



Engage e-newsletter

Issue 3

Welcome to the third edition of our engage e-newsletter for Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust Engagement Members. In this issue, read about what we've been up to over the past year and how you can get involved next year.



SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we near the end of the year, we wanted to say a huge thank you for being a valued engagement member and for making the time and effort to get involved with the Trust.

It's been a very busy year for the engagement team talking with our patients, local communities, groups and organisations about service improvements at the

Letting our carers know we care

We have been working in partnership with our patient experience team, and organised an afternoon tea and chat session for carers. We listened to their concerns and talked about coproducing a Carers Passport. We accepted an invitation to attend a carers evening at the Carers Centre in Oldbury. They work with people who have family members who experience poor mental health and we listened to how we can improve their experience of services they access.



Focus on Frailty

In June, we worked with our fabulous Frailty team and ran an engagement session at the Yemini Centre, West Bromwich for anyone interested in our work around frailty. We introduced our new frailty pathway and virtual wards for Midland Met and the changes patients, families and carers will see. Members who attended told us they were pleased to see partners working together to deliver better care in the hospital and community.



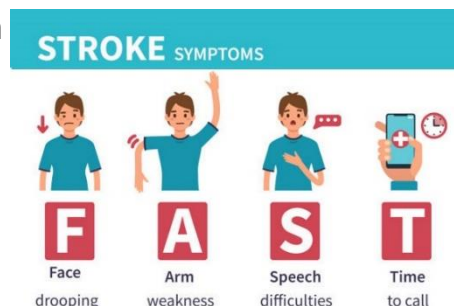
Cricket showdown Deaf World vs Physicians and Surgeons

The Trust's community connections and partnerships go beyond just meetings. Before the summer, our NHS physicians and surgeons played a thrilling cricket match against Deaf World. Both teams provided nothing but exciting play and unforgettable moments on the pitch. In an impressive display of skill and teamwork, the physicians and surgeons emerged victorious with a score of 169/6, outperforming their opponents who managed a close 163/9.

Stroke

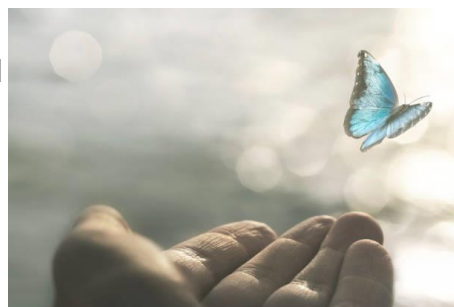
Stroke is a serious medical condition which can have a major impact on lives. Our engagement continues on proposed plans to improve acute stroke and stroke rehabilitation services once the new hospital opens. You can read the [Changes to Stroke Services](#) document and have your say by completing the survey included in the document or online: <https://bit.ly/3GFitww>.

The survey closes on Friday 12th January 2024 at 11.45pm. Your feedback will help to improve the Trust's stroke services.



Bereavement workshop

The Trust also hosted its first Bereavement workshop in September, talking to relatives and carers that have experienced a bereavement within our hospitals. They provided us with some great feedback about the care their loved one received from the Trust, and we learned about what potential service changes we can make.



Sandwell Primary and Secondary Care Engagement

As part of our goal to strengthen relationships with general practice and improve patient flows before Midland Met opens, we held an engagement event for our Sandwell GP colleagues. We discussed care models, patient flow improvement, and how, as a Trust, we can play our part to support patient access to general practice. We aim to replicate this session for our West Birmingham GP colleagues in the new year.



Engaging with our communities

We were also invited to talk to Sandwell Deaf Community Association, Sandwell Visually Impaired, Patient Participation Groups in general practice and the Wednesbury Agewell Forum about the new hospital. We enjoy



talking to our local population and partners, so if you would like us to come along to one of your meetings and talk about the new hospital and what services will remain and move from Sandwell and City Hospital when Midland Metropolitan University Hospital opens, then please get in touch by calling 0121 507 2671 or emailing swbh.engagement@nhs.net.

Engagement news

And we're on the road

As part of our mission to inform and connect with local communities about the new Met hospital, the Midland Met bus has been actively engaging with over 600 people made stops at libraries across West Birmingham and Sandwell, participated in Safer 6 events, and are currently visiting children's centres and family hubs. Conversations have revolved around the services that will remain and relocate from both City and Sandwell hospitals.

Our local communities have passionately voiced their thoughts, expressing key concerns such as accessibility, service continuity, language and translation services, mental health provision, and considerations related to faith and culture.

Looking ahead, we'll be visiting our very own hospitals to spread the word. For upcoming locations, please visit: www.swbh.nhs.uk/get-involved/events/.



Youth Space

Youth Space, one of the Trust's many engagement groups, has 144 young members aged between 13 to 21. They have a keen interest in healthcare and get involved in many projects, as well as presenting their views to the Health and Wellbeing Board.



That's not all our young members have been up to though. Each month, led by Jayne Salter-Scott, Head of Public and Community Engagement and Mel Roberts, Chief Nursing Officer, our young members are encouraged to take part in various themed activities, along with setting their own agendas and leading meetings. Members have also worked together with our design team to create their new logo and branding. Most recently, they played a key part of the interview panel in the recruitment process for two Youth Worker at the Trust.

Their collective work and involvement with the Trust hasn't gone unnoticed. The insightful, brave and outgoing bunch were nominated for the Trust's [Star Awards 2023](#), winning Partnership with the Community Award, along with Angela Arnold. As a thank you for all their hard work and commitment, members were treated to a fun activity at Ackers Trust last month.



Our next Youth Space meeting is on Tuesday 30th January 2024. So, if you know someone aged between 13 to 21 years, who is interested in health and would like to get involved, ask them to [join](#) our Youth Space.

Youth Space meets every last Tuesday of the month from 6.30pm to 8pm at Sandwell Hospital Education Centre, Hallam Street, West Bromwich B71 4HJ. Doors open from 5.30pm and food and drinks are provided from 5.45pm.

For more information, call 0121 507 2671 or email: swbh.engagement@nhs.net or register [here](#) to join Youth Space and receive further information.

Midland Met News

Here's some recent news about the new Midland Met hospital.

For more information about the new Midland Met hospital [click here](#) or follow [@MidlandMetUH](#) on Twitter.



Talking travel, transport and parking with our Near Neighbours

Being a good neighbour is a priority for the Trust, particularly as we move toward opening our new acute Midland Met hospital in Autumn 2024.

Over the past year, the Trust has actively engaged with our near neighbours of Midland Met, including local residents, community and voluntary groups, and businesses, to strengthen our connection with the communities we proudly serve.

In November, we held two follow up Near Neighbours meetings to continue discussions about travel, transport, access. During these meetings, the Trust's senior management team updated over 65 local people on the progress made so far, whilst also sharing our updated plans. Partners from Birmingham City Council, Sandwell



Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands Combined Authority, and Travel for West Midlands also joined the sessions to enable productive and informed discussions around topics residents care about the most.

Watch the Midland Met October 2023 video update [online](#).

Attendees raised several questions to Trust and partner representatives about parking on nearby streets when Midland Met opens, job opportunities, and community access to public spaces within and outside the building.

A diverse range of topics were discussed, and below is a summary of the points raised at the meetings.

- **Timeline:** The Trust is confidently working towards obtaining the building keys, occupying building, checking the equipment before starting to transfer services, departments and patients.
- **Parking and Access:** Details discussed included access for cars, parking permits, public transport, confirmation on bus routes, and potential parking congestion risks. Once the hospital opens, both Birmingham and Sandwell Councils assured residents that they will follow legal processes to monitor and collect evidence of traffic and parking congestion in residential areas. Residents will also have the opportunity to complete related surveys. The outcome of this process may lead to restricted areas and parking permits being issued. Residents also informed the Trust and partners present, about difficulties in accessing drives, garages and parking spaces right now, and that they were concerned these issues and higher traffic congestion would increase once the hospital is open. Our West Birmingham and Sandwell local authority colleagues assured residents they would monitor the areas and make the relevant recommendations.
- **Retail Strategy:** The Trust is developing a strategy to involve local businesses and communities, in additions to the three main coffee shops; one on the ground floor near the emergency department; maternity and fifth floor.
- **Regeneration Funds:** All partners confirmed an additional £18 million funding pot for the Grove Lane Regeneration Corridor, which will support local area regeneration.
- **Learning Campus Development:** The onsite learning campus has received £13 million development funding to focus on becoming a local community hub for learning, training and vocational education, and bring in the next generation of its health workforce.
- **Future Opportunities:** Two items for further consideration were the market garden opportunity and industrial composting concept.
- **Careers Event:** The Trust has committed to holding another careers event and open day near the Midland Met.
- **Affordable Housing:** Affordable housing initiatives around the area through Sandwell Council and at the City Hospital site through Home England were also discussed.

**Near Neighbours
Public Meetings**
Travel, Transport and Parking

Overall, there was significant interest and enthusiasm from local neighbours

looking forward to our new hospital opening next year. We will continue to work with and engage with our Midland Met near neighbours and keep the conversation going around these important topics.

Lights, Camera, Action – Midland Met is beamed live to three million viewers on NHS birthday

On 5 July, the 75th birthday of the NHS, the ITV Central News team decamped from Gas Street Studios in Birmingham City Centre to broadcast their 6pm show from our new acute hospital, the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.



Presenters Sameena Ali Khan and Steve Clamp delivered the broadcast from the Winter Gardens, situated on the fifth floor of the building, which is set to become the heart of the hospital. They also featured a tour of the maternity department focusing on a birthing room and showed viewers the interior of a typical inpatient room with an ensuite. Additionally, there was a quick tour around theatres and critical care. Around three million viewers tuned in to watch the show.

Calling volunteers for roles at new super hospital

Our Midland Met volunteering team is looking for volunteers to help people find their way around the new nine floor hospital when it opens next year. If you, or someone you know, would like to support us at Midland Met, watch Pat's video about volunteering opportunities [here](#).



For more information or register your interest in volunteering at Midland Met, email: patriciahunt@nhs.net or call 07790 351 490.

Volunteers zipped through the challenge

Over 100 brave volunteers successfully completed the zip wire challenge on 1 and 2 July, raising vital funds for the Your Trust Charity 'We are Metropolitan Campaign'. The money raised will help to develop community spaces, create a welcoming and healing environment and enhance research and development.



Trust News

Below are some recent updates from the Trust. Read more of our latest [news stories](#) online.

Trust services based at new ultra-modern medical centre

A new health centre has officially opened in Wednesbury following a joint development project between Sandwell Council and the NHS.

The Richard Nugent Centre was officially opened on Monday 4 December in Kingsbury Close as the new, modern home for the Spires Health Centre. The Trust's District Nurses, Foot Health team, Community Heart Failure Nurses and the Anticoagulant Service will all be based there. Read [more](#).



NHS Trust welcomes students to careers event

More than 120 youngsters visited Sandwell Hospital in West Bromwich to find out more about careers in the NHS.

The students, from schools and colleges across the area, were invited to the Insight into NHS Careers event organised by the Widening Participation Apprenticeship Team.



Nikki Smith, Work Experience and School Engagement Lead, said: “There was an amazing turnout of students wanting to learn more about the careers we have on offer here at the Trust and the journey of getting into those roles. Read [more](#).

Trust AGM

Our successful Virtual Wards Service which delivers specialist hospital care at home to patients, was the main area of focus at the online annual general meeting (AGM) in August. Chief Executive, Richard Beeken led the AGM and talked through the development of the Trust's values which are a reflection of what matters to the Trust and the people and communities we serve. Other significant key achievements from the past year were also highlighted, including proudly becoming a part of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) Dying to Work Charter and the launch of the fundamentals of care framework to enhance our caregiving standards - to name a few! [Watch the highlights](#).



Engagement Membership

It is easy to become a member and get involved. As a member, we will send you updates and opportunities to share your views, experiences and opinions

with us. These include taking part in surveys and attending engagement events and information sessions. You can take part in as much or as little as you like.

If someone you know would like to join, they can now complete an [online application](#), email swbh.engagement@nhs.net or call 0121 507 2671.

Let's Talk

For more information or to find out how you can get involved, here's how you can reach us:

- Phone: 0121 507 2671
- Email: swbh.engagement@nhs.net
- Website: www.swbh.nhs.uk/get-involved
- Twitter: [@SWB_engagement](https://twitter.com/SWB_engagement)

