

# Latest news for our members and stakeholders

December 2024

This newsletter aims to keep you, our members and stakeholders, updated with the latest news from across the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

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## Top stories



### Season's greetings and warm festive wishes from the Royal Devon

As 2024 comes to an end, we have much to reflect on. It has been a challenging year once again and we have much to do, but our staff have done a truly amazing job and there is so much to be thankful for.

Thank you for your continued support of the Royal Devon. We have recorded a video message on behalf of the Board of Directors, which we hope you can [take a few moments to watch](#).

With warm wishes,

Dame Shan Morgan, Chair  
Sam Higginson, Chief Executive Officer  
on behalf of the Board of Directors



### Take part in a local workshop and help build a health service fit for the future

Members of the public and patients in Devon, as well as NHS staff and healthcare experts, are being invited to share their experiences, views and ideas for improving the NHS to shape a new 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS.

You can respond in two ways:

1. by completing the local survey [here](#) (even if you have already completed the national one)

For people who are unable to submit their feedback online, Healthwatch Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are offering to collate feedback over the phone. People can access this support by calling 0800 520 0640.

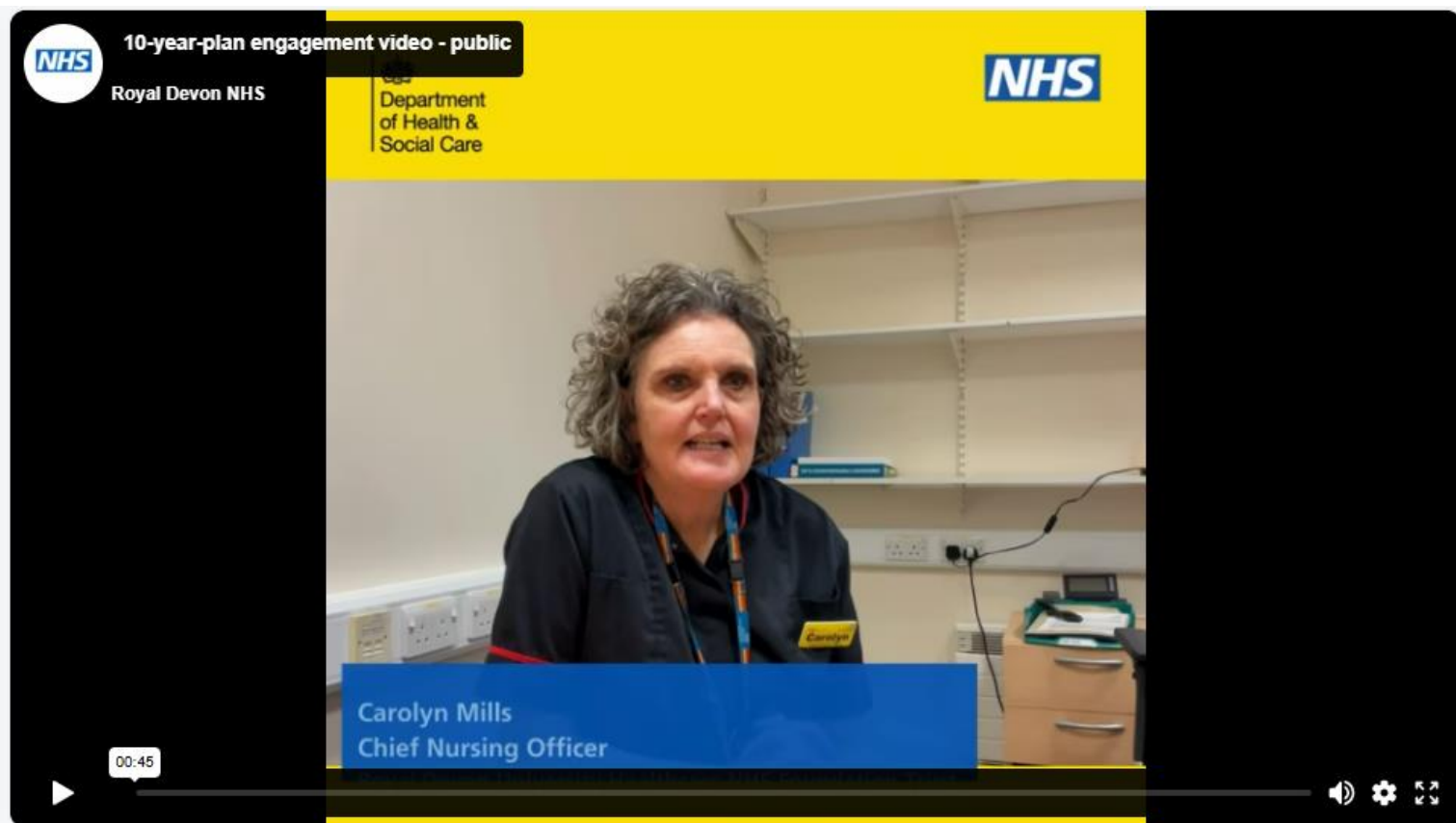
2. by attending a workshop to discuss the three shifts that the Government, health service, and experts agree need to happen. These shifts include moving care from hospitals to communities, making better use of technology, and preventing sickness, not just treating it.

These sessions are being held on:

- Tuesday 28 January in Exeter
- Thursday 30 January in Barnstaple

Sign up [here](#), and find more dates for events across Devon.

This is your opportunity to share your insights and experiences to shape both the national 10-Year Health Plan and local NHS improvement programmes in Devon. Our Chief Nursing Officer, Carolyn Mills, has a few words to share with you about this.



## **New Chief Medical Officer role for digital and research**

We are creating a new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) role to lead our digital and research agendas at the Trust.

This additional role will help us to align to the priorities in the national 10-year plan, and recognises our ambitions to be research-led and digitally-enabled as outlined in our [Better Together strategy](#).

CMO Professor Adrian Harris, who will take on the role said: “We have seen how Epic has transformed care for patients and are proud of the work we are doing in the academic and research fields. We are on the forefront of designing healthcare and the health workforce of the future, and I look forward to continuing to lead the Trust on that journey with greater focus.”

We will shortly be advertising for a CMO (Service and Clinical) in an open recruitment process. Whilst this recruitment takes place, Adrian will continue to cover his current portfolio and will lead us through winter.

Find out more on [our website](#).



*Pictured above Professor Adrian Harris, Chief Medical Officer*

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## **North Devon MP opens new building at North Devon District Hospital in first step toward future hospital**

We were delighted to welcome local MP Ian Roome to North Devon District Hospital (NDDH) on Monday 16 December alongside staff, Governors, delivery partners and press, to open our new Yeo View admin facility.

This is the first major build in the Our Future Hospital programme which will see us renew, refurbish or replace the entire hospital so it's fit to deliver modern healthcare to the local community for years to come.

Chris Tidman, Deputy Chief Executive said: “NDDH is the most remote hospital in mainland England and for many members of the community, there is nowhere else to go when they fall ill. The Government has recognised that our hospital urgently needs investment, and opening Yeo View marks the first in a series of

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steps that will see us renew, refurbish or replace the entire hospital so it's fit to deliver modern healthcare to the local community for years to come.”

We took the opportunity to show BBC Spotlight around the hospital and tell them about our plans and why our hospital needs investment – you may have seen us on the evening news.

You can find out more about plans for Our Future Hospital [here](#).



*MP Ian Roome with members of the Our Future Hospital Team and the Trust's executive team*

## **We're busy preparing for winter: here's how you can help**

We are preparing for another busy winter across the county. Our staff and colleagues are working hard to ensure patients continue to receive timely and compassionate care when services are busy, and we need you to help us help you.

One of the ways you can help is by choosing the right healthcare service for your needs. This helps reduce pressure on our emergency services, which are for urgent, life-threatening conditions, and frees them up to help those who need it most.

[Find out more](#) about what's available and other ways to stay well this winter.



## Other news



### Revolutionary HIPSTER research in the news

A ground-breaking clinical research study led by the Royal Devon featured on BBC Spotlight this month.

Known as HIPSTER, the 'hip surgical techniques to enhance rehabilitation' study is the first of its kind in the world. The study aims to improve the experience of people undergoing total hip replacement surgery to treat severe arthritis.

A key feature of the trial is the use of cutting-edge robotic surgery, which allows for greater precision while minimising tendon disruption.

Find out more about this [ground-breaking research here](#).

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## Hearing from our stakeholders

Stories from our patients and communities provide us with an opportunity to hear what it's like to receive care from us and work with us. These stories are heard and discussed at our Board of Directors meetings and shared with staff across the Trust.

[The latest story heard by the Board](#) features the Devon Leagues of Friends, who are independent charities who share a common aim to support the health and wellbeing of their local community.

The film features representatives of some of the Leagues of Friends from across Devon, who share how they have contributed to patient care in a variety of ways, from funding new facilities and equipment to providing local health services. They describe their current projects and ambitions, along with some of the key challenges they face. The snapshot of views in this story shows the benefits of our Leagues to patients and our community.

You can watch the film by clicking on the image below:



We are extremely grateful to the Leagues for the significant contribution they make to the wellbeing of our communities in Devon and the staff and patients of our community hospitals. We will continue to work closely with them in 2025.

You can view other stories on our website [here](#).

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## Royal Devon Hospitals Charity news

Find out how you can support the Royal Devon Hospitals Charity [here](#).

### Super Theatre Appeal hits major milestone

Our [Super Theatre Appeal](#) has hit a major milestone just two months into the campaign.

The appeal, which launched in October, has already raised 10% of its £1.4m target to fund the cost of high-tech equipment for a new state-of-the-art operating theatre being built at the RD&E.

Fundraising efforts have recently been boosted by the opening of a new pop-up shop at the RD&E. The shop is selling a range of everyday essentials to hospital patients, visitors and staff, as well as a range of new snazzy charity merchandise!

All the proceeds will go towards the new theatre, which when opened will deliver the most advanced surgical care to patients across Devon.



### Take part in some red-hot hospital fundraising in the New Year

Brave participants are being sought for a Fire and Lego Walk at North Devon District Hospital on Friday 7 February, and at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on Saturday 8 February.

Join us for an unforgettable evening, while raising vital funds to help the Royal Devon go even further for patients and their families. Registration is £25 and the minimum sponsorship target is £100.

Read more and [sign up here](#).



News in brief



## South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre celebrates major milestone in spinal surgery

The SWAOC team at the Nightingale Hospital Exeter have [successfully completed over 100 spinal procedures](#), testament to the team's exceptional dedication and skill, as well as helping to reduce waiting times in the region.

## Heart failure lead nominated for Lynda Blue Award

We're extremely proud of Angie Tithecott, Lead Advanced Clinical Practitioner for Heart Failure, who was nominated for the [prestigious Lynda Blue Award](#) at this year's British Society for Heart Failure Annual Meeting.

## Follow the Trust on social media

Follow our Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn pages for all our latest updates as they happen!



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NHS and CARE working with communities and local organisations to improve people's lives

