

Latest news for our members and stakeholders

March 2025

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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Next steps for the 10-Year Plan: have your say on the ideas for change

Through the national Change NHS campaign which launched in October 2024, over 175,000 contributions have been received from people across England to develop the new 10-Year Health Plan. Over 2,000 of these

views came from the local engagement in Devon – thank you to everyone who took part.

The Change NHS campaign team have heard people share their pride in the NHS and support for its founding principles. But they have also heard the hard truths about what people are experiencing – difficulty getting a GP appointment, an ambulance, or treatment when its needed, and staff not having the resources they need to provide the care they want to give to patients.

The national team now need you to share your thoughts on the emerging ideas for change they have put together.

Complete [this survey](#) by **5pm on Monday 14 April** for your views to be considered as part of the development of the 10 Year Health Plan. [Alternative formats](#) are available, including BSL, Easy Read and a version you can print and post back to the team.

The logo for 'Change NHS' features the word 'CHANGE' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'N' is replaced by a vertical blue bar containing the letters 'H' and 'S' in white, stacked vertically.

**Help build a
health service
fit for the future**

Royal Devon welcomes Professor Sallie Lamb to the Trust Board

We are delighted to welcome Professor Sallie Lamb to the Royal Devon as a nominated Non-Executive Director from the University of Exeter.

Sallie is Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, and since 2019 the Mireille Gillings Professor of Health Innovation at the University of Exeter. Sallie is a senior research and academic leader in healthcare and medicine and has worked previously as a physiotherapist in the NHS.

Chair of the Royal Devon, Dame Shan Morgan, said: “The Board of Directors and Council of Governors are delighted to welcome Sallie.

“Her significant experience across clinical research, academia and board level leadership will be invaluable to the Royal Devon and we look forward to continuing to develop the strong partnership with the University of Exeter this appointment reinforces.”

Sallie joins us for an initial term of office of three years.



Professor Sallie Lamb

North Devon sees launch of lung health checks in drive to save more lives

From April, past and current smokers aged 55-75 in North Devon are being invited to an NHS lung health check in a drive to improve earlier diagnosis of lung cancer and save more lives.

The Royal Devon, InHealth and the Peninsula Cancer Alliance are working together to deliver the health checks.

The lung health check takes place in two stages. The first is an initial phone assessment with a specially trained healthcare professional. People who are found to be high risk are then offered a CT scan of the lungs for further investigation.

Devon has one of the highest mortality rates for lung cancer in England and is one of 43 places across the country to run the Targeted Lung Health Check programme. The Health Check programme is already underway in Plymouth and will be rolled out to East Devon later this year.

Find out more about the [Targeted Lung Health Check programme here](#).

BBC Spotlight celebrates our international colleagues

We were pleased to work with BBC Devon's Spotlight programme recently on a piece to celebrate the contribution of our international recruits.

The broadcast piece featured a number of our colleagues at the Royal Devon:

- Consultant Cardiologist Ash Kotecha
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- Edmond Hernaez an Advanced Care Practitioner in Ear, Nose and Throat and the new Chair of our Global Majority network
- Simon Leepile, who is a Staff Governor and Domestic Assistant
- Christoula Spyropoulou, a Registered Nurse who works to welcome, support and onboard our international recruits

We're immensely proud of them for demonstrating the skill and importance of our international colleagues across a huge variety of roles.

Our Chief People Officer Hannah Foster was also interviewed and explained the vital role of our international colleagues in bringing diverse skills, maintaining high standards of care and improving health outcomes. Hannah told the BBC that we have people from more than 100 nationalities working as part of the Royal Devon team, with people from international backgrounds making up more than 10% of our workforce.

If you missed the broadcast you can still read the [online story here on the BBC](#).



Pictured left Ash (on right), Pictured right Simon, Christoula and Edmond waiting to be interviewed by the BBC

Other news



New parking charges at Royal Devon sites for those who pay

From 1 April 2025, the cost of parking at our sites is increasing for those who pay. The income from parking goes to the Trust and helps support our services. Prices are reviewed and updated regularly to ensure we cover our costs.

Free parking remains available for lots of people, including blue badge holders, registered carers, parents of inpatients who are under 18, volunteers and people who need to attend frequently. You can read the full list of exemptions [here](#).

The Trust will continue to invest in alternative options for patients and visitors, which are financially cheaper and better for the environment.

Chris Tidman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Royal Devon, said: “Raising car parking charges is not something we want to do, but we need the income to provide and maintain our car parks. All parking income goes to the Trust, so any money left over supports us to provide patient care.”

Find out more, including the new car parking charges, here on [our website](#).

Royal Devon recognised for pioneering digital healthcare

The Acute Hospital at Home team and Ophthalmology teams at Royal Devon have been shortlisted for the prestigious HSJ Digital Awards for their innovative use of digital technology to improve patient care.

The Ophthalmology department have been recognised for a new way of diagnosing patients with suspected glaucoma that has reduced the average waiting time from nine months to just five weeks for a first appointment.

The Acute Hospital at Home team (AHAH) team have been shortlisted for their pioneering use of wearable devices to enable patients to have round-the-clock clinical monitoring and support from the comfort of their own home in rural Devon.

Professor Adrian Harris, Chief Medical Officer at Royal Devon, said, “These nominations show how we are at the leading edge of providing digitally enabled care at Royal Devon.

We are using digital to overcome some of the fundamental challenges we face to reduce waiting times for patients and deliver healthcare in a rural area. I’m proud to see our work to transform and improve patient care being recognised nationally in this way.”

The teams will find out whether they have won their categories at the award ceremony on Thursday 26 June 2025.



Pictured above – the Royal Devon teams shortlisted for the HSJ Digital Awards

Genetic testing service celebrates birth of 50th baby

This month we celebrated the arrival of Annie, the 50th baby born through a cutting-edge genetic testing service based at the Royal Devon.

Baby Annie's mum Georgina was born with Ichthyosis with Confetti, an extremely rare genetic condition. Thanks to the pioneering service, Annie and her five-year-old sister, Elsie, did not inherit the condition.

Georgina, said: "I never imagined that having children would be a possibility for our family - not a day goes by where I don't have to pinch myself that these two bundles of joy have been brought into our lives.

"We cannot thank the whole team behind our two little miracles enough. They are our world. I hope sharing our story will help others to be in the very lucky position we find ourselves in with two beautiful little girls."

Find out more about Georgina's story [here](#).



Georgina with her family (photo by Aga Kowalska Photography)

Royal Devon and Encompass Community Flow partnership win at personalised care awards

We are very proud to be part of the Community Flow partnership that won the 'using our money well' award at the South West Integrated Personalised Care Awards. The awards recognise initiatives that deliver person-centred care, and the 'using our money well' category highlights best practice in using NHS resources to do this.

Community Flow is delivered by a partnership between the Royal Devon and Encompass South West. It supports patients being discharged from the Trust who are experiencing issues with housing, finances, loneliness, and accessing community resources.

These wider issues can impact people's health and the initiative helps patients address these issues alongside their health needs. The partnership was shown to reduce re-admissions to hospital by 41% with a potential cost avoidance of £470,000.

Read the [full story here](#).



Pictured is Claire Fisher, CEO Encompass SouthWest, Nicola Topham, Encompass SouthWest Flow Manager and Simon Rapsey, Royal Devon Flow Programme Manager

Behind the scenes with...



Same Day Emergency Care unit

We offer [Same Day Emergency Care](#) (SDEC) at North Devon District Hospital (NDDH) and Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford). People who come in with certain conditions can be assessed, diagnosed and treated without being admitted to a ward, and if clinically safe to do so, will go home the same day their care is provided.

This month we sat down with Helen Wilson, Advanced Clinical Practitioner in SDEC at NDDH, to find out more about the service and how it's helping to reduce waiting times for urgent care and supporting safe discharges.



Why is SDEC so important?

SDEC is crucial for patients as it allows timely and safe treatment, avoiding hospital admissions where possible. This gets patients back home where they want to be, increases their well-being and reduces the risk of hospital acquired infections and further illness. This helps free up beds for acutely unwell patients and improves the movement of people through our services, reducing waiting times for urgent care.

Read the [full interview here](#).

Royal Devon Hospitals Charity news

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

Wonder woman Jane takes on walking challenge ahead of 80th birthday

Jane Morton, a meet and greet volunteer in the main reception at the RD&E Hospital will be putting her best foot forward in aid of our Super Theatre Appeal later this month and ahead of her 80th birthday.

She will be challenging herself to walk 80 miles around the hospital in 10 days, talking to patients and visitors about our fundraising appeal.

Jane said: "I know how important this state-of-the-art operating theatre will be for the hospital and for patients needing specialist surgery. It will allow more procedures to take place and reduce the risk of complications and support faster recovery times, ultimately enabling patients to spend less time in hospital."

To sponsor Jane and find out more, [click here](#).



Portmore Golf Park supports Fern Centre

A huge thank you to Portmore Golf Park senior captain Chris Jeffs for a wonderful £1,700 donation to our Charity Fern Centre at North Devon District Hospital.

Chris and fellow golfers raised the money at their open event in July last year, and by collecting 'fines' throughout 2024 for wayward shots into a penalty bunker on the Barnstaple course!

Chris' wife Julie has been attending the monthly Secondary Breast Cancer Support Group at the Fern Centre and has seen first-hand how the centre makes a difference to people in North Devon living with and beyond cancer.



News in brief



Royal Devon joins £6.5 million partnership hub to help NHS slash carbon footprint

[We are collaborating](#) with the University of Exeter as part of a national network that aims to dramatically cut the NHS carbon footprint.

New NHS Careers Hub at Exeter College

Are you interested in a career in the NHS but don't know where to start? The next NHS Careers Hub is on Wednesday 26 March. Find out more and [book an appointment here](#).

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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