

**WELCOME TO SANDWELL AND WEST  
BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALS NHS TRUST!**

**"WE ARE AN  
INTEGRATED CARE  
ORGANISATION THAT  
IS COMMITTED TO  
PROVIDING HIGH  
QUALITY CARE  
SERVICES TO OUR  
COMMUNITY"**



## ABOUT US

At Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), our teams are committed to providing compassionate, high quality care from City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals as well as our very own Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre and numerous other locations across the West Midlands and the Black Country. We provide care from 150 locations and serve a local population of 530,000 people in partnership with over 100 GP teams.

## OUR PEOPLE

We have excellent teams who are well established and very experienced in their specialities. We put patient care and teamwork at the heart of our working life. We support our team members and make them feel part of the family; some would describe going to work as 'going from home to home'.

We appreciate the values that teamwork brings to us and we also recognise the contribution from individuals. In order to recognise their contribution in a wide variety of roles for one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations, we work with Sandwell Chronicle to publicise our heroes. In this section, you can read some of their inspiring stories. To read more, please visit our website [www.swbh.nhs.uk/about-us/nhs-heroes/](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk/about-us/nhs-heroes/)

## SURGERY A

**Julie Guy, sister on Newton 2,  
Sandwell Hospital**



"I started my career in 1978 at Sandwell Hospital, and after a move to Walsall in 1985, returned in 2000, and have been at the Trust ever since.

"I feel that the Trust has a supportive and nurturing environment. I don't want to work anywhere else because I am supported by my colleagues and am encouraged to continue learning and improving. Judging from my experience working at different trusts, I feel that the working standard here is very professional. The system is run efficiently and the Trust is willing to keep up to date with changes to ensure that we deliver the best quality of care."

## ***SURGERY B***

**Arijit Mitra, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Birmingham Midland Eye Centre (BMEC)**



Mr Mitra came to work at BMEC in 2012 as a Consultant. During his training at BMEC, he won a number of awards for his outstanding work, including the Roper Hall Prize Medal and the Midlands Ophthalmological Society Travel Award.

Arijit has a special interest in vitreo-retinal surgery and the medical retina service. When asking about what motivates him at work, he said: "I love the nature of my job. It is very challenging as the cases are usually very complex. However, whenever I help patients regain their vision, I find the job absolutely rewarding. It makes me feel that I have made such a positive difference to someone's life."

## ***MEDICINE AND EMERGENCY CARE***

**Leong Lee, Cardiology Consultant**



Dr Lee has recently joined the Trust as an interventional cardiologist. His main expertise is in carrying out procedures to open blockages built up in coronary arteries. Speaking about working at the Trust, he said: "My team is very friendly and proactive. They are all self-driven people continually improving their skills."

Leong is planning to organise a special training session to invite world-leading cardiologists to the Trust to train the team in special techniques. His overall ambition is to help the cardiology department at the Trust become the best cardiac centre for the whole region.

## COMMUNITY AND THERAPIES

**Ruth Williams, Manager  
Integrated Care Service**



Ruth Williams is the manager of ICares, she works with nurses and therapists to help patients recover after illnesses and injuries such as a fall, stroke or Parkinson's. She said: "My aim is to ensure our patients have everything they need to help themselves for the rest of their life. We try and stop people coming into hospital if there is a better place to treat them, and we can also see people as soon as they leave hospital to ensure they don't have to go back in. We will try and help the person get back to activities they want to do, which may be walking outside, going to the pub or enjoying their garden."

## IMAGING

**Bill Thomson, Consultant Physicist**

Consultant Physicist, Bill Thomson has worked in the NHS for 43 years, the last 30 as Head of Physics and Nuclear Medicine for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. He is also both the Radiation and the Laser Protection Adviser for the Trust. Bill received the Norman Veal medal from the British Nuclear Medicine Society, awarded for outstanding contributions to science and practice of nuclear medicine.

He said: "I work with a fantastic team who simply want to do what is best for the patient, and are always coming up with ideas to improve things. We have a great record of involving all staff in research and development work and are often invited to present at conferences."



## WOMEN'S AND CHILD HEALTH

**Olivia Agar, Midwife**

Mother-of-three Olivia Agar explains: "I became a midwife in my mid-twenties, as I have always been fascinated by pregnancy and the science that creates life from a group of cells. I have worked at the Trust for years, as it is an amazing forward thinking trust with committed staff and supportive management. I am so proud of our midwife-led units – Serenity at City Hospital and Halcyon in Smethwick. It is a real joy to share the delight of women seeing the facilities for the first time, as they are overwhelmed by how different they are from traditional NHS hospital environments."



## ***PATHOLOGY***

**Julie Morris, Phlebotomist**



Phlebotomist Julie Morris started at the Trust 13 years ago and since then has not looked back. Her main responsibility is to take blood samples from patients on the wards. Since working closely with patients on a daily basis, Julie forms a bond with her patients. Her patients are quick to praise Julie for the way she cares for them.

Her colleagues also appreciate her winning ways, as they nominated her for a Trust award to celebrate extraordinary individuals and teams for their excellent work in providing care to patients. Julie said: "My team is wonderful to me. They are very friendly and supportive. It's like going from home to home. We know each other so well, it's just like a little family."

## ***CORPORATE***

**Dr Tamsin Radford, Consultant  
and Head of Occupational Health**



Dr Tamsin Radford is the person that takes care of staff wellbeing, in other words, she helps the helper. She has a wide and extensive knowledge of a variety of illnesses and injuries.

She explains: "I spend around half of my time in clinic seeing staff of this and other organisations, who have health problems relating to work. I am also in charge of the Health and Wellbeing programme in the Trust, and teach junior doctors occupational health medicine, working closely with human resources on staff sickness absence. I am driven by being able to improve the health and wellbeing of the workforce and to work with my fantastic team."

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

In 2015 – 2016 we will spend over £1 m on education and the development of our staff. We would expect that figure to grow more in the years ahead.

SWBH offers a vibrant, interesting and varied career for all, and our education, learning and development plan aims to be a significant vehicle to enable and support our talented colleagues to enjoy a long, challenging and varied career, delivering fantastic care to the patients of Sandwell and West Birmingham.

## STAFF BENEFITS AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Trust genuinely values all of its staff for their incredible contribution – directly or indirectly – to healthcare in the region. Regardless of the roles that individuals perform, the Trust's Occupational Health Department provides a wide variety of free or subsidised services for the wellbeing of its staff.

We currently offer:

**Physiotherapy** - the Trust provides a free physiotherapy service for all its staff, regardless of their role. This is a self-referring service, and doesn't require recommendation from a GP.

**Gym membership** - City Hospital has an Active Health Club which is available to all staff across the Trust. The cost of membership is highly subsidised for staff, who are encouraged to use the facilities to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**Occupational Health** - Health and wellbeing services are managed by the Occupational Health department in the Trust, which provides a wide variety of free or subsidised benefits for staff. The benefits are not only felt by staff. Surveys have shown an increase from 20% to over 70% in satisfaction rates among patients since the Trust introduced these benefits. The surveys showed improved morale among staff, more staff retention, lower patient mortality and lower infection rates.

**Counselling support services** - We offer a free counselling service to all staff, regardless of their role. If they have any worries, personal, work-related, relationship-based, or any other cause, staff can make use of an in-house counselling service.

**Organised activities** - The Occupational Health team organises regular lunchtime and evening walks, running clubs, cycling clubs and more.

# OUR NEW HOSPITAL - MIDLAND METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL (MIDLAND MET)



In Autumn 2018, we will open our new hospital that will meet the needs of our local community and increase their health and wellbeing. Midland Metropolitan Hospital will bring emergency and acute healthcare for both adults and children onto a single site. This means that the most complex care provided by the Trust can happen consistently seven days a week.

It will have:

- 670 beds and 15 operating theatre suites, as well as modern diagnostic equipment.
- A dedicated car park on the new site will allow easy access to wards and departments. Bus routes will come onto the site.
- Many important design features. For example, all bathrooms in ward environments will be fully wheelchair accessible. Half of the beds in the building will be in single rooms. The standard design will allow the Trust to alter services within the building in decades to come. And the building makes extensive use of robots to move non-clinical equipment and services.
- A fifth floor winter garden will be the main space within which visitors can wait, eat and drink, and obtain information. This spacious facility, accessible from all levels, will be the heart of the new site.
- A habitat designed to attract one of the UK's endangered native birds – The Black Redstart. The little bird (about the size of a robin) has been spotted in the area, and as there are only approximately 40 mating pairs left in the UK, the Midland Met will offer it a home within the grounds.

With a focus on regeneration, the new hospital will reinvigorate services and infrastructure in the surrounding areas supporting the local economy and creating more opportunities for work, education, leisure and wellbeing.

For more information about our new hospital, please visit our website [www.swbh.nhs.uk](http://www.swbh.nhs.uk)

## **BE PART OF OUR VISION!**

**"IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR INNOVATIVE AND FORWARD-THINKING VISION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.SWBH.NHS.UK/WORK-FOR-US/](http://WWW.SWBH.NHS.UK/WORK-FOR-US/) TO LEARN ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH US."**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HOSPITALS AND SERVICES PLEASE FOLLOW US ON TWITTER [@SWBHNHS](https://twitter.com/SWBHNHS) AND FACEBOOK [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWBHNHS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWBHNHS)**



Where  
**EVERYONE**  
Matters