

Stakeholder briefing

We are delighted to welcome back Marie-Noelle Orzel OBE QVRM (or Noz as many of us know her) as our hospital Chief Officer. As you know, Paula Clarke, left us last month to support the national covid-19 vaccination programme.

Noz's return provides us with much-needed continuity and, of course, she brings a wealth of expertise, including managing the national and regional relationships and support to the Severn sub-region critical care network.

We'd also like to formally thank Catherine Phillips (our Director of Finance) for acting as Chief Officer between Paula's departure and Noz's return.

We know that many of our hospitals in the Severn sub-region are extremely busy, as they are all over the country, with the rising numbers of people with Covid-19 and the usual winter illnesses. At present, we at the Nightingale Hospital Bristol remain in standby – ready to care with compassion when needed.

The Nightingale hospitals each play a different role in their local areas, while the Nightingale Hospitals in Manchester and Exeter are step-down facilities for patients with Covid-19, as you know, our hospital has been specifically designed to provide the highest level of specialist care for critically ill patients with Covid-19. The design of the unit directly affects its suitability for different types of clinical care for inpatients. While it is suitable for the delivery of outpatient services, in terms of inpatient clinical care our hospital is only suitable for inpatient intensive care.

We can assure you that we constantly review our position with our system partners and the regional team. We are the insurance policy for the region and as yet we are fortunate that in this region we have not reached the triggers for opening as a Covid-19 intensive care unit. If and when we do, we will, of course, let you know.

The Covid-19 vaccination programme offers us all hope as we start the new year. But we know there is a long way to go before life can return to anything approaching normal. Thank you all for your continued support. Our dedicated team are making sure that we are ready to do our part if needed to save lives, give hope and support the resilience of our network hospitals.

While we remain in standby, we are proud to continue to provide space for our colleagues from Bristol Eye Hospital and the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children to deliver outpatient services and day case services to support children and adults from across the south-west region.



“I am thrilled to be back on the team and working with everyone once again.

It was a real privilege this week to visit our hospital and see not only the results of our winterisation work undertaken last autumn but also the high volume diagnostic eye hub and the paediatric day case areas.

It is wonderful to see our hospital supporting our system partners to see and treat more patients in a safe and spacious environment.”

The stand by leadership team is:

- Marie-Noelle Orzel, Hospital Chief Officer
- Mr Tim Whittlestone, Medical Director (Deputy Medical Director at North Bristol NHS Trust)
- Carolyn Mills, Nursing Director (Chief Nurse at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust)
- Claire Thompson, Chief Operating Officer (Deputy Chief Operating Officer, North Bristol NHS Trust)
- Brian Johnson, Director of Estates and Facilities (Royal United Hospitals Bath Foundation Trust)
- Catherine Phillips, Finance Director (Director of Finance at North Bristol NHS Trust)
- Neil Darvill, IM& T Director (Chief Information Officer at North Bristol NHS Trust)
- Jane Harris, Communications Director (Head of Communications and Engagement at Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Isobel Clements, HR Director (Director of People and Organisational Development at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust)
- Xavier Bell, Director of Governance (Director of Corporate Governance and Trust Secretary at North Bristol NHS Trust)

The senior team is made up of people seconded from their own organisations on a part time basis for the duration of the standby period.

Congratulations to Ema Swingwood OBE



We're delighted to share with you that Ema Swingwood, who has been a respiratory physiotherapist at the Bristol Royal Infirmary for nine years, has been honoured for services to physiotherapy. Ema as our physiotherapy lead at the NHS Nightingale Hospital Bristol and we are so proud of her achievements!

As well as being our physiotherapy lead, Ema is respiratory pathway lead at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS FT and chair of the ACPRC (The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Respiratory Care).

Ema, aged 39, delayed the start of an NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship PhD at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic to carry on working in a clinical support role, as well as becoming our physio lead.

She has also worked with Public Health England to develop guidelines and recommendations for physiotherapist interventions during Covid-19.

As chair of the ACPRC Ema, together with colleagues, has ensured that resources and support have been accessible to all, making their resources open access and developing a regular series of online resources including webinars.

Ema, who lives in Gwent in Wales and started her PhD at the University of the West of England (UWE) in September, said: "I couldn't believe it when I was notified about the OBE. Although this is a personal award, I see it as being collaborative and a team effort. I couldn't have achieved any of this without the support and efforts of so many wonderful colleagues."

Please note: during standby our stakeholder briefings will be fortnightly.

07 January 2021