



A NEW KIND OF TRUST

REVIEW OF THE YEAR
2015/16

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Proud to Care

A patient is the most important person in our hospital. They are not an interruption to our work, they are the purpose of it. They are not an outsider in our hospital, they are part of it. We are not doing them a favour by serving them, they are doing us a favour by giving us an opportunity to do so.

2025 Vision

Our goal is to become one of the top university teaching hospitals in the UK by 2025. We will constantly improve patient care and foster innovation in the organisation, which exceeds the expectations of patients and meets the needs of commissioners and providers who work with us.

It's time to reflect on a truly remarkable first year

Our staff took a moment to celebrate the Trust's first anniversary on 1 November 2015 during what has been a truly remarkable year. This Trust was created following a record investment of £250m to bring two acute hospitals together. Over these past 12 months we've been making good on our commitment to transform health services in Staffordshire and ensure the stability and future resilience of health services in this part of the country.

The hard work of all of our staff is bringing real change to clinical services, most notable at County Hospital, where we have launched a new MRI Unit, a new Renal Unit and started work to refurbish the wards and the A&E department to make for a more vibrant modern local hospital.

At Royal Stoke University Hospital we have been meeting the challenge of delivering good quality care for a region covering more than three million people. The overall theme of the year is one of growing demand for our services, be that emergency care or for elective treatments. We're delighted that our hospitals are where patients chose to receive their care, and we expect this to continue in ever larger numbers.

But with demand comes expectation. We must meet the expectations of our patients, and in the isolated areas where we have not been able to do this, we have apologised and put in place measures that will allow us to do so in the future. It is our commitment to you that this 12,000 person strong Trust will always meet challenges head on and not rest until we achieve our vision and goals.

Part of our vision has been to create 'A New Kind of Trust' where clinicians nationally and internationally want to learn work and research. Over the course of the year our staff have scaled wonderful heights, none more so than Mandie Burston, a Major Trauma nurse who won the prestigious Nurse of the Year Award at the Nursing Standard Awards for her work in raising awareness of domestic violence, a humbling achievement given the impact of domestic violence.



Chairman
John MacDonald



Chief Executive
Robert Courtney-Harris

Our staff have said that not only would they recommend the Trust as a place to work, they would want their friends and relatives to be treated here to. There can be no higher compliment. To help staff we're placing more and more emphasis on leadership, team development and organisational development.

Elsewhere we've continued to train the nurses and doctors of the future in partnership with Keele University and Staffordshire University. We must never lose sight of our obligation to the next generation who will one day guide the NHS through the challenges to come. We've also been playing our part in the community, offering apprenticeships, work experience and careers advice.

As a Trust Board we are not only looking at the current services, we're looking to the future. We're using technology more and more to bring patients and clinicians closer together. We've embraced research and we continue to support its growth as we recognise its importance in attracting excellent clinicians to the Trust.

We've made great strides as a Trust in our first full year. Our commitment to you is to build on our many achievements, reflect when we have fallen short of the ambitious goals we have set ourselves and always put the healthcare needs of you and your family first.



A year in the life of University Hospitals

April 2015

The Trust launched a new fruit and vegetable stall to promote healthy eating. Designed to promote healthy eating and offering exotic fruits as well as more traditional fare, the stand is an influential presence at the hospital.



July 2015

A new state-of-the-art theatre to treat patients requiring hip and knee operations opened at County Hospital. Gareth Hurley, Matron for Theatres, said: "Patients and staff will really see the benefits from this laminar flow 'clean air' theatre."

August 2015

The Trust launched a new rapid access Royal Stoke MS Centre for Multiple Sclerosis patients. The Centre of Excellence now cares for 2,500 patients, which has increased by more than 60% in the last decade.

October 2015

The innovative Ambulatory Emergency Care unit opened at Royal Stoke for emergency patients. The £1m unit enables the Trust to provide timely same day emergency care and is a means of avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions.



January 2016

A new £1.5m Unit for patients with eye problems opened at Royal Stoke University Hospital. The state-of-the-art Poswillo Cataract Suite is used by clinicians to perform eye surgery, including patients requiring surgery under local anaesthetic.

February 2016

A new App which gives the public live waiting times at the Trust's A&E departments was launched. The App, pictured right, gives regular updates on urgent care services to ensure patients receive the most appropriate treatment as quickly as possible.



of North Midlands NHS Trust...

May 2015

New services for children opened their doors at County Hospital in Stafford. A new Children's Emergency Centre providing urgent medical care from a team specialising in both emergency medicine and child health opened.

Left, children visiting the Centre.

June 2015

Staff at County Hospital's newly refurbished Women's Health Centre held an Open Day to showcase the upgraded facilities. Staff were on hand to give guided tours and explain the services that are now available.

Below, the Centre has been very popular.



September 2015

The paediatric oncology team were rewarded for their work treating seriously ill children by Prince Harry. The team have won the prestigious WellChild Award after being nominated by two families.

November 2015

A new £3.2m satellite Renal Unit at County Hospital that provides the latest modern facilities for long-term dialysis treatment opened. Prof Gavin Russell, Associate Medical Director, said: "This is an exciting new development."

Left, Dr Chris Thompson and Ward Manager Sally Davies with patient Doug Nesbitt.

December 2015

The catering facilities and services for patients at County Hospital were upgraded. The refurbished kitchens now provide patients with locally-sourced produce and greater choice.

March 2016

Staff in infection control celebrated after vaccinating almost 7,000 staff, 75% of the whole workforce, against the potentially deadly flu virus this winter. Vaccinating against the flu protects staff members and ensures they don't pass the virus on to others.



Substantial investment marks positive change for people

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, 'A New Kind of Trust', was created in 2014 with an investment of over £250m to bring together clinical services in Stoke and Stafford. This was a moment of major, positive change for the people of Staffordshire and their local NHS. The substantial investment into NHS services in Staffordshire is enabling the Trust to expand and develop our hospitals to the very real benefit of local people.

Safety is our number one priority with safer care in better facilities, more follow up care in local settings and better access to specialist care. The investment of over £250m has already helped to fund a new freestanding midwifery birth unit, renal unit and MRI Scanner and much more at County Hospital.

Over the coming year the A&E will be doubled in space, the first two of the five new wards will open, a new chemotherapy unit will be created and outpatients will be refurbished. All of this means County Hospital is set to become a vibrant modern local hospital with increased number of patients and access to a wider range of consultants.

At Royal Stoke we have opened a new 28-bed children's ward, opened 120 new adult beds, created 12 new critical care beds, opened two new theatres and expanded patient and visitor car parking by 300 spaces. The creation of the new Trust and the additional investment in NHS services is also helping us to recruit and retain permanent staff as the reputation of the Trust grows and more people want to work here.





The Trust is the regional specialist hospital within the North Midlands. It works in partnership with other acute hospitals in the region. As a university hospital, UHNM works with Keele University and Staffordshire University, and has strong links with local colleges and schools.

The Trust provides a full range of general acute hospital services for approximately 900,000 people locally in Staffordshire, South Cheshire and Shropshire. The Trust also provides specialised services for three million people in a wider area, including neighbouring counties and North Wales.

Our specialised services include cancer diagnosis and treatment, cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, renal and dialysis services, neonatal intensive care, paediatric intensive care, trauma, respiratory conditions, spinal surgery, upper gastro-intestinal surgery, complex orthopaedic surgery, laparoscopic surgery and the management of liver conditions.

More than 175,000 patients attended our A&E departments last year. Many emergency patients are brought to us from a wide area by both helicopter and land ambulance because of our Major Trauma Centre status.

Our services are organised into six clinical divisions, each of which is made up of a number of individual directorates or departments. Our clinical divisions are Specialised, Surgery, Medicine, Children's, Women's and Diagnostics (CWD) and the Community and Partnerships Division. These are supported by Operations, Central Functions, Estates, Facilities and PFI and County Hospital divisions.



Expanding to meet demands

The overwhelming theme is that demand for services at the Trust is increasing. The number of patients choosing the Trust for their treatment and care remained high, and the Trust in turn expanded services where possible to meet this demand.

The Trust has plans to increase the size and scale of its services and staff further and it is anticipated that these figures will continue to grow in 2016/17 as more patients continue to choose the services in the Trust.

Number of inpatients and day cases treated (in spells)	
Elective inpatients	14,469
Elective day cases	79,004
Emergency inpatients	106,568
Number of outpatients seen	
New appointments	274,494
Follow up appointments	509,521

The Trust worked hard to try to continue to meet its obligation to its cancer patients during 2015/16. The Trust achieved its commitment to see patients with two weeks from referral to first outpatient appointment but we were unable

to meet the 62 day wait from GP referral to treatment Cancer Wait Time (CWT) standards for the year and the Trust apologised for this. The 31 day diagnosis to treatment was very close to being achieved.

This year has again seen the number of attendances rise, and the number of these patients who require admission has continued to increase, with indications that this is up 15% above recent years. This is largely as a result of an ageing population of patients, many with multiple co-morbidities. This winter there were at times a 30% rise in patients over 75-years-old admitted.

This year was an incredibly challenging year for the Emergency Centre team with 176,385 attendances. The A&E four-hour wait is a guide of how well the hospital and the local health economy of primary care, acute care and social care are working. The numbers coming through the door explain why the Trust only achieved 78.4% against the challenge of meeting the 95% target.

The Trust has faced huge challenges in meeting the Referral to Treatment standard and did not achieve the 92% standard this year, achieving 90.2%.





CQC

The first Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection on the new University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust said care for children and young people at Royal Stoke University Hospital was “outstanding”. The inspectors said they saw many examples of compassionate care, delivered in a timely and appropriate manner. They were particularly impressed with some of the care delivered to children at Royal Stoke where staff had gone that extra mile to care for children with long term conditions.

Inspectors also picked out for particular praise the Specialised Neurological Unit at County Hospital, the Critical Care Unit, neonatal care staff and the alcohol liaison team at Royal Stoke. They said they saw a number of outstanding examples of good care right across the Trust.

In each hospital it inspects, the CQC makes assessments of safety, effectiveness, care, responsiveness and leadership in each of eight different service areas. Royal Stoke University Hospital received 18 Good or Outstanding assessments and three Inadequate assessments. County Hospital received 23 Good assessments and one Inadequate assessment. Overall the Trust was rated as Requiring Improvement. Approximately 60% of the trusts inspected by the CQC have been rated as Requiring Improvement.

The CQC were highly complementary about the standard of care being delivered in Stoke and Stafford. They said that feedback from patients and relatives was positive about how the staff treated them. The inspectors found that people were treated with dignity, respect and kindness during their interactions with staff and they felt emotionally supported.

The CQC rarely says that NHS Trusts are “outstanding” in any of the assessments it makes so staff at the Trust were particularly pleased and proud that the tremendous care they provide for children and young people had been recognised. It was especially good to see that every single service in both of the hospitals, Royal Stoke and County Hospital, were assessed as being Good or Outstanding for the care we deliver.

The CQC noted, however, that the Trust was continuing to face some tough challenges but concluded that it was clear throughout their inspection that the Trust is committed to ensuring services meet the needs of local people and that many services are in a period of transition to achieve this.

Development and performance

The Trust is now a third of the way through a challenging five year financial recovery and this year’s financial plans set out the on-going growth and performance improvement expectations.

This year the Trust had a deficit of nearly £27m against a planned deficit of nearly £17m. The difference between these are partly due to the Trust not being able to increase the number of elective patients as anticipated. In addition, increased emergency patients resulted in significant premium costs.

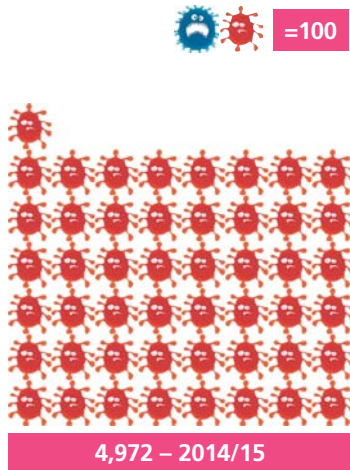
The Trust achieved financial efficiencies of nearly £32m against a plan of £36m due to key areas of the hospital where operational performance has been particularly challenging.

A detailed financial report is available in the Annual Report 2015/16 from www.uhnm.nhs.uk.





Staff Flu Vaccination uptake



= 100

Staff groups



68%
of staff say... "This is a research-led Trust."

Nursing and Midwifery registered
2,842 (30.85%)

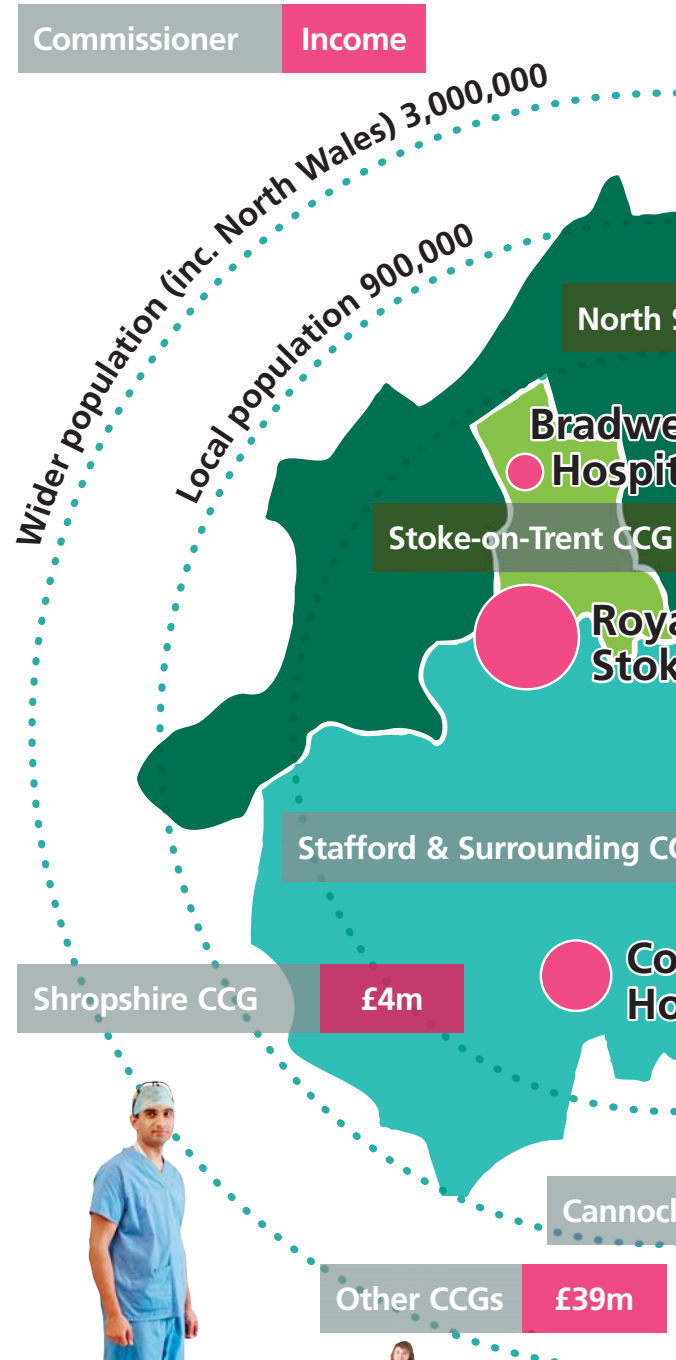
Additional Clinical Services
1,996 (21.67%)

Admin and Clerical
1,784 (19.36%)

Medical and Dental
1,056 (11.46%)

Estates and Ancillary
496 (5.38%)

Allied Professions
430 (4.64%)



Protecting patients from harm and infection is paramount

Infection Control

The prevention and control of infections, together with the safety of our patients, remains a top priority at University Hospitals of North Midlands. As a major teaching Trust we have a significant number of vulnerable, frail and immunocompromised patients who are susceptible to infections. Patients using clinical services such as nephrology, oncology, haematology, critical care, major surgery and of course the care of our older patients are particularly susceptible.

The Trust has continued to report historically low MRSA instances. This year there have been five cases of MRSA bacteraemia this year. Although the Trust's target each year is zero, a number of these were deemed unavoidable by the external panel that reviews such cases. The clinical colleagues work closely together to reduce and control avoidable hospital-acquired infections. At UHNM we have continued to screen all our inpatients for MRSA.

The Trust recorded 102 cases of Clostridium difficile this year. Cases of Trust apportioned Clostridium difficile infections, which were targeted to be 74, are also subject to analysis. The Trust continues to participate in a multi-centre research project to look at the feasibility of a vaccine that protects against Clostridium difficile. UHNM is one of a few centres nationally that provide a new

'Probiotic Infusion service' for patients with recurrent Clostridium difficile – this has already been shown to have a high success rate in a number of patients.

Norovirus, commonly known as the 'winter vomiting virus', is the most common cause of gastroenteritis in the UK and generally occurs between October and April. A testament to the work of clinicians at the Trust meant that no wards were closed this winter, which is an historic low.

The seasonal campaign to vaccinate UHNM staff against influenza ran from October 2015 to January 2016. There was an overwhelming response from staff for the vaccination, ultimately vaccinating over 75.9% of our front line staff. The Trust remains in the top 15 trusts nationwide for flu vaccination uptake. Vaccinating against the flu virus not only protects staff members, it also ensures that staff don't pass the virus on to others, including vulnerable patients.

Liz Rix, Chief Nurse, said: "I'd like to offer my congratulations and thanks to the vaccination team for their hard work once again this year. As health professionals, we need to protect those who are most vulnerable and by getting the flu jab, it dramatically reduces the risk of the virus being spread within the hospital setting."



Harm free care

The Trust is committed to improve quality, safety and access to all patients and this year we reported zero Never Events. The national target for harm free care of 95% was achieved, with 97.96% for this year. In addition the Trust recorded just 13,723 safety incidents, an average rate of 30.07 patient safety incidents per 1,000 bed days, in line with The Healthcare Improvement indicator rate of 30.00 patient safety incidents.

Staff at the Trust worked hard to keep the number of falls suffered by patients remains lower than the national benchmark rate of 5.8, with 5.19 falls per 1,000 bed days. This achievement is in part due to the continued excellent performance for falls risk assessments. Staff achieved 98.9% completion rate against a national target of 95%, and Falls Bundle compliance of 93%.

Pressure ulcers are a recognisable measure for quality and safety of patient care, the Trust has seen a gradual decline in hospital acquired pressure ulcers and particular improvement at County Hospital. There have been 83 pressures ulcers at the Trust this year, though none were Grade 4 pressure ulcers.

The breakdown shows 48 Grade 2 and 35 Grade 3 pressures ulcers. The Trust monitored all the Grade 2 and Grade 3 pressure ulcers and undertakes a root cause analyses for all hospital acquired pressure ulcers. Nearly half, 46%, of reported pressure ulcers within the Trust relate to heels, which is in line with national trends. The Trust has introduced a programme called 'Happy Heels' to raise awareness of this issue and ensure all staff have the knowledge and access to equipment to reduce this risk.



Prestigious honours for staff

National Nurse of the year

The outstanding award winner at the Trust this year was Mandie Burston, who won Nurse of the Year at the Nursing Standard Awards. Major Trauma nurse Mandie won the prestigious award for her work in raising awareness of domestic violence.

Mandie and her domestic violence awareness team also collected the Innovations Award, which recognises nurses who have made an outstanding contribution to patient care or who have initiated

projects which have made a real difference to the lives of the people they care for.

Mandie said: "It was a complete surprise to win Nurse of the Year – I still can't quite believe it now. It was amazing to win the Innovations Award because the team have done such an amazing job in raising the profile of domestic violence within the Emergency Department. But to then go on and win the Nurse of the Year award was unbelievable and I am so honoured to win it for the team and for the Trust."



WellChild Award

The most notable team award achieved at the Trust this year went to the paediatric oncology clinicians for their work treating seriously ill children. The team won a prestigious WellChild Award, presented by Prince Harry, above, after being nominated by two families whose children had been treated at Royal Stoke.

There was a double celebration for Dr Kumar, as he was also nominated separately in the Doctor category at the awards.

Kelly Walters, Children's Oncology Specialist Support Nurse, said: "It's a tremendous honour to have won this award and it's testament to the hard work the team put in to caring for all the children who come to the hospital. We are very proud of the care the team gives to all children. We often see children and their families during extremely difficult times and we want to make sure we give them the best possible experience and help them understand everything that is going on."

Nominations for National Awards

Four teams from across the Trust were nominated for national Patient Safety Awards:

- ▶ **Clinical leadership nomination for cancer team**
- ▶ **Managing Long Term Conditions nomination for cardiac rehabilitation team**
- ▶ **Improving Safety and Quality in Primary Care for the stroke prevention team**
- ▶ **Education and Training in Patient Safety nomination for the sepsis team**

Estates and facilities staff working on the integration of the new Trust were rewarded for the efforts with a national award. The Estates, Facilities and PFI Division were honoured at the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM) Awards for their effective teamworking in support of the Trust's planning for the integration in November 2014.

UHNM Awards

The inaugural UHNM Staff Awards took place at the magnificent Keele Hall. The event was the first awards as a new integrated Trust and more than 200 staff were in attendance to find out the winners of the 15 prize categories on offer.

The winners were:

- ▶ **Chief Executive's Special Award: Cardiac Surgery Team** – The Cardiac Surgery team were ranked in the top five in the country in 2015 with a surgeon, Mr Qamar Abid, ranked inside the top 20 nationally.
- ▶ **Team of the Year: Children's Emergency Centre, County Hospital** – The Children's Emergency Centre Team has come together to develop and deliver the new service at County Hospital.
- ▶ **UHNM Hero of the Year Award: Dr Ben Clark** – Dr Clark was nominated for his role in the rescue of 16 patients at an incident at Alton Towers crash in 2015.
- ▶ **Compassionate Patient Care Award: Ward 201, Patient Transport and Macmillan Palliative Care teams** – The three teams collaborated to give a lady, who had only a few weeks to live, a very dear wish to travel to York to attend her son's wedding.
- ▶ **Clinical Research Impact Award: Enhanced Recovery Team for Colorectal Surgery** – Recovery in laparoscopic cancer resection is beneficial for the patient and the health care system. A total of 131 patients were included on the study and the outcome was that discharge is 0.92 days earlier, which is better for the patient.
- ▶ **UHNM Charity Award: Cystic Fibrosis Team** – The CF team have hosted a number of events throughout the year in support of the Trust's charity and received the award as a thank you for their efforts.
- ▶ **Apprentice of the Year: Andrew Banks** – After starting as an apprentice, Andrew now has a job in the Pharmacy Department. He showed great promise during his apprenticeship, displaying enthusiasm, energy and interest in both his studies and his placement area.



Anne Barks



Ben Clark

- ▶ **Staff member undertaking a Vocational Qualification Award: James Harvey** – James works as the Work Experience co-ordinator for the Trust and has undertaken a further vocational qualification while working full time.
- ▶ **Learning and Development Award: The Heart Centre** – The Heart Centre was nominated for establishing an environment of learning and development in cardiothoracic anaesthesia. Significant courses have been designed by the team.
- ▶ **Employee of the Year: Anne Barks** – Anne works as a Care Coach and has been working at UHNM for 38 years. Ann has won the award for her work around the development of a bespoke three-week induction programme for overseas nurses.
- ▶ **Volunteer of the Year: The Newspaper Ladies** – The Newspaper Ladies provide some of the Trust's patients with their home comforts, such as the daily paper they always read.
- ▶ **Best Support Service Award: Supplies and Procurement Department** – The team have further expanded their service to a total of 28 Trusts, reinforcing their position as the largest shared service procurement provider in the NHS.
- ▶ **Leading with Compassion Award: Rose Ciavucco** – Rose is the Discharge Co-ordinator on NICU. She has developed this new role and has worked with other disciplines such as the community team for chronic discharge.
- ▶ **Innovation Award: Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke Prevention Team** – Thrombo-embolic complications, particularly stroke, is one of the main clinical scenarios leading to hospital admission. The service reduced the number of episodes of acute care for patients and is both local and convenient.
- ▶ **Staff Engagement Award: Estates, Facilities and PFI Division** – The division, in partnership with Sodexo, have worked hard to deliver the highest possible standard of care to patients with staff engagement being the core of this.



Investing in the doctors and nurses of the future

Nurses of the future

Our teams share a passion to support the next generation of nurses, midwives and nursing assistants. This year the Trust has welcomed newly qualified registered nurses and registered nurses from our international recruitment. Our nursing assistants, who represent 40% of the total nursing workforce, continue to develop and grow. The Trust's care coach is helping nursing assistants develop and have supported the clinical teams in ensuring that the "care certificate" is implemented.

The Trust has seen the on-going partnership with the Open University grow and we have 17 Nursing Assistants undertaking a part time pre-registration adult nursing programme. This has been so successful we are able to support a further 10 nursing assistants to undertake this part time pre-registration adult nursing programme. This has been made possible with the support of Health Education West Midlands and the Local Education and Training Council.

The Trust continues to provide clinical placements for pre-registration students, midwives and operating department practitioners. The majority of the placements relate to students from Keele University, but we are receiving increasing numbers from Staffordshire University. The number of students requesting elective placements has continued to increase, demonstrating that the Trust is being recognised for its excellence. Our pre-registration programs continue to see year on year growth in clinical placements with 46,213 days completed in practice.

The Registered Mental Health Nurse initiative continues to grow and we have recently recruited Registered Mental Health Nurses to our Children's Centre. The registered mental health nurses work in designated clinical areas and the initiative is supported by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Lead Nurse for Health Education England and the local Director of Nursing for Mental Health. To support the registered mental health nurses the Trust has a Lead nurse for Mental Health.

Doctors of the future

University Hospitals of North Midlands is the main teaching hospital for Keele University Medical School. In 2015 Keele was ranked first of 32 Medical Schools in the National Student Survey, reflecting very high levels of satisfaction from our students. The Medical School has trained around 130 students in each of its five years of the Keele MBChB course. In July 2015 more than 125 students graduated from Keele University with a Keele MBChB (Hons) degree. Keele graduates comprised 41% of Foundation Doctors starting at UHNM in August 2015.

The Keele curriculum is an innovative, modern medical curriculum that includes problem-based learning whilst still using traditional methods of teaching. The distinctiveness of the course is that it has been designed to allow diversity and integration. It allows students with different personalities, aspirations, preferences, learning styles and strengths and weaknesses to be successful, to enjoy their undergraduate time and to be able to build on these experiences.





Career options for doctors have never been greater and, although our primary aim is to deliver competent Foundation Year Trainees, the course helps students to experience more specialised activity by recognising and developing natural aptitudes. This is achieved through flexibility in the student-selected components, innovative 15-week student assistantship in both primary and secondary care, and final year electives that allow for maximum variety of choice in terms of activity and learning environment.

Clinical teaching is a high priority within the Trust. Over half of the Trust's consultants are involved in teaching and developing the curriculum. More than 100 clinicians were nominated by Medical Students for the 2015 Clinical Teacher of the Year award. Overall 272 students are being educated at UHNM in the academic year 2015/16.

The Trust is responsible for the training of foundation doctors. There are currently 74 Foundation Year 1s and 84 Foundation Year 2s in post. UHNM is regularly Quality Assured by HEWM to ensure that as a Trust we are delivering high quality training. Various Specialties have been reviewed over the last 12 months and overall the reports have been satisfactory.

Supporting local community

The Trust works in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent College to create Apprentice opportunities at both Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital. The partnership allowed two pre-apprenticeship Cohorts to take place, which saw participants work within nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, imaging, pathology and administration. Of those who completed the programme, 23 have gone on to secure apprentice positions in the Trust. An additional 54 apprenticeships have been created over the past year to support members the local community wishing to start a career in the Trust.



Groundbreaking approach is paying dividends for patients

Research

It has been a record-breaking year for Research and Development at the Trust as it continues its successful work of embedding a research philosophy across the Trust. UHNM is now into the second year of its five year research strategy and the Trust is diversifying its reach to raise its profile not just across the Trust, but also the wider research community with dramatic increases on grant income and patient recruitment.

There has been a huge increase for funding applications from clinicians to carry out research. In just one week alone the Trust submitted grant applications worth £1.9m, hitting its overall value target for grants three months ahead of schedule. Overall, the Trust was awarded grants to the value of £2.69m, an increase of 150% the original target of £1.8m. In an extremely competitive market for grant funding, the Trust has one of the best conversion rates for turning grant applications to successful funding, with a ratio of 1:4, compared to the national standard of 1:6.

For six months the Trust consistently beat its monthly patient recruitment targets, culminating in an end-of-year increase of 23% above target. Throughout the year there has been a growth of patient numbers to a total 3,594 across 385 trials. Strong recruitment has also attracted greater interest from potential sponsors looking for the Trust to host trials on their behalf. Our success in attracting this business is illustrated by a doubling of the key site qualification visits, with an increase of 204% against target.

New links have been fostered across the Trust with the appointment of dedicated clinical and operational research leads. Across each of their directorates, they are now putting research on the agenda to increase the number of trials and staff actively taking part in research. As a result we are already seeing a growth in the number of Principal Investigators in the Trust. We now have 168 clinicians delivering research trials, which is almost 30% above the original target.

Finally, partnership work has also been pivotal to this year's success with the links strengthened with Keele University and Staffordshire University. Moving forward, work is currently underway on exciting new projects with Keele University, including the development of a dedicated, purpose-built faculty to unite the academic research of Keele with the clinical research at the and a new research Institute of Applied Clinical Sciences to promote research in secondary care environments. Breast Cancer research work at UHNM has received national recognition with a prestigious award won by Clinical Oncology Consultant Professor Murray Brunt, below.





Innovation

The Trust is leading the use of ground-breaking Apps to allow patients better access to information. Patients suffering from Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis can now monitor their own condition and treatment. The App, called myIPFcheck, has been developed by UHNM clinicians to address the needs of patients with chronic lung conditions. Patients and their carers download the App to monitor their wellbeing and progress on treatment, and all the information is transferred to a secure UHNM website that clinicians can access.

Professor in Respiratory Medicine Monica Spiteri, pictured above, said: "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis is a chronic lung condition with progressive scarring of the lungs. Around 5,000 people are diagnosed each year, with an average life expectancy following diagnosis of three to five years. Using this App means patients can make their own appointments, and importantly, communicate in real time with their clinical team. This system allows patients to have continuous specialist support without the need to travel frequently to the clinic."

Alongside this the team have also expanded its specialist services in Interstitial Lung Disease by creating

a dedicated web-based platform called UHNM ILDconnect. This system allows UHNM specialists to work effectively and efficiently with other hospitals, regardless of geographical location, to provide real-time access to clinical notes and multidisciplinary outcomes.

The Emergency Centre have developed a new App which gives the public live waiting times at the Trust's A&E departments. The app gives regular updates on urgent care services to ensure patients receive the most appropriate treatment as quickly as possible.

The times are being made available to provide potential patients with a full list of options and alternatives to Accident and Emergency Departments at Royal Stoke and County Hospital. A&E departments are for patients with life-threatening or serious conditions and those with minor injuries and less serious conditions can often be treated quicker at alternative locations.

Finally, parents of premature and sick babies across Staffordshire, Shropshire and the Black Country can now access information on an App. It was launched by the Newborn and Maternity Network for the area to give concerned parents information and the opportunity to provide instant feedback.



UHNM CHARITY

UHNM Charity supports the excellent work of the Trust in providing the best possible healthcare for the people of North Midlands and beyond. Over the last year we have funded a wide range of projects and initiatives including innovative, state-of-the-art equipment and cutting edge research, all of which improved the treatment and experience of people using services.

Following the success of the Fresh Hair Wig and Wellbeing Salon at Royal Stoke, a fundraising appeal was launched on World Cancer Day to support the development of a replica salon in the Chemotherapy Department at County Hospital. The salon, which will open this year, has received immense support from local people, groups and businesses who continue to fundraise for a remarkable facility that makes such a profound difference to women who are dealing with hair loss through cancer treatment or other medical conditions.

The arts programme delivered in 2014/15 was a huge success and we have continued to build on this throughout 2015/16. Three successful major projects have been delivered within Neonatal, the Stroke Unit and Minor Injuries, with arts partners Appetite Stoke.



University Hospitals of North Midlands
Royal Stoke University Hospital
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 6QG
Tel: 01782 715444

County Hospital
Weston Road
Stafford
ST16 3SA
Tel: 01785 257731

www.uhnm.nhs.uk

 @UHNM_NHS

 UniversityHospitalsofNorthMidlandsNHSTrust