

24/7

# STAKEHOLDER NEWS

EDITION 04 SEPTEMBER 2021

NHS

South Western  
Ambulance Service  
NHS Foundation Trust



## A WORD FROM WILL

Hello and welcome to September's edition of 24/7.

September has been another incredibly busy month for the service and I am so proud that in the midst of one of the most challenging periods in our history, our people continue to deliver outstanding lifesaving and life changing care for our patients. Last month was also a time for reflection and celebration across the Trust. We came together to recognise World Suicide Prevention Day, a topic very close to my heart, and focused on this year's theme of creating hope. We were also involved in Emergency Services/999 Day to celebrate the work of our NHS and emergency services and were pleased to be able to support World Patient Safety Day, which this year focused on the need to prioritise and address safety in maternal and newborn care. Thank you once again to our valuable community and partners for your support.

Will Warrender, Chief Executive



## PATIENT PARTICIPATION PANEL – YOUR VOICE MATTERS, SO LET'S TALK!

**The Trust is launching a new and exciting forum to identify what matters most in your local communities.**

We want to collect your views – positive and negative – to help influence informed changes and make better the services we offer. To join or read more about the Patient Participation Panel please visit our [website](#).

## RECYCLING WEEK 2021 – HOW SWASFT IS DRIVING DOWN EMISSIONS BY RECYCLING

**Here at SWASFT we have been thinking through how we can provide a net-zero service by 2040. This work is led by our Environment and Sustainability Manager with support from the Environment and Sustainability Group, and we also have a network of around 70 'Green Champions' who are supporting this work.** Currently one-third of our general waste is recycled and recycling and reducing our waste which goes to landfill saves 50 tonnes of CO2 annually;

equivalent to removing 35 cars from the road. We are aiming to increase our recycling percentage to at least 40% over the next couple of years so are ensuring we clearly communicate to colleagues how and what they can recycle, as well as providing the correct amenities at all Trust locations to enable recycling as much as possible.

## FLU AND COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

**Our flu vaccination programme is now well underway and to date over 1,900 colleagues have already received their flu vaccine.**

Following the recent JCVI recommendation that NHS colleagues should receive a COVID-19 booster vaccine, the Trust has also started COVID-19 booster clinics. To ensure the rapid delivery of both the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines, both are now being offered at the clinics. So for those who have not yet received a flu vaccination, both vaccines are being co-administered at the same time. A huge thank you goes out to our vaccine leads and

vaccinators for making the programme such a success.



## ACTIVITY LEVELS

**Throughout September we saw incident numbers still remain substantially higher than we have ever seen before and as of this week we have experienced 21 consecutive weeks with activity levels over 20,000 incidents. To put this in context, immediately prior to Covid we were operating at around 18,500 incidents per week and activity at the level we are seeing now would have been a very rare occurrence associated with Christmas and New Years with only two weeks in the last two years where we have seen similar activity levels.** This represents around two emergency incidents every minute and we are continuing to work with partners across the healthcare system to ensure we can continue to protect our patients and the wellbeing of our people.

## CAMPAIGN CORNER – VEHICLE ACCIDENT REDUCTION

**This month we are launching a new campaign to reduce vehicle accidents across the Trust. The campaign is based around 'The Big 3', focusing on three key objectives: safety – protecting colleagues and members of the public; people – protecting our patients by reducing the number of vehicles off the road for repair; and cost – reducing the increasing costs of insurance premiums, repair and compensation.**



## SOUTH WESTERN AMBULANCE CHARITY UPDATE

### Patricia's sponsored wing walk



The wonderful 75-year-old Patricia Dare completed an aeroplane wing walk over Dunkeswell Airfield near Honiton, Devon, to raise money for the South Western Ambulance Charity and NHS Charities Together.

Patricia says: "Lots of people think I'm mad, including the nurses I used to work with and

my grandchildren, but they think I'm brave too. I've seen how hard everyone at SWASFT works and how stressful it can be, and I just wanted to help in a small way.

Patricia has raised more than £1,700 so far – well done and thank you, Patricia!

### Mental Health Lead funded by NHS Charities Together

A dedicated senior mental health lead is now in post at South Western Ambulance Service to improve services for mental health patients, following a grant received by the South Western Ambulance Charity from NHS Charities Together.

Matthew Truscott, a psychiatric nurse by background, has joined SWASFT on secondment from Avon and Wiltshire Mental

Health Partnership NHS Trust, and will lead the development of service improvements for patients with mental health conditions. Matthew will work with providers, commissioners, patients, and the public to develop new and better ways to treat patients who are experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as developing bids to attract further funding to support bespoke mental health ambulances and resources.

He will also lead on developing training packages and updating clinical guidelines for frontline ambulance clinicians, to better equip them in dealing with patients with mental health conditions. More information can be found [here](#).



## OUR PEOPLE – HEALTH & WELLBEING FUNDING

**We are delighted to announce that we will be receiving funding of £170k from NHS England and Improvement to directly support the mental health and wellbeing of our people.**

This money has been made available by NHSE/ to each of the ten main English ambulance trusts through a reallocation of funding from schemes that have been reprioritised. We are pleased to share that, following a number of focus groups and feedback from our people, this funding has now been allocated to a number of work streams and initiatives to support their physical, social, and mental wellbeing.



- 'Welfare trolleys' for our clinical hubs, serving refreshments and providing information on the wellbeing initiatives and support available within the Trust as well as externally

- Cool bags for ambulances so our front line crews have access to food and drink while on shift when they are unable to return to station for breaks

- A sports and recreational fund where colleagues can apply for funding to develop sports teams and clubs in their local areas, as well as a blue water therapy pilot and access to yoga and gym sessions.
- Supporting the relaunch of the Trust's Peer Support Guardian Network, providing our PSGs with access to CPD sessions and ensuring they are better equipped to support so they can better support colleagues.
- Introducing a brand-new role within the Staying Well service; a dedicated health and wellbeing lead to work on projects to embed proactive and preventative support across the organisation.