



# April membership update



“Hello. My name is Kathy Baxter and I am a Patient Governor. I am very proud to be able to say that. I share this role with other governors, and together we share a huge diversity of experience and expertise. Along with the Board we work in unison to promote change and support all staff and patients, for a smooth running hospital and a more positive experience for patients.

I feel very honoured to be a Patient Governor, it is an important role and has opened new and exciting doors for me. I am a very pro-active patient governor and, working alongside the Membership team and the Patient and Public Involvement team, I am able to integrate myself with the patients and staff, seeing for myself how patients are cared for, for their physical and emotional needs, inclusion of their families and carers. I feel together we are able to make changes for the better. Being a governor has also encouraged me to join several external health in the community committees while also lecturing to many groups about Sight Awareness (I am blind and promote practical support to people with visual impairment), Health & Safety and much, much more. I always felt that my vision impairment would hold me back, unable to cope, but it has been anything but that. With help from my fellow governors I feel totally supported and encouraged, building my confidence.

I recently attended a members' Health Matters meeting to discuss our thoughts and opinions about the future of UH Bristol. There were so many people, different backgrounds, different professions, disabilities and nationalities, and we discussed our thoughts and I was surprised at the end we ALL had similar ideas and wants for our NHS. I feel these sessions are important for everyone to share their thoughts and design ways in which we can all support and work together. We cannot do things alone, we are one huge organisation BUT we have a huge and positive following.

We have an Outstanding hospital but this can only be by having an Outstanding hospital team and I am proud to be part of that.

I always look forward to tomorrow and what's next!

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## **Have your say in our future – come along to one of our events**

Thank you to all members who attended our Health Matters event on the future direction of the Trust last week. We will keep you updated on our progress with our strategy renewal through this newsletter and will report back in a couple of months' time with some priorities for you to have a say on. If you haven't already booked, do come along to our next Health Matters event on Heart Care – consultant cardiologist Angus Nightingale will be talking about the impact of high blood pressure and there will be an opportunity to get your blood pressure tested.

## **You said, we did – survey feedback**

Thank you also to those of you who completed our short membership survey which ran until the end of February and asked you about the impact and benefits of Trust membership. You told us you liked to keep up to date with the hospital and wider NHS news and wanted more opportunities to get involved, so we'll aim to do more of that here. You also mentioned that you'd like this newsletter in a printable format, and the link is included above. We're also exploring whether we can improve the online version of our Voices magazine. We will be repeating the survey on an annual basis to give you a formal opportunity to share your thoughts, but please do tell us what you think at any time.

## **NHS at 70 – what could you do?**

2018 is a time for celebration for the NHS, as we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. At UH Bristol, with our nine major hospitals serving the people of Bristol, the South West and the UK, we want to delve deeper into the past 70 years, so we're asking you if you'd like to take part by sending in any stories or memories of the time you've spent in our hospitals (Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol Royal Hospital For Children, St Michael's Hospital, Bristol Heart Institute, Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre, Bristol Eye Hospital, Bristol Dental Hospital, South Bristol Community Hospital, and Central Health Clinic (now Unity Sexual Health)).

We'll be adding NHS70 stories to our website and sharing them across social media as part of our celebrations so please keep an eye out for updates!

## **Update from hospital charity Above & Beyond BHI Appeal**

Last September our hospital charity, Above & Beyond, launched its [BHI Appeal](#) to raise £830,000 to ensure the Bristol Heart Institute (BHI) stays at the forefront of treatment for patients with serious heart conditions. At £378,000, the new Echocardiography Facility is the largest part of the appeal. Thanks to our generous donors, great progress is being made. There is still £117,000 left to raise so patients can benefit from scans, treatment and care in the BHI – for more information, follow the link above.

## **Next Council of Governors/Trust Board meeting**

Our next quarterly [Council of Governors meeting](#) is taking place on Thursday 26 April from 2-3.30pm. This is a good opportunity to hear what's been happening around our hospitals, meet our governors and raise any questions you may have. The agenda and papers are available at this link. You are also welcome to attend any of our [Trust Board meetings](#).

Until next month.

Warm wishes

**Kate Hanlon**

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