

Latest news for our members and stakeholders

October 2022

This newsletter aims to keep you, our members and stakeholders, updated with the latest news from across the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

In this update

Key updates

Thank you for coming to our Members' Event and Annual Members' Meeting
World-first national genetic testing service launches at the Royal Devon
Say hello to your new governors

Collaboration and partnerships

Devon Sexual Health launches new online ordering for condoms through the C-Card scheme
Volunteers wanted to help us inspect and improve our hospitals

A great place to work

Team Royal Devon week will celebrate our staff
Royal Devon holds successful interview days for healthcare support workers
Seven community nurses graduate from the first new bespoke district nursing course held in Devon for 15 years

Recovering for the future

COVID-19 autumn booster vaccination programme begins

Excellence and innovation in patient care

Getting you home for lunch – a new initiative and patient guide to discharge
Access your hospital health information via MY CARE

Local updates

Ilfracombe MIU weekend service extended to March 2023
Sidwell Street Walk-in Centre temporary closures to

Officer for our Eastern services,

Say hello to your new governors

The following governors have officially joined our [Council of Governors](#), starting their terms of office at our Annual Members' Meeting on 28 September. We are looking forward to working with them!

Eastern constituency

x [R](#)achel Noar (re-elected)

Remember, governors act as a collective to represent the views of their local communities. They don't represent individual cases.

If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of your treatment or care, please contact our [Patient Advice and Liaison Service \(PALS\)](#).

Nominations have now closed on our most recent governor elections. We are now reviewing the nominations and planning for any elections that need to take place – watch this space.

Royal Devon holds successful interview days for healthcare support workers and support staff

We held interview days for healthcare support workers in September in both Barnstaple and Exeter and made 83 offers on the day to successful candidates.

Healthcare support workers work across a variety of settings and include roles like healthcare assistants, theatre assistants, and midwifery assistants.

In Exeter we also interviewed for other support services and administration positions and made 50 offers for people to join us in administration, catering and domestic services.

It was really exciting to see people with a variety of experiences and backgrounds keen to work at the Royal Devon.

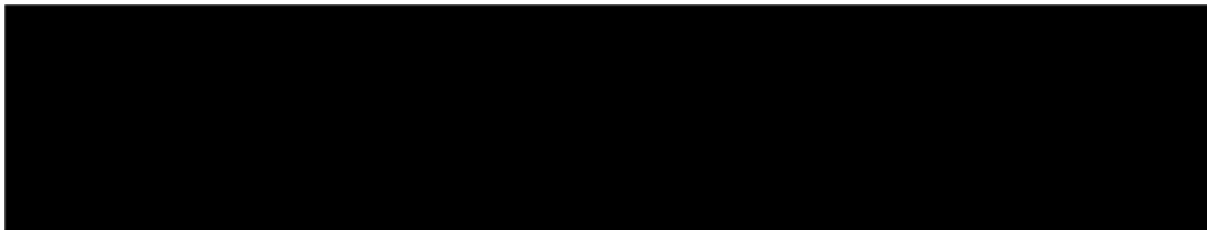
Seven community nurses graduate from the first new bespoke district nursing course held in Devon for 15 years

Seven Royal Devon community nurses have qualified as district nurses, helping to support people to live more independently in their own homes.

On Friday 23 September, the nurses graduated with a Post Graduate Diploma in District Nursing at a Masters Level. Delivered through a collaboration with Plymouth University, this is the first new bespoke district nursing course to be taught across the peninsula in more than a decade.



Some of our community nurse graduates



COVID-19 autumn booster vaccination programme begins

The seasonal COVID-19 booster vaccination programme began in mid-September, initially offered to over 75s and health and social care workers.

The programme has quickly rolled out, so now you can have a seasonal booster dose (autumn booster) of the COVID-19 vaccine if you are:

- aged 65 or over
- pregnant
- aged 5 and over and at high risk due to a health condition
- aged 5 and over and at high risk because of a weakened immune system
- aged 5 and over and live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- aged 16 and over and a carer, either paid or unpaid
- living or working in a care home for older people
- a frontline health and social care worker

Others, including those aged 50 to 64 who are not at higher risk, will be able to get their booster later in the autumn 2022.

How to get your booster

To get your autumn booster, you have a couple of options. The first is to [book your appointment here](#) at a vaccination centre or pharmacy. The second is to [find a walk-in vaccination site here](#), which doesn't require an appointment but how long you wait will depend on the capacity of the team located there.

Vaccinations for those who live in a care home for older people can be arranged with the care home manager.

is safer and more convenient for patients/families/carers
improves access to other services if required (e.g. pharmacies / shops)
helps us accommodate new patients who need to be admitted

To help our patients, their families, carers and/or friends understand what they should expect from us regarding discharge, we have produced a new [patient guide to discharge information leaflet](#).

This includes a helpful discharge checklist and questions to ask during a hospital stay, to help patients get home smoothly.

Access your hospital health information via MY CARE

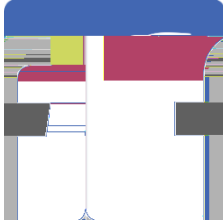
Now we have a single patient record in place, we can offer patients more visibility and control of their own care. We are now encouraging patients to sign up to a new app called MY CARE.

Also available is ongoing interim GP support to provide a minor injury service (Monday to Friday) in the GP practices nearest the MIUs that are temporarily closed in Ilfracombe and Bideford. Although these do accept walk-in patients it will be based on capacity and we ask that people call NHS 111 or call ahead to the GP practice first. You may be directed to a more appropriate service for your needs to ensure you get the correct treatment at the right time.

In a life-threatening emergency people should attend the main emergency department at NDDH or call 999.

Follow the Trust on social media

Follow our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn pages for all our latest updates as they happen!



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