

# Primary care matters

## Practice staff newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of Primary Care Matters.



**Dr Sean O'Kelly,  
Medical Director**

I'm delighted to share the news this month that we have successfully passed the first stage in our bid to establish a Genomic Medicine Centre in the West of England, for which we are the lead sponsor. NHS providers in Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham and Gloucester, the universities of Bristol and the West of England, the Academic Health Science Network, and commissioners have established a partnership to develop genomics testing capability to help patients who have a rare disease or cancer, potentially changing lives by finding new and more effective treatments. This is great news, although there's still a lot of work to do and further stages of approval which don't conclude until mid-December.

This month we also welcomed Simon Stevens, CEO of NHS England, to the Trust. Simon was here to find out more about our teenage and young adult (TYA) cancer services, and had this to say following his visit: "The teenage and young adult cancer services at University Hospitals Bristol is such an impressive service – with staff clearly dedicated not only to providing the highest quality clinical treatment for young patients, but caring for their emotional, social and practical needs. The Teenage Cancer Trust's multidisciplinary, whole-person approach is a great example for other services."



NHS England CEO Simon Stevens pictured with TYA staff and CEO of Teenage Cancer Trust Siobhan Dunn

## New dementia support café

A new dementia support café and drop in service has opened at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Those with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers, or those who want to understand more about dementia, are invited to talk to members of UH Bristol's dementia team and other dementia professionals. There is also information available on agencies and services that can provide further support.

The café runs every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, and is located in the DeliMarché restaurant on level 9 of the BRI. It is organised by UH Bristol and the Alzheimer's Society, with support from hospitals' charity Above & Beyond and the Carers Support Centre Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

For more information, contact Rachel Bush, lead dementia practitioner, on 0117 34 21708, or email Rachel.Bush@UHBristol.nhs.uk



UH Bristol staff and volunteers at the new dementia support café

## Choose and Book patients requiring transport

Staff at Bristol Dental Hospital would like to remind clinicians that, where possible, choose and book referrals requiring transport are booked in morning slots. Hopefully this should avoid patients incurring excessive waiting times for collection and return journey. If there are any exceptional circumstances then we would be more than happy for referrers to contact us to discuss individual requirements. Please call 0117 342 4422 with any queries.

## Seasonal flu vaccinations

The seasonal flu vaccination programme for all UH Bristol staff begins on 5 October 2015.

We are asking staff to let us know if they have had their flu jab at a GP or another provider so that we can more accurately reflect the numbers of staff who have been vaccinated. Last year 4168 staff (equating to 60% of all staff) were vaccinated and we hope to increase this number this year.

## New transport service for children needing intensive care to provide enhanced treatment

Launched in September, the new combined service called WATCH – Wales and West Acute Transport for Children – retrieves children who are critically ill or injured from 22 district general hospitals stretching from Abersytwyth in the west of Wales to Swindon in Wiltshire, and from as far north as Gloucester to Truro in Cornwall. It is based at Bristol Ambulance Emergency Medical Services in St Philips.

The service is run by Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and is a collaboration between the paediatric transport teams from the children's hospital and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales (CHfW) in Cardiff.



## Educational evening for Crohn's and Colitis sufferers

An education evening for people with IBD and their families, run by Crohn's and Colitis UK and hosted by UH Bristol, will take place on Wednesday 14 October.

Consultant gastroenterologist at UH Bristol, Dr Tom Creed, along with trained IBD nurses and health professionals will provide an overview of the latest developments into the causes of, and treatments

for, IBD including the impact of diet on the condition.

The event, taking place from 6.30pm to 9.30pm on Weds 14 October, will be held in the Education and Research Centre on Upper Maudlin Street in central Bristol. To attend the event, please register by emailing Crohn's and Colitis UK Avon and North Somerset Group: [ans@groups.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk](mailto:ans@groups.crohnsandcolitis.org.uk)

## Heart failure patient education afternoon a success

On 9 September, the combined Bristol Heart Institute (BHI) and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children heart failure team hosted the city's first heart failure patient education afternoon. This event provided a forum for over 50 patients and their carers to meet staff involved in all aspects of heart failure care.

In addition, our research team was there to explain the current heart failure studies being conducted in the BHI and was able to identify lots of patients keen to be involved in future research. Staff from the

Bristol Heart Foundation were also on hand to provide additional support and information for patients.

Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive and highlights the need for more patient-centred initiatives to promote their health and wellbeing but also to provide crucial support for their carers and families. Based on the responses from the attendees, this event will become a regular fixture in the heart failure team's calendar.

## Open day at South Bristol Community Hospital

This free event at the hospital in Hengrove Promenade is being held in partnership with Bristol Community Health, a not-for-profit social enterprise delivering NHS services. From 10.30am to 3pm, the public will have the chance to look around the hospital and find out about the services on offer.

Visitors will be able to take a self-guided tour of the hospital, taking in several areas that are normally off limits to the public, including an operating theatre and the dental suite.

There will be a wide range of community health groups and organisations attending, including Bristol South Diabetes Support Group, Hartcliffe Health and Environment Action Group, Healthwatch and Knowle West Health Park. The event falls within Healthy City Week Bristol, which aims to inspire citizens of Bristol to achieve healthier lifestyles as part of a more sustainable future city.

Events will be taking place all across the city; with over 100 talks, workshops, activities and exhibitions over nine days, from 10 to 18 October 2015.

