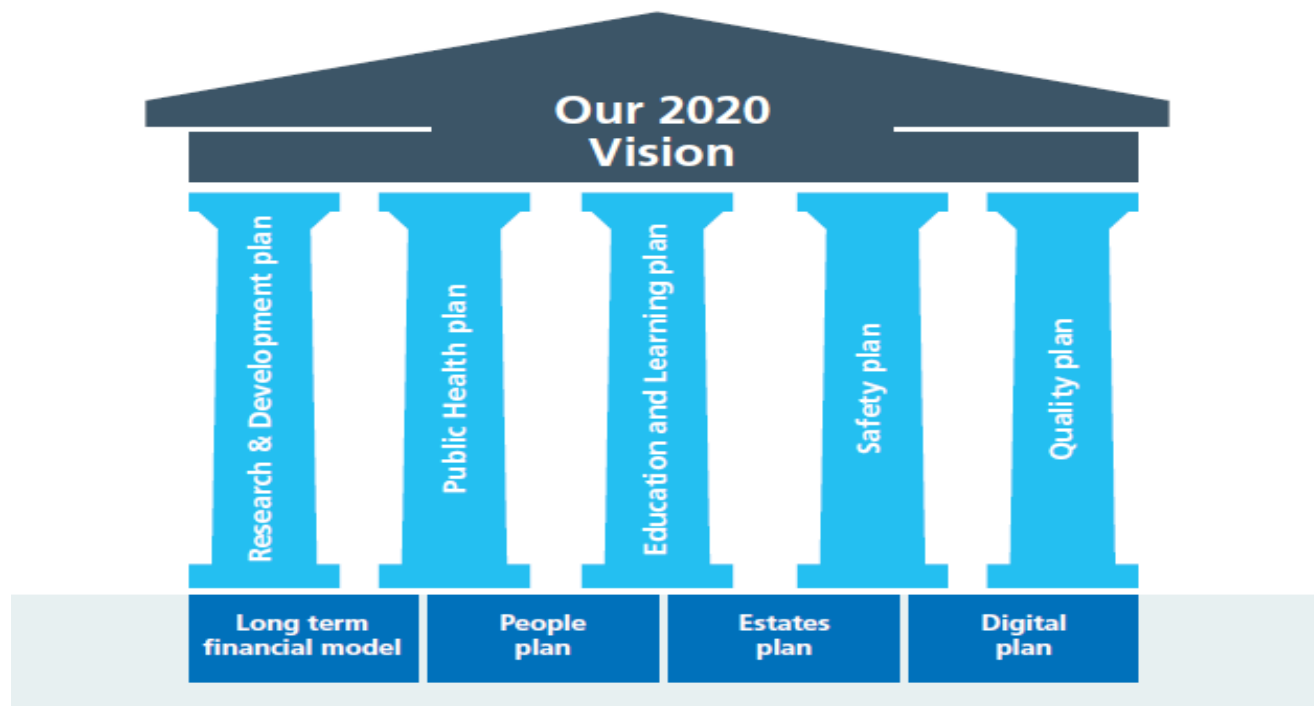


Welcome to SWB TeamTalk

WHILST MANAGING A PANDEMIC, KINDLY

Becoming renowned as the best integrated care organisation in the NHS...



TeamTalk Agenda

1.00pm: This month's priorities

1.15pm: Learning from the alcohol care team

1:30pm: COVID-19: Latest update

1:35pm: TeamTalk feedback

1:40pm: Your questions answered

May 2021

May priorities: Farewell to our Chairman, Richard Samuda

This week we say goodbye to Richard Samuda, our Trust Chairman.

Kind and considerate to his colleagues, Richard is known for being approachable and always willing to spend time listening to staff.

He's enjoyed social events with fellow colleagues, but also supported the chaplaincy at religious festivals and events that recognised diversity in Sandwell and West Birmingham.

Throughout his chairmanship, Richard has shown true compassion to his colleagues.

But there's also his drive and ambition to ensure the Trust delivered the best care possible to hundreds of thousands of patients across



Sandwell and West Birmingham and to join up care by supporting our partners in primary care and other organisations.

Richard is handing over the baton to Sir David Nicholson who will join us on 3 May.

May 2021

May priorities: Developing the Black Country and West Birmingham Integrated Care System (ICS)

- Partners within the Black Country and West Birmingham continue to work together
- In February the Government published proposals for legislation to formalise these partnerships and create statutory Integrated Care Systems (ICSs)
- Part of the partnership working approach includes mandating health care provider organisations to collaborate to improve population health outcomes – competition in the NHS will end
- This includes integrating clinical services to make them sustainable and to either retain or bring specialist services back to the Black Country and West Birmingham
- Our Trust will engage positively and equally on BCWB acute hospital collaboration. A programme board has been established and will priorities clinical outcome improvements
- The ICS legislative proposals suggest that ICS boundaries should be co-terminus with local authority borders. Our Trust's local partnership arrangements (Sandwell and West Birmingham) sits across two local authority areas and the Trust Board and Ladywood & Perry Barr ICP has considered the implications of these proposals and the tests that would need to be met in the event of a mandated boundary change.

May 2021

May priorities: Urgent Treatment Centre

- On 1 April, the Urgent Treatment Centre, formerly the Walk-in Centre at Parsonage Street began the process of moving to Sandwell Hospital.
- Though the official move and grand opening is scheduled to take place in **June**, the relocation of the service means that patients who visit Sandwell A&E will have access to this new service.
- For the interim period until the official launch, the Urgent Treatment Centre will temporarily based in ophthalmology outpatients at Sandwell with patients accessing the service via the emergency department entrance.
- The urgent treatment offers GP-led services, but not emergency care, for ailments such as, abdominal pain and minor illnesses, seven days a week from 9am – 9pm.
- Signage is in place to direct patients to the new service and patients have also been made aware of the move by Malling Health.

A&E entrance is for patients only: The main A&E entrance is for **patients** and should not be used routinely by clinical or non-clinical colleagues unless absolutely necessary. This is to prevent long queues forming in and around A&E and its main entrance. Colleagues should instead be using the entrance by main reception.

For more information about the move please contact email kawsar.miah@nhs.net or rachel.clarke10@nhs.net.

May priorities: Could you help with our in-house inspections?

- As part of our CQC preparedness plan, we are re-commencing our programme of in-house unannounced inspection visits across all areas of the Trust from Monday 10 May. This is a rolling programme with visits planned each week covering all hospital sites. We anticipate that each visit should take no more than 3 hours and will take place from 9.30am - 12.30pm.
- We are looking for a multi-disciplinary inspection team of colleagues at all levels and across all groups (medics, nurses, operational, pharmacists, facilities, directors, etc.). If this is something that you would be willing to support us with, please email ruth.spencer10@nhs.net with dates you would like to volunteer for from the [schedule of dates](#) on Connect.

If you require any further information on any of the above, please contact Ruth Spencer on 07970 993948 or email ruth.spencer10@nhs.net



May priorities: Better value, quality care programme

- Groups and teams across the Trust have been working up ideas to contribute to better outcomes for our patients and the health and wellbeing of staff while reducing the amount of money the Trust currently uses to provide these services.
- This year's target is £13.2m. So far, colleagues have come up with 112 ideas that are likely to generate over £9.4m.
- We aim to focus on ideas that maintain or improve quality and performance outcomes for patients and colleague wellbeing while reducing the amount of money we spend.
- Want to hear your good ideas about how we can improve and reduce cost by email swbh.my-good-idea@nhs.net
- We will share progress and good news stories from staff in Heartbeat and our other communications channels every month. You can see more information on the programme on [Connect](#).

Midland Met – ward locations #morethanahospital

The ongoing construction of the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) has continued to progress well, despite the challenges caused by the pandemic.

The opening of the new hospital will mean significant changes for many teams. Not just in terms of location, but also in ways of working. Starting from April 2021, we will begin sharing detailed information about the locations for services, departments and public areas within the new building, as well as updates on our retained estate.

All ward areas and relevant clinical departments will be visited with information showing where the location for their patients will be at MMUH. This includes a detailed plan of the ward areas.

Clinical Groups are represented on the different working groups and boards to ensure that colleagues are well informed of the work programme and activities required before the hospital opens.

April 2021	June 2021	July 2021	September 2021
Clinical services and wards in MMUH.	Clinical service updates on the Trust’s retained estate, including community beds and treatment centres.	Updates on administration areas (this includes admin spaces for clinical teams.)	Confirmation of community and primary care locations.

[MMUH intranet pages](#) have been set up and will be the go to place to get all the latest information on the build. Plus, it is where you will find the latest information for clinical groups and workstreams. Importantly, this is where you will also find a calendar of upcoming events and workshops. As well as this, you can access all the latest FAQs, photos, video updates and lots more.

You can find the MMUH intranet pages under the ‘programmes’ tab on Connect - <https://connect2.swbh.nhs.uk/mmuh/>

Level	Curent Department name	Departmental name in MMUH	Internal Address for Public	Clinical Lift Address	MMUH / actual commissioned for opening beds	Monitored beds	Side rooms	
0	Facilities, Receipts & Distribution	Facilities Hub	Only road signage for delivery vans required e.g. goods entrance	East 0	NA			
0	Mortuary	Bereavement Viewing Room	D0	East 0				
0	Car Park (public & staff)	Car Park	Level 0	Level 0				
1	Car Park (staff)	Car Park - staff	n/a	Level 1				
2	ED - Minors	Emergency Department	E2	West 2	8			
2	ED - Majors				25 cubicles plus 4 chairs			
2	ED - Mental Health							
2	ED - Resus				10 cubicles	8 cubicles		
2	ED - Paeds				9 cubicles and 3 chairs			
2	ED - RAM				10 cubicles			
2	Urgent Care	Urgent Care Centre	E2	West 2	2 consult rooms			
2	Mental Health Assessment Suite	Mental Health Assessment Suite	n/a	East 2				
2	Acute Medical Unit	Acute Medical Unit	C2	East 2	108		14	26
2	Ambulatory Care	Medical Same Day Emergency Care Unit	E2	West 2	24 trolleys, 30 chairs			
2	Surgical Assessment Unit	Surgical Assessment Unit	E2	West 2	23 beds			5
2	Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit	Surgical Same Day Emergency Care Unit	E2	West 2	4 chairs, 3 trolleys			
2	Medical ward (Cardiology)	A2 Cardiology ward	A2	West 2	32		16	16
2	Cardiac Cath Lab.	Cardiology Day Unit	A2	West 2				
2	Cardiac Diagnostics	Cardiology Diagnostics	A2	East 2				
2	Imaging	X-ray and Scan Department	D2	East 2				
2	Maternity Drop Off	Maternity - Serenity and Labour Ward	n/a	n/a				
2	Emergency Drop Off	Emergency Department	n/a	n/a				

Level	Curent Department name	Departmental name in MMUH	Internal Address for Public	Clinical Lift Address	MMUH / actual commissioned for opening beds	Monitored beds	Side rooms
3	Theatre Central Admissions	Operating Theatre Department or Operating Theatre Admissions	E3	West 3	10 rooms and wait area		
3	Theatres	n/a	n/a	West 3	11 operating theatres	4 PACU (pending funding) and 14 recovery spaces	
3	ICCU	Intensive Care Unit	D3	East 3 or Hot Lift 3	30	20 x L 3 beds or up to 30 bed with mix of L2/L3	12
3	Delivery Suite	Maternity birthing units	A3	West 3	21 rooms, 2 theatres, 4 recovery, 6 triage, 6 induction spaces ,4 beds	2 enhanced care	
3	ADAU & Foetal Medicine	Antenatal day unit	C3	East 3	6 spaces		
3	Antenatal Outpatients	antenatal clinic	A3	West 3	7 clinic rooms and 5 US rooms		
3	Neonatal Unit	Neonatal Unit	A3	West 3	36	29	
3	SCaT	Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Unit	C3	East 3	4 rooms and 6 chairs		
3	Procedures Unit (incl: IR, Endoscopy, MIS)	Medical Day Unit	C3	West 3 or East 3	A mix of clinic and procedure rooms		
3	Medical ward (Resp)	C3 Respiratory ward	C3	East 3	32	10	16
4	Paediatric Ward 1	E4 ward	E4	West 4	50		
4	PAU and ward with adolescent bay	childrens assessment unit and ward E4	E4	West 4			
4	Paediatric Ward 2 with HDU beds	D4 ward	D4	East 4		4	30
	Paediatric Day Case Unit	children's day unit	D4	East 4	6 spaces		
4	Paediatric Outpatients	children's and younger people's clinic	C4	East 4	clinic facilities		
4	Maternity ward	A4 ward	A4	East 4	56 and 8 chairs for discharge		32
4	Maternity ward	C4 ward	C4	West 4			
4	Pharmacy	Pharmacy	A4	West 4			
4	Pathology	Laboratories	C4	East 4			
4	Medical Illustration	medical illustration	n/a	West 4			
4	Medical Engineering	Medical Engineering	n/a	West 4			
4	Neuro & Resp Physiology	Physiology department	C4	East 4			
4	Urodynamics	Urodynamics	C4	East 4			

			Internal Address for Public	Clinical Lift Address	MMUH / actual commissioned for opening beds		Monitored beds	Side rooms
Level	Curent Department name	Departmental name in MMUH						
5	Winter Garden	Welcome Centre & use of 'i' sign	Level 5	East or West 5				
5	Restaurant and Coffee Shop	tba	Level 5	East or West 5				
5	Seminar Room for Patient Education	tba	D5 seminar room	East 5				
5	Education Centre	Education Centre	E5	West 5				
5	Multi-Faith Centre	Spiritual Care Centre	D5	East 5				
5	PALS	Complaints	A5	East 5				
5	Bereavement Offices	Bereavement Office	D5	East 5				
5	Overnight Accommodation x 4	Overnight Accommodation	D5	East 5 or West 5				
5	Retail Outlets	tba	Level 5	East 5 or West 5				
6	Surgical ward (Gynae/ Gynae onc hub and female surgery)	A6 ward	A6	West 6	24		2	16
6	EGAU & EPAU	Emergency Gynaecology Assessment Unit	E6	West 6	12 spaces			
6	Medical ward (Haem-onc and Sickle Cell hub and GIM)	B6 ward	B6	East 6 or West 6	32			16
6	TIA assessment unit	TIA clinic	D6	East 6	Clinic facilities with 2 rooms			
6	Medical ward (Stroke/ HASU/Neuro hub)	C6 ward	C6	East 6	32		6	16
7	Surgical ward (T&O)	A7 ward	A7	West 7	32			16
7	Surgical ward (T&O)	B7 ward	B7	East 7 or West 7	32			16
7	Medical ward (Acute Elderly)	C7 ward	C7	East 7	32			16
8	Surgical ward (General Surgery, Colorectal hub)	A8 ward	A8	West 8	32			16
8	Surgical ward (General Surgery, Urology, ENT hub)	B8 ward	B8	East 8 or West 8	32		8	16
8	Medical ward (Gastroenterology and Toxicology hub with GIM)	C8 ward	C8	East 8				
9	Medical ward (Acute Elderly)	A9 ward	A9	West 9	32			16
9	Medical ward (Acute Elderly)	B9 ward	B9	East 9 or West 9	32			16
9	Shelled Expansion	n/a	n/a	n/a				

May priorities: Celebrating National Nurses Week

This year's National Nurses Week will be held during the week starting Monday 10 May. To mark the event we are putting together a number of events throughout the week. These include:

COVID memorial service

- Our Lead Chaplain, Mary Causer will hold a memorial service at 3pm on Monday 10 May in the gardens at Sandwell Hospital.
- There will be capacity for up to 30 people to attend and we intend to livestream the service so everyone can join in virtually.

Sharing colleague stories

- Throughout the week in the daily communications bulletin we will profile colleagues sharing their stories on why they are proud to be in their roles.

Chief Nurse medals

- We are considering a new Chief Nurse medal to be awarded for outstanding service.

To say thank you

- Each area should watch out for goody bags being delivered throughout the week.

Further information will be shared via the daily communications bulletin.

May priorities: Perfect Ward now on pilot at our Trust

We are piloting a new smart inspection application, Perfect Ward, to use mobile technology to improve the efficiency of quality inspections. The aim of the app is to capture real-time inspection information in a more time-efficient way, boost the rating for Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections and to ease admin pressures.

- Perfect Ward is currently being piloted across four wards within the Trust, with the hope to roll out across the rest of the organisation during the second phase in May 2021.
- The initiative led by the corporate nursing team is designed for use across all clinical areas including hospital wards, theatres, care homes and community and social care settings.
- Perfect Ward helps capture ward inspections via a smartphone or tablet and provides instant feedback. This means results can be shared across the organisation and acted on immediately.
- The easy-to-use app enables elimination of paper based records which in turn means more time can be spent focusing on what matters most – caring for patients. The app is fully customisable to the quality assurance framework and engages frontline staff in the quality assurance and improvement process.

What are the benefits?

- Frees up time for patient care
- Easy to use application
- A clear transparent view of data
- Driving quality improvement
- A improved auditing process.

May priorities: Training needs analysis

Groups and directorate leads will have already received guidance on completing the training needs analysis for this financial year. This information should be captured and returned by **Thursday 29 April**.

As managers you are required to list the training and development needs for your staff for the 21/22 financial year, to include:

- Essential to talent management, succession planning and employee development for your area as identified through the PDR-Aspiring to Excellence process
- Essential to meeting the requirements of delivering your service/strategic service development plan
- Essential to role and professional requirements as identified in job description/person specification
- Statutory/mandatory training requirement that incurs a financial cost e.g.: ILS, ALS Required for Service Development.

There will be an opportunity to review the training needs of staff within the PDR cycle, and to re-prioritise within the final allocated budget. In the meantime please include as much detail as possible (including costs) – especially for those courses/training needs which will need to commence in the first quarter of the current financial year.

Please note that all staff groups, including doctors/medical staff need to be included.

For further information email nora.parsons@nhs.net.

May 2021

May priorities: Star Awards nominations to open next week

Our awards recognise the hard work of our colleagues and volunteers, both on the frontlines and our supporting services.

We are pleased that ITV Weatherman, Des Coleman will be our host again this year.

The ceremony will take place in October and, as always, will be the highlight of the staff calendar. There are 20 awards up for grabs, with four categories voted for by colleagues that are:

- Employee of the Year
- Clinical Team of the Year (Adults)
- Clinical Team of the Year (Children)
- Non-clinical team of the Year.



Colleagues also have the opportunity to be nominated by patients, visitors, carers and primary care colleagues as part of the Quality of Care Award and Local Primary Care Award for the Most Valued Service in the Trust.

See Connect for full details of how to make your nomination from Monday 3 May.

Learning from the Alcohol Care Team

Professor Sally Bradberry
Alcohol Lead

Arlene Copland
Alcohol Nurse Consultant

Background – the problem

- Alcohol related admissions and alcohol related liver mortality in Birmingham and Sandwell exceed national average
- By 2016, despite alcohol being on SWBH Public Health agenda for a number of years, goals unmet
 - Reduce alcohol related admissions
 - Improve the care of patients with alcohol misuse issues.

Background – the solution

- Professor Sally Bradberry, SWBH Alcohol lead
- SWBH alcohol care team **ACT** fully established 2018, funded in year 1 by SWBH charitable grant

ACT:

- lead nurse band 7
- 2 x band 6 nurses,
- 1 x band 5 nurse,
- 2 x band 4 practitioners,
- 1 x band 4 admin

Secured as substantive service after the one year

Goals – patient

- Holistic care offering realistic and relevant personalised interventions
- Empower each patient to be the driver of their own recovery
- Education and support at the point of need.

Goals – our organisation

- A fundamental rethink of alcohol care provision
- Proactive not reactive
- Reduce alcohol related admissions
- Prevent unplanned emergency admissions for alcohol detox
- Facilitate elective detox for those committed to abstinence
- Staff education
- Ensure robust data collection to evidence outcomes and fulfil KPIs
- Cost savings.

Goals – wider community

- To improve integration and liaison with community based alcohol services
- Deliver fully integrated care
- Raise profile of SWBH.

Service delivery

- Alcohol specialist nurse and alcohol practitioner available on both sites Mon – Fri
- Visible daily presence on wards and ED
- Check ED hourly to seek out alcohol related presentations
- On-line referrals via Unity or answerphone
- Face to face holistic alcohol assessment providing education and encouragement to empower the patient to make crucial lifestyle choices.

Service delivery

- Plan of immediate care with clear guidance for staff
- ACT follow up and/or appropriate referrals to hospital and community services
- OOH referrals assessed by telephone then added to ACT caseload and /or community services
- Patient support - AA meetings, on-line AA meetings and zoom group support, telephone and 1:1 support
- Family support - Fortnightly meetings, On-line meetings and Al-anon and Al-teen referrals.

Education and alcohol awareness events

- Bespoke ward and ED training
- Student nurse placements
- On-line and face to face education
- Dry January promotion
- Staff Wellbeing events
- Minimum unit price promotion.

Outcomes

Bed days saved

- 1656 days over 3 years

Reduced length of stay

- 3.4 to 2.4 days over 3 years

Elective detox abstinence rates

- 25% patients abstinent > 6 months

Improved quality of life following elective detox

- Wellbeing increased by 125% post detox

Financial Value

Over 3 years

- HACT social return on investment - £5.77 per £1
- Estimated 1676 bed days saved - £706,000
- Generated income from clinic and detox' tariff - £441,378
- ACT pay costs - £660,000

Achievements

- Winner of SWBH Trust Star award 2019 integrated care provider
- Highly commended HSJ awards 2021
- Chosen by NHS E/I as an optimal ACT and case study published 2019
- Lead nurse is working with PHE and NHS E/I and supporting new implementer ACT sites
- Data set and report template chosen by PHE as gold standard and made available to other ACTs.

Lessons Learnt

- Dare to be different
- Recruit a dedicated, passionate team with a shared vision
- Committed support from senior staff
- Comprehensive data collection - evidence outcomes
- Patience and perseverance

Next steps

- Awaiting funding approval to expand to 7 day service (recommended by PHE)
- Awaiting funding approval to appoint a dedicated fibroscan nurse to fulfil NICE recommendations for early detection of alcohol related liver disease (Liver prevention CQUIN 2021)
- Publish outcomes in peer reviewed literature.

.....and beyond

- Provide a mobile fibroscan service to take diagnostics into the community
- Expand to become a drug *and* alcohol service, initially with appointment of drug specialist nurse
- Purchase a property to provide temporary accommodation for patients needing support post detox.



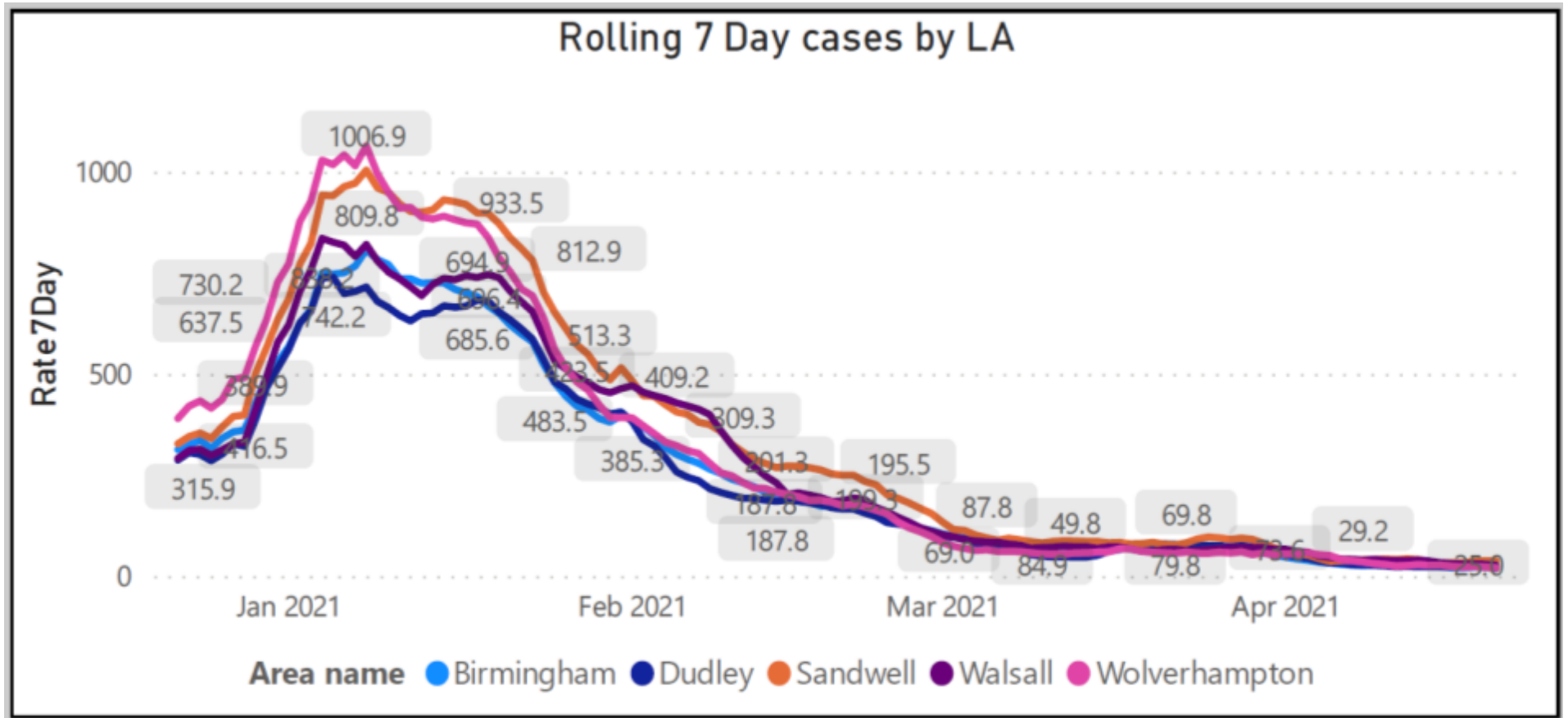


Questions

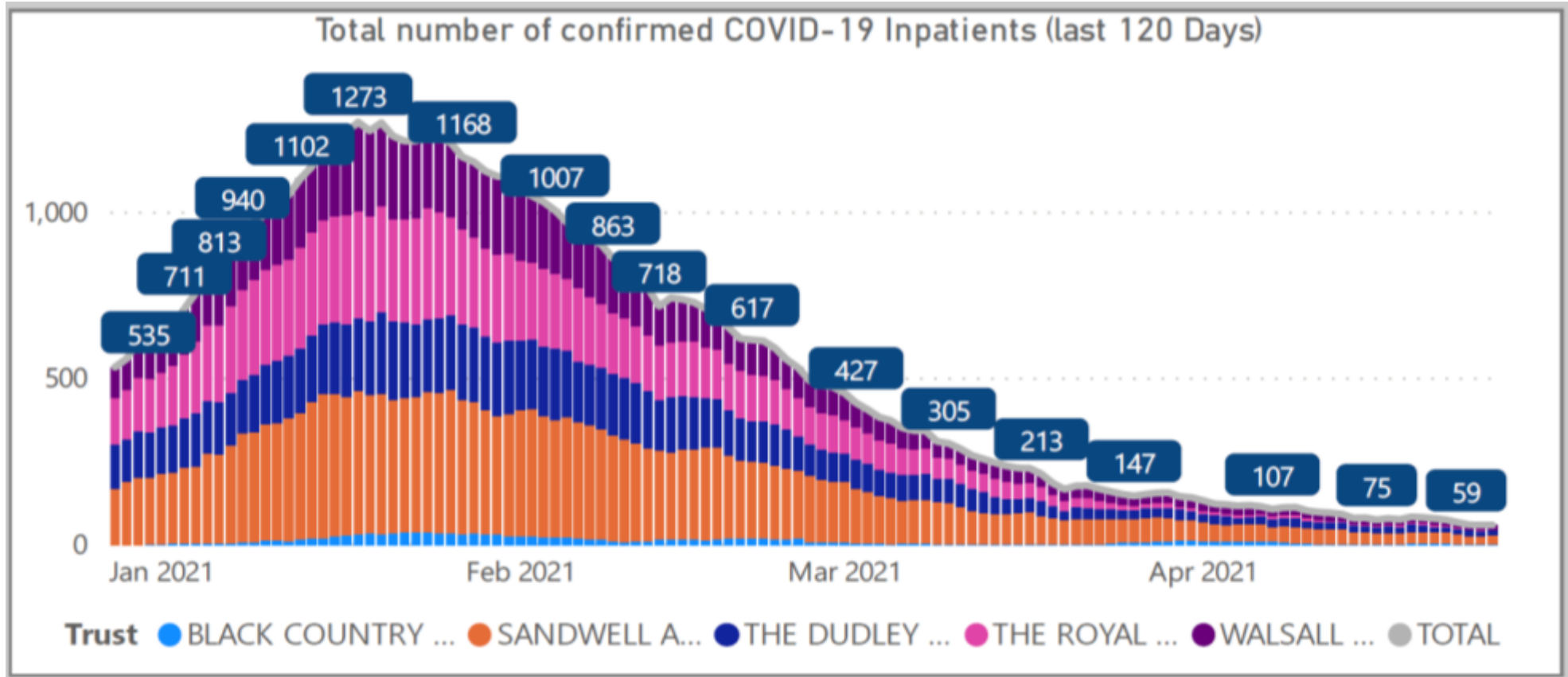
Thank you for listening!

COVID-19: Latest updates

COVID-19: Latest Dashboards



COVID-19: Latest Dashboards



Whilst we are looking at recovery following consistent reductions in community cases, we are aware of the risk of potential future waves so are ensuring we plan and prepare for that.

COVID-19: Recovery and restoration – wellbeing options

Thank you for your comments and feedback on staff recovery going forwards. These have been collated and will be shared shortly with a clear overview of what is on offer for colleagues. In the meantime:

Opening the gyms and re-introducing treatments at the Sanctuary

12 April saw us move into phase 2 of the national roadmap to recovery which meant gyms could reopen. We also reviewed our roadmap to reopening our gym facilities and the resumption of massages at the Sanctuary, and are actively looking at ways to improve infection control processes so we can safely reopen the gyms, and resume massages at the Sanctuary. Our priority remains colleague safety, and we will reopen our gyms and resume massages as soon as we can safely do so.

There remain a wide range of wellbeing options available to colleagues. These are just some of the ways you can support your personal wellbeing:

- Take advantage of a 20 per cent discount per month at [Sandwell Leisure Trust](#) via their one card membership.
- Try something new such as [mindful yoga with Chris](#)
- Try out our relaxation pod. Call 0121 507 5886 to book
- Book a chat at the Sanctuary by calling 0121 507 5886
- Call our counselling service on 0800 06 96 222 between 7am – 11pm or book via Occupational Health on 0121 507 3306
- Have a conversation with one of our REACT Practitioners by calling 0121 507 5886
- Sign up for a [Blue Light Card](#) to access exclusive discounts for NHS staff.

COVID-19: Remote / home working guidance

Some coronavirus restrictions remain in place, and colleagues should continue to work from home if they can.

- We are currently looking at options to integrate colleagues back into the workplace in a safe and co-ordinated way.
- Managers and staff are encouraged to have open discussions so that any working arrangements are coordinated effectively and managed safely.
- In most cases, where remote working is possible, it is likely to lead to a mix of remote and on site working. This will in turn allow us to assess what office space should be allocated for which teams and services.

In addition, we are doing a thorough review of our current and future needs in terms of administrative office space, to ensure they meet our requirements for now and in 2022 when the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital opens; this review takes account of COVID-19 guidelines so that we are prepared for the present risk and any future waves.

We don't have all the answers at present and would like to thank you all for your patience as we bring in changes for the short and medium term as well as looking ahead to the opening of MMUH.

Our home working guidance has been in place and regularly updated throughout the pandemic. [Read the latest guidance.](#)

May 2021

COVID-19: Revised infection control processes for patients

As the numbers of COVID positive patients are decreasing, the restoration and recovery of our services are a priority. However, it is also essential that we also maintain patient safety and uphold infection prevention and control principles.

As a result we have issued updated guidance for the processes to be followed when patients are in our care.

It includes the following areas:

- Emergency Department – streaming and testing for patients
- Contact patients - the pathway for patients who have been in contact with a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19
- Green stream - the pathway for admitting patients to Green areas
- ICU pathway.

These processes must be followed so please ensure you are familiar with them and share them with your colleagues. You can access the processes [here](#). In addition to this guidance, you should also follow the Trust's usual swabbing pathways as these are specific for certain areas. You can find this document by clicking [here](#).

May 2021

COVID-19: Still a chance to get your first dose of the vaccination

The vaccination hub at Sandwell is now closed. Thank you to everyone who has supported the running of the hub.

Tipton Sports Academy, Wednesbury Road, is available as a destination for you to get your first dose of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine with the hub running Monday to Sunday, 8am to 7pm. Book your slot via [the national booking website](#). Alternatively you can be vaccinated local to where you live – you can book yourself in via [the national booking website](#).

Due a second jab at Walsall?

Colleagues who are due to attend Walsall Manor Hospital for their second dose vaccination, will now have their appointments at the Saddlers Shopping Centre in Walsall town centre. Please remember to take your staff ID and have your NHS number to hand. If you have any concerns or questions please contact covacc.enquiries@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk.



COVID-19: Managers – we need you to ensure your teams are testing regularly

Managers are being urged to help improve the uptake and continued participation in the weekly LAMP testing programme not only to protect our patients, our colleagues, but our families and friends.

As part of daily huddles please encourage take up of the LAMP test and remind your teams that:

- LAMP testing is available to **EVERYONE** - clinical and non-clinical
- Collection can be made by calling 0121 507 2664 option 6
- Once signed up, colleagues get a weekly text message reminding them to do their test.

Further information on LAMP testing [can be found on Connect](#).

City Hospital swabbing pod to wind down

City's swabbing pod will be winding down over the rest of this month. City pod is closed at weekends and will be closing entirely as of Monday 3 May.

- As of Monday 3 May we will only be operating the swabbing pod from Little Lane at Sandwell Hospital, 7 days a week, 8:30am – 3:30pm. Colleagues are reassured that there is enough capacity for testing for the current and anticipated level of demand.

If you have been experiencing COVID-19 symptoms you can book an appointment for a test by calling 0121 507 2664 and choosing option 6, Monday – Friday, 8am – 6pm. On Saturdays and Sundays call 07816 992873 or 07970 428995 8am – 4pm.

COVID-19: Advice to colleagues during Ramadan

The month of prayer and fasting for Muslim colleagues and patients is underway.

This year Ramadan takes place at a critical time in the NHS vaccine rollout. Concerns had been raised about whether the act of getting the vaccine would break the fast, as well as potential side effects of feeling unwell after being vaccinated, and reservations about taking daily pain relief medication.

Dr Habib Naqvi, director of the NHS Race Health Observatory has said: "There is no reason why a first or second dose vaccine cannot be administered during Ramadan. The content is halal, and receiving it will not invalidate the Ramadan fast, as per the opinion of Islamic scholars."

Further guidance has been developed by the British Islamic Association (BIMA) debunking [myths surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine including during Ramadan](#).

May 2021

TeamTalk Feedback – Team communication

This month we are asking colleagues to discuss how team communication can be improved.

Think about what you can do:

- To make time for communication
- Methods of communication to use
- What to communicate
- Regularity of communication
- Support you may require (as a manager) to become a better communicator.

Please send your feedback by 24 May to subtan.mahmood@nhs.net

May 2021

Your questions answered