months have also seen coronavirus vaccines developed from scratch, with 23.3m people in the UK having now received a first dose.

Please respect your colleagues if they are observing the silence, patient care will of course continue.

Boards formally apply to merge

BSUH and Western Sussex Hospitals (WSHT) boards and Governors met on Thursday (18 March) and approved the decision to submit a formal application to merge the two trusts on 1 April 2021. This decision follows the approval of the outline business case in September 2020.

Following supportive comments from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI), who described the strategic reasons for the merger as both 'clear' and 'strongly supported', and with the Secretary of State's own support for the transaction application, both trusts are hoping to get the green light in time to start the new financial year as University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (UHSussex).

Chief medical officer, Dr George Findlay, said: "We are committed to developing our vibrant local hospitals and maintaining the services we know local people treasure, such as A&E and maternity care. By coming together as one trust, we will have the experience, expertise, funds and influence to safeguard and improve hospital services in Sussex."

UHSussex will run seven hospitals in Chichester, Worthing, Shoreham, Haywards Health and Brighton and Hove, as well as numerous community and satellite services and regional specialist . Read on to see the latest Hospital Showcase for St Richards in Chichester and catch up with previous I Showcases on [Info-net](#).

Last chance to join a One Trust workshop

A series of interactive "[One Trust Workshops](#)" is underway until the end of March. These are designed to provide a forum to build on the feedback you shared in both the Staff Survey and the 'Hopes and Fears for Merger' survey last year.

Spaces are limited but there are still a few spots left for some staff groups – sign up here: <https://bit.ly/one-trust-workshop-registration>

If you can't make it, or your group is fully booked you can share your views via [this short 3 question survey](#). We may also look to run additional sessions at a future date.

System updates

Windows 10 is being updated

We're rolling out a vital update to Windows 10 over the next few



months. Additionally, we'll be upgrading from Microsoft Edge browser to the new Edge Chromium. This update will keep our devices supported by Microsoft and protects the Trust from cyber-attacks.

This is a large update and your device will need to reboot for it to take effect. The update will take around thirty minutes. Please follow the instructions when you see the update box on your device. For more information please visit the IT Portal.

Medway PAS Upgrade: 27th March 2021

The Medway PAS system is due to be upgraded on 27th March 2021. The majority of changes in the upgrade will not be visible to the end-user but there are a number of changes that users will see. [Please visit info-net for more information.](#)

Reminder: Phones to change from 4 to 5-digit extensions in April

In April 2021, BSUH's IT department is planning to replace all 4-digit numbers with a standard 5-digit extension across the Trust. In practice this means that any 4-digit numbers will become 5-digit numbers, for example Ext 4576 will be 64567. This change is part of an upgrade to a new phone system that will offer a more resilient and efficient service for colleagues, patients and external stakeholders.



What do you need to do?

All 4-digit extensions will be automatically changed when the system is upgraded so users will not need to change their own, or team, extensions. However, users will no doubt wish to review and update standard communications (Letters, emails etc.) with patients or colleagues ahead of the change.

For more information please contact: bsuh.telephonerequests@nhs.net

Competition Time - Name your new communal staff room at the County!

Colleagues at the County will soon be enjoying a new communal staff room, providing a dedicated rest place for breaks away from ward areas and departments in response to staff feedback. The room is funded by generous donations to BSUH Charity in support of staff health and wellbeing and follows the lead of the PRH Heroes' Lounge.

The room will have a fitted kitchen, sofas and chairs as well as dining tables, fridges and a TV. Dimmable lighting has also been fitted for staff resting at night time. The room will be based on Level 4 of the Thomas Kemp Tower and we hope to be open in approx. 4 weeks.

Ahead of the launch, we need your help in naming **the space!** Let us know your ideas, from Rest Hub and Staff Space to Lazy Lounge – suggestions welcome!

Please email bethany.sidey@nhs.net before the 26th March. A reference committee made up of a cross section of nursing staff, AHP's and staff side representatives will decide the winning name and the team or individual will win a box of Celebrations.

Thank you to Ward teams and bereavement teams

Our ward teams have done a tremendous job providing outstanding, compassionate care to more than 3,000 patients over the course of the pandemic across both trusts.

With visiting limited, our ward teams have had to step up and care for our patients' loved ones just as much as the patients themselves, providing compassionate care to families as well as patients. They have pulled together in extraordinary circumstances, with redeployed staff providing additional support and much needed additional resources.

Our bereavement teams have worked side by side with them. Last week we hit the sad milestone of 1,000 patients dying with COVID in our hospitals. Our bereavement teams are small, but what they lack in size they make up for in compassion and empathy. Their efforts don't make every death less sad for those left behind, but our bereavement teams make dealing with it that bit easier every day. Thank you for everything you do for patients and loved ones.

New Chief People Officer appointed for UHSussex

David Grantham will be the chief People officer for UHSussex from 14 June 2021. Marianne said: "David demonstrated tremendous passion for providing the highest standards for staff and ultimately patient care, and I'm certain he will bring resilience, credibility, integrity, and creativity to the new organisation."

Did you miss?

About: Royal Sussex County Hospital

Posted via nhs.uk 2 weeks ago

Really just wanted to thank a particular male nurse on Chichester ward who looked after my brother. What a kind, compassionate and thoughtful man. Made my last visit to see him far more bearable.



About: Royal Sussex County Hospital

Posted via nhs.uk 2 weeks ago

I suffer from terminal cancer and was brought in last Saturday for an urgent MRI scan and consultation. From the time I was picked up by ambulance to the time I was taken home after a long and difficult day I passed through the hands of ambulance staff, nurses, a radiographer, an oncology doctor and indirectly the pharmacy.



About: Princess Royal Hospital (Haywards Heath)

Posted by festivityqc37 (as a service user), last month

Very good experience at the vaccination hub. Felt well cared for even though the turnover was so high. Everyone from the security man on the door to the admin person on the desk to the doctor and nurses were so friendly and caring.



At every stage I was treated with the utmost care, consideration and kindness, every staff member exhibiting real professionalism. I cannot thank them enough. This was a difficult day for me made much better by the outstanding care I received by everybody. I went in at very short notice, the NHS responded to my personal crisis so well and I am so very grateful. So thank you one and all, from the doctors to the porters, you made this day bearable. Long live the NHS, a service we should all support and be very proud of.

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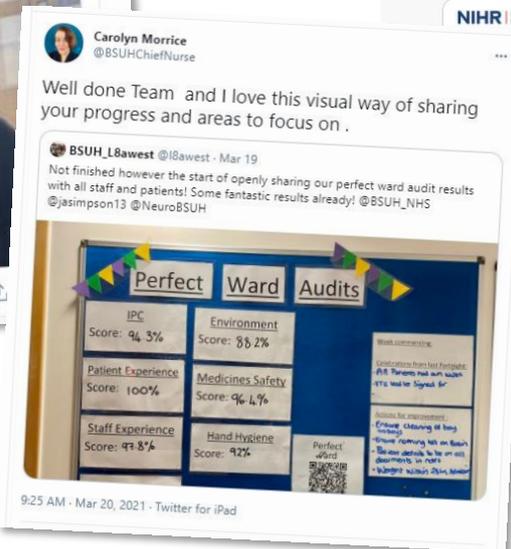
NIHR CRN Kent, Surrey and Sussex @NIHRCRN_kss · Mar 15

THANK YOU to all our NHS partners in Sussex who've made #COVID19 research possible over the last year #ResearchVsCovid

@WSHResearch
@Research_SPFT
@scft_research
@SECAmb_Research
@qvh
@ESHTNHS
@BSUHresearch

NIHR National Institute for Health Research

NHS



Read on to catch up on the latest merger update and Hospital Showcase...

Merger update

Please share the following merger news with your teams and discuss this week's merger themes in meetings and huddles, wherever appropriate. This information should also be printed and added to staff notice boards.

22 March 2021

No significant change before 1 April 2021

The trust's focus remains on the safe and effective delivery of care and we will only change what we need to before merger. Please see Day One readiness details below or watch Marianne's all staff briefing recorded on 18 March by using the original Teams invitation link sent to all staff.

Continuing to invest in all our patient services

After merger, we will continue to invest in all services and specialties currently delivered by WSHT and BSUH. This includes maintaining 24/7 A&E, emergency care, maternity services, tertiary, specialist and trauma services.

Employee terms and conditions are protected

Employees' terms and conditions will be protected as our two trusts merge. Please see the HR section on the intranet Merger pages for further details. Staff do not need to take any action. Your new employer will be University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Merger: Day One readiness

Changes taking place on or before 1 April

- ▶ New signage at our main entrances with UHSussex logo
- ▶ New swipe cards will be printed and distributed to replace the current ones. Your current card will still work
- ▶ Patient information on the EIDO system new logos
- ▶ Corporate policies (e.g. HR, Finance) will change to be consistent. Clinical policies remain the same on 1 April
- ▶ Clinical documentation (e.g. prescription charts, A&E records, etc) will have new logo when they are reprinted. Please use up old stock first. Thank you.

IM&T | email | telephones | clinical portals

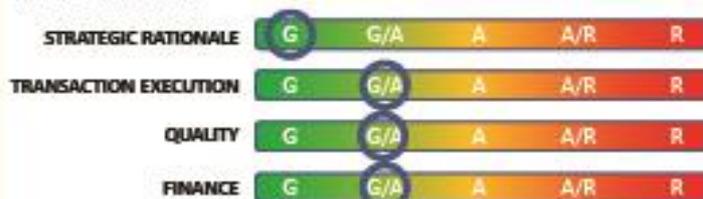
- ▶ All NHS.net emails will continue to work
- ▶ Shared mailboxes will be migrated to the new UHSussex prefix to replace BSUH and WSHNT prefixes. There are about 1,000 of these across the two trusts
- ▶ Emails will arrive in the same way. When you reply, the reply will go from the new UHSussex address, e.g. UHSussex.communications@nhs.net
- ▶ Redirects will work for six months, so if people email the old addresses, the emails will continue to come through
- ▶ Where the two email addresses are the same, e.g. bsuh.stars@nhs.net and wshnt.stars@nhs.net we have emailed the individual addresses to discuss how to manage change

All other IT systems remain the same on 1 April

- ▶ IT service desks will be available using existing contact details. Ordering equipment and registering new equipment will remain the same
- ▶ Email distribution lists will update automatically
- ▶ Telephone extensions will stay the same. IT is working on enabling extension numbers to be used across UHSussex.
- ▶ Access to clinical portals will stay the same. Across the trust we are working on generating patient numbers that will work across a single system. This is a work in progress
- ▶ Work is also ongoing to enable access to clinical portals regardless of which site you are working on
- ▶ From 1 April, anyone working on any site on a trust laptop will be able to access the trust network

Clear rationale behind merger

NHSEI has assessed our full business case and issued a positive transaction risk rating on Tuesday 9 March. They described the strategic reasons given in support of the merger as both 'clear' and 'strongly supported'. An overall risk rating of Amber has been given which reflects the scale of the merger and the general challenges in the NHS as a whole. An Amber rating means that no issues are serious enough to stop or delay the transaction.



UHSussex will be shorthand for new name



NHS
University Hospitals Sussex
NHS Foundation Trust

Final steps towards one trust

Step	Party	Action	Completion
1	NHSEI	Obtain Secretary of State support for transaction application	w/c 15 th March
2	Trust Boards	Confirm that acquisition is to proceed	18 th March
3	Council of Governors	Vote to approve the acquisition application	18 th March
4	Trusts	Make joint statutory application to NHSEI to merge	19 th March
5	NHSEI	Grant the statutory application	Up to 31 st March
6	UHSussex	Commence Day 1 activities as a new, combined Trust	1 st April
7	UHSussex	Ensure first 30 day plans are undertaken to progress integration	1 st – 30 th April
8	UHSussex	Complete Full Integration	By 31 st March 2022



One trust, seven hospitals: *St Richard's Hospital*

St Richard's:

Built: 1939

Number of beds:
approx. 430

Number of staff:
approx. 5,500

Fun Fact:

St Richard's bariatric service provides specialist surgical weight-loss treatment for obese patients.

As the largest NHS centre for bariatric surgery in the South of England, the hospital currently treats more than 400 patients a year

CQC: Outstanding

Every week, in the build-up to the merger of BSUH and WSHT, we'll be showcasing one of the seven hospitals that make up University Hospitals Sussex. So far, we've featured the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Southlands, The County and now the spotlight is on St Richard's.

Based in Chichester, St Richard's Hospital was built between 1937 – 39 and named after Richard de Wych, a former Bishop of Chichester.

The hospital had only just opened when the Second World War broke out and was designated an Emergency Medical Service General Hospital for the duration of the war.

After the hospital joined the NHS in 1948, a medical education centre opened at the hospital in 1966 and a series of service developments followed, including an A&E, outpatients, maternity, neurological rehab

and intensive care and coronary care units added throughout the seventies.



Three nurses with a patient at St Richard's Hospital during the Second World War

Continuous improvement

St Richard's Hospital is known for its outstanding care and continuous service improvement throughout the years.

Last year the award-winning maternity department celebrated ten years of existence and reflected on how the facilities provided there have developed to better support local families. The unit was opened in 2010 e £2million unit was opened by writer and broadcaster Dr Miriam Stoppard, who praised staff for their progressive approach to maternity services which focuses on tailoring care

Most recently, the Hospital has seen a multi-million pound refresh of the Laundry service, creating lots of new jobs and reducing the hospital's carbon emissions.





In January, Health Secretary Matt Hancock paid a visit to Selsey Ward, accompanied by celebrity chef Prue Leith, to learn about the new patient catering services and officially open the new Hospital kitchen which provides outstanding standards of food to patients. The award winning catering team at St Richard's were pleased to receive Prue's seal of approval: "The truth is, this is the best institutional food I have ever eaten!"

COVID-19 response

And finally, a well done is in order for the staff on the frontline of the COVID-19 response in Chichester. Ward Sisters Caroline Bailey and Nadia Chuter have been awarded for their work setting up and running the St Richard's COVID-19 Assessment areas. The dynamic duo converted their normal ward environments of acute respiratory care on Petworth ward and cardiac care in ACU into new specialist clinical zones for patients with suspected or confirmed coronavirus.

The outstanding care at St Richard's has not gone unnoticed by the community. A local artist painted a mural of NHS Heroes at the hospital in recognition of their efforts during the pandemic.



Find more Hospital Showcases on [Info-net](#)