

# Trusttalk

The Newsletter for Staff of Bolton Primary Care Trust

June 2009

## High Five

**N**HS Bolton has been meeting new challenges over the past year, following the setting of local "stretch targets".

Last year the NHS Bolton Board agreed five challenges for the organisation over and above all the many national and local targets. They were all huge mountains to climb and it was clear that while we would not meet them all, striving to meet them would support big steps forward.

A year on, the outcomes have been remarkable.

NHS Bolton was a runner up in the HSJ Primary Care Organisation of the Year Award – recognised by the judges as one of the top five PCTs in the country.

More than 80,000 over 45s in Bolton have now had a risk assessment for heart disease – and we know this will prevent heart attacks and strokes as more people at risk make lifestyle changes or start on medication regimes.

Public surveys are showing that more than 90% of local people

rate health services in Bolton highly – our stretch target was 80%.

We now have a financial modelling system which will allow us to efficiently adjust financial planning to meet all sorts of external changes in funding and payment regimes.

With three new practices and significant increases in investment it's now much easier for Bolton people to get NHS dental care, and the launch of a new dental access service this summer will bring us even closer to the goal of NHS dentists for everyone.

## Keep on Learning



**L**earning at Work Day and Adult Learners Week were once again marked in style at NHS Bolton, with Union Learning reps out and about raising awareness of the opportunities for staff to develop their skills and knowledge to help their work and personal lives.



*Pictured here : Union Learner Rep, Jean Jameson on one of the roadshows during Adult Learners' Week; Our Learning and Development Team, Julie O'Malley, Community Infection Control Nurse, based at Great Lever, was the lucky winner in the fruit basket prize draw, and Oral Health's Sue Diggle presenting an electric toothbrush prize to the "Guess the Smile" competition winner Sharon Dean.*

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# Darren Mansfield wins leadership award

**D**r Darren Mansfield, GP clinical lead in urgent care for NHS Bolton, is set to pioneer innovative ways of providing urgent care after winning an award from independent charity, The Health Foundation.

Darren is one of only 15 healthcare professionals to win a competitive Leaders for Change award - open to healthcare professionals who want to make lasting improvements in the quality of patient care in their area.

There is currently a high demand on Bolton's accident and emergency department but a large proportion of attendances could be more effectively dealt with by community-based staff. Darren will use the period of the award to make sure local urgent care services meet the needs of all patient groups, including homeless people, patients with chronic mental illness, alcohol and drug-related problems, and those who don't speak English.

Darren said: "We have the opportunity in Bolton to deliver innovative and fully integrated urgent care in the community providing the best possible care to our patients"

Abigail Masterson and Pippa Gough, Assistant Directors for Leadership at The Health Foundation said, "This is the sixth year we have offered award winners this innovative and challenging leadership programme delivered by our partners at Lancaster University. We are confident they will make a significant and lasting contribution to improving care for patients."

## Taking Healthy Eating to the Market

**B**olton Market has become the regular venue for our Community Nutrition workers to spread their messages about healthy food and cookery skills recently. There's now a stall on the market kitted out as a kitchen, and the team are taking it over once a month to get local shoppers involved in cooking and tasting a range of tasty, seasonal treats.

Now they're inviting other PCT projects and services to join them to and take advantage of this great location for engaging with people on a range of health issues. The sports, health and inclusion team are joining in this month.

"The market is a great place to talk to people informally about the health issues that affect their everyday lives," says Community Nutrition Worker Joan Farnworth, who has been leading the market stall initiative. If anyone else from NHS Bolton wants to set up shop alongside us, we'd be delighted to team up."

Joan also organises cookery clubs at community venues and is always on the look out for premises with suitable kitchen facilities where local residents can have a go at making healthy meals from scratch, and build confidence with basic cookery skills.

Joan can be contacted at Crompton Health Centre or via email.w



# Intermediate Care at Home Team lead on change and innovation

Could you save forty minutes wasted time a day, and spend it more productively? One NHS Bolton team have managed to do this, as they work together on a project led by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

The Intermediate Care at Home Therapy Team are one of four development sites in the country working on the "Productive Community Services" programme. They've been looking at releasing additional time to care and improving efficiencies within the team by working through different modules. The modules completed by the team include having a visual overview of a patient's status during their length of stay with the service, understanding the team's manageable demand and capacity and establishing how work should be planned and scheduled for the day and week to meet patient need.

The modular approach has involved identifying potential problem areas, looking at the current picture and learning from how others do things – including non-health sectors such as the fire service. Identifying examples of best practice has informed what things can be changed and then ideas have been tested by the Intermediate Care at Home Team.

*"At times it's felt like we are explorers cutting through a jungle," says Team Leader Anna Troughton. "It's a big jungle and we have come across some dead ends as we tried to find the right direction, but as the team have worked on it together the energy has started flowing and the impact has been amazing."*

One of the first changes to be implemented was a new whiteboard system so that the team can see the status of all their patients at a glance, highlighting caseload for team members, progress of patients towards their goals and issues that may cause delays such as waiting for equipment to arrive. The team analysed the time they spent looking for and checking verbal information – the white-board has halved the interruptions time from nearly eighty minutes a day to around forty per team member.

Another issue affecting capacity and scheduling was annual leave and study leave. Since April, a more structured approach has been taken for planning across the year which should prevent pressures in February and March as staff try to use up leave.

*"Some of the ideas used in the Productive Community Service are applicable in other areas," says Anna. "The important thing is that staff can see the problem*



*Caption*

*for themselves and work together to find the right solution for them. There's been excellent engagement from the whole team on this with opportunities for skills development and improving team working."*

Anna Troughton, Adele Cully from the Quality Improvement Team, one of the Occupational Therapists, Alison Abbott, and Mandy Gillard a Senior Therapy Assistant with the Intermediate Care Team form the project team, and will soon be moving on to their next module working with key care partners. The Productive Community Service toolkit will be launched nationally in the late autumn of 2009 by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement .



# Recognition for Brightmet Health Centre

The new Brightmet Health Centre is the winner of the Best Healthcare Building category in the 2009 Local Authority Building Control Awards (LABC).

The £8 million LIFT scheme, provides over 6,000sqm of new primary health care facilities, including two local GP practices, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and acute sector mental health provision. The development also includes a state-of-the-art public library and accommodation for local authority's social services staff.

The LABC Awards were established to recognise building quality and standards throughout the entire design and build process. The awards take place first on a regional level, and winners are then entered into the prestigious national awards later in the year.

Chief Executive Tim Evans said : "As the first of our new Health Centres to be constructed under the local LIFT project, Brightmet sets a very

high standard which we intend all our future Health Centres to live up to. It is a great building which will serve the local community well, and I'm delighted that this has been recognised with this award."

Justin Harris, Senior Director at Nightingale Associates, which worked with contractor Eric Wright Group on the project said: "We are of course very pleased with the award, which recognises building quality and standards through the whole design and build process, especially as they were nominated by the local authority themselves and not by us. The nominations and the award recognise the input that the whole studio has had in delivering successful projects and being an important part of the LIFT partnerships in delivering high quality primary healthcare facilities for local communities."

# NHS Services in Bolton get Thumbs Up from Patients

Results from two recent surveys show that most Bolton people rate the services they've received from the NHS as good, very good or excellent.

Two separate surveys were carried out in January: one looked at a sample of patients who needed urgent or emergency care; the other at those who had received planned care. The results for both indicate a strong vote of confidence in our services.

In the urgent care survey, the Walk-in Centre got the most positive feedback. 62% of people who responded to the survey described the service as excellent, and a further 36% said it was good or very good. However, Royal Bolton Hospital's busy Accident and Emergency Department was also rated highly, with 88% saying the service there was good, very good or excellent.

In the planned care survey 96% of people rated their care overall as good, very good or excellent.

The data is based on answers from nearly a thousand patients who had all used NHS services recently.



# North West Placement Development Network Comes to Bolton!

The Placement Development Network is scaling new heights and is set to expand. It is now being hosted by NHS Bolton, working in partnership with NHS North West.

The Network has been working since 2002, mainly in the Greater Manchester area, to maintain, develop and expand capacity for healthcare learners in practice areas, both in the NHS and non-NHS areas. Its success in capacity expansion has been recognised and now, with further investment by NHS North West, a new and innovative structure is evolving which will see the teams working across the whole of the North West region and with all healthcare professions. At a time when numbers of learners in practice are increasing daily, this will mean new and challenging ways of working, with the need to communicate effectively with a whole range of new partners and education providers.

Presently, three teams of Placement Development Managers (PDMs) are being recruited, one (already established) in Greater Manchester, one in Cheshire and Merseyside, and one in Cumbria and Lancs. Each team will be based together, central to their locality, along with a team Lead (all three now in post) and administrative support. The teams hold individual responsibility for specific healthcare professions (based on the pattern of the placement requirements), but will work cohesively

and creatively across the region, being linked by enhanced communication strategies and a further developed IT system. The Head of Network, the Communication Lead and the Project Support Officer are already based at The Studios on Chorley Old Road in Bolton.

There is now clarity around roles in practice learning environments, with the PDMs working closely with the Practice Education Facilitators (PEFs). Whilst the PEFs are responsible for the quality of each learning environment, maintaining and increasing numbers of mentors and taking the inter-professional learning agenda forward, the PDMs will aim to develop further capacity for healthcare learners in practice, whilst also expanding the breadth of the learner experience into new and non-traditional areas across the private, voluntary and independent sectors.



*Caption*

So, what does all this mean for you? The aim is to provide a clearer understanding of who does what, an innovative placement development resource with a single point of contact and enquiry, greater support and clear communication systems. Learners will benefit from a broader and further diversified experience during training, enabling them to meet the challenges of future healthcare requirements when they qualify.

The network is creating its own pages in the NHS bolton website, where you can find more information, see what they do, examples of good practice and new opportunities. Look under "My Career" and on to "Learning and Development" to find Network information. If you wish to know more, please contact Ann Amor, Network Communication Lead, on 2459 or send an email to [Ann.Amor@bolton.nhs.uk](mailto:Ann.Amor@bolton.nhs.uk)

# Leap forward in ease of use of Summary Care Record

Out-of-hours doctors in Bolton are benefiting from new technology that makes it easier to access a patient's Summary Care Record (SCR). Adastra, the system used by our out-of-hours GPs, now has the ability to link directly to the information stored on a patient's SCR so staff no longer need to log onto the two different systems.

A patient's SCR contains key information such as allergies, current prescriptions and adverse reactions. Before SCRs were introduced, this information would only have been known by the patient's regular GP. This basic information is often very useful to doctors who do not normally treat a particular patient.

Patients can be confident that this system is subject to very tight security constraints. Only healthcare professionals who are treating a patient at that time will be able to view their SCR and access is protected by smartcards and passwords. Smartcards help control who accesses SCR and what level of access they can have.

Bolton GP, Dr. Liaqat Natha from Kearsley Medical Centre states;

*"As a GP, I recognise that it is my responsibility to offer my patients the best healthcare available. By providing a basic summary of their health information onto a system that can be accessed securely, I feel confident that, in the unfortunate event of any of my patients needing urgent or out-of-hours care, the clinicians assisting at the time will have enough information to make the most informed choice of treatment."*

# Can you help anyone Change4Life?

Change4life is a 3 year initiative, supported by the Department of Health, bringing together health and education professionals, commercial and voluntary agencies, which aims to improve children's diets and levels of activity so reducing the threat to their future health. The goal is to help every family to 'eat well, move more and live longer.'



Public Health Director Jan Hutchinson is pictured here signing up as a Change4Life partner on behalf of NHS Bolton.

The focus on long-term obesity prevention. The early stages of the initiative target families with children aged up to 11, helping parents make the link between poor diet and sedentary lifestyles and preventable illness, such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease, and offering support for changes they want to make.

The research behind the campaign showed that parents didn't recognise obesity as a problem for their family, underestimated the amount their children ate and overestimated the amount they exercised, and above all did not make the connection with long term health problems.

Six different types of attitude and behaviour were identified among parents, for example those who saw healthy lifestyles as too expensive and difficult. This information can now be used to target appropriate information and support to families. Please contact Julie Holt in Public Health (details below) if you would be interested in using this information to support families you are in touch with.

NHS Bolton has now signed up as a change4life supporter, and we can tap into information, updates and resources to help us roll out the messages locally and encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

For more information visit [www.dh.gov.uk/change4life](http://www.dh.gov.uk/change4life) or call 0300 123 1004.

To discuss your Change4life plans or for further information about NHS services to prevent, treat and manage overweight and obesity in Bolton please contact Julie Holt, Public Health Nutrition and Dietetic Specialist on 01204 42156 or email [julie.holt@bolton.nhs.uk](mailto:julie.holt@bolton.nhs.uk)

# Tackling Fraud in the NHS

A substance misuse nurse who worked illegally in a prison and who has been sentenced to a year in prison; a dentist who defrauded the NHS of £10,000 by charging for non-existent work on healthy teeth, and a practice manager who obtained powerful drugs by fraud and is now facing a two year prison sentence – all recent successful examples of the work of the NHS Counter Fraud Service.

June 2009 has been designated NHS Fraud Awareness Month and staff are being reminded of the vital role they play in ensuring NHS funds are properly used. Most of the cases handled by the Fraud and Security experts would not be picked up without the involvement of honest staff who raise concerns through the proper channels.



Bolton has a new Local Counter Fraud Specialist. Bernard McNamara works for Audit North West as a Counter Fraud Manager, so he's independent from the Primary Care Trust, but works closely with our Audit Committee. He says he's available to give confidential advice to anyone with concerns over possible irregularities.

*"NHS Bolton quite rightly has its own Counter Fraud policies and procedures," says Bernard. "But if people aren't sure where to start, or don't feel they can raise an issue internally, I'm always happy to be contacted (07825 103835), or people can call the Fraud hotline on 0800 028 4060."*

Counter fraud work ranges from issuing penalty notices as a result of patients falsely claiming exemption from prescription charges to the multi-million-pound claims against drug companies for alleged price-fixing.

Among the more recurrent kinds of fraud are staff and professionals claiming money for shifts not worked (commonly known as 'timesheet fraud'), patients falsely claiming exemption from optical, dental or pharmaceutical charges ('patient fraud') and staff working in unauthorised jobs while on sick leave.

Fraud in the NHS is a drain on the valuable assets meant for patient care and costs the health service hundreds of millions of pounds. Counter fraud work returns money and other resources to patient care. It also prevents future losses by deterring people from attempting fraud and implementing measures to prevent the fraud that is attempted. Finally, it encourages honest staff and patients to be vigilant and help increase the success of fraud prevention.

The NHS Counter Fraud Service has a 96% success rate for prosecutions – higher than any other law enforcement agency when it comes to prosecuting fraud.

NHS Bolton's Counter Fraud and Corruption policy is available on the website with the Corporate Policies.

## Saving Energy, Saving Money, Saving the Planet!

NHS Bolton's environmental action plans are currently being developed, but there are already lots of ways teams and individual members of staff can play their part. When it comes to saving on gas and electricity, these tips apply at work as well as at home:

- Open windows rather than turning on air conditioning, and close windows rather than turning up heating.
- Agree with colleagues to turn down the thermostat a notch and wear an extra layer.
- Use the stairs not the lift
- Turn off lights that aren't needed, especially during the day
- Turn off computers and screens overnight
- Only boil as much water in the kettle as you need.



# Community Services – Fit for the Future

**M**ost of NHS Bolton's staff work within Community Services, and over the coming months we can't fail to be aware of Transforming Community Services (TCS).

TCS grew out of the NHS Next Stage Review lead by Lord Darzi, and aims to make quality the driving force behind services, with the emphasis on patient safety, clinical effectiveness and the patient experience.

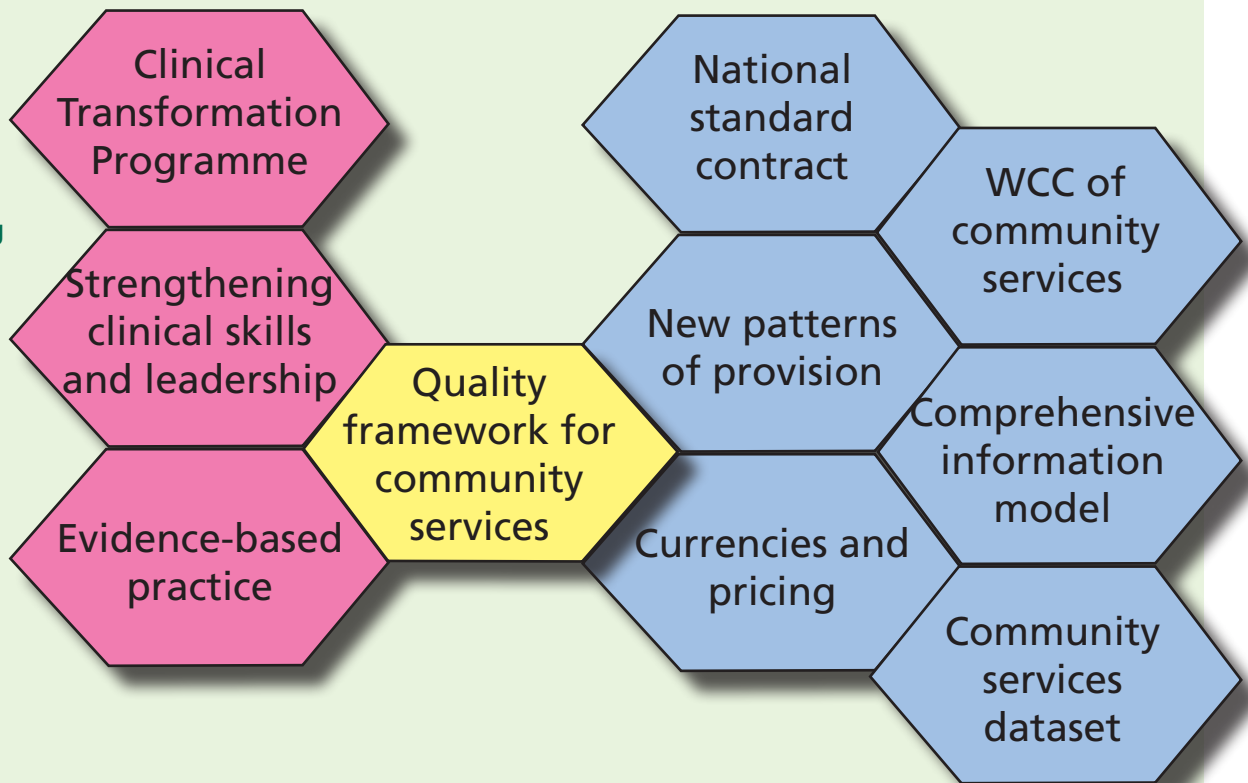
Community Services make up a huge part of the NHS, both in financial terms, and in terms of patient contacts, and this will grow as more people are living with long term conditions and being supported at home by the health service.

Community services have the potential to offer great value for money compared to hospital care, but they often lag behind hospital services in terms of infrastructure (accommodation, IT, etc) and across the country their quality is inconsistent.

It's time now to ensure all services deliver the standards of the best, to develop staff and improve systems so that providers of community services are as business-like as they need to be in this era of World Class Commissioning. The three key strands of work underpinning this are Improving Service Quality, Developing People and Improving systems.

As a commissioning organisation NHS Bolton will have a five year plan for community services based on needs, and developed with stakeholders, including staff. As a provider organisation our Provider Services Directorate needs to be managed as a strong self-contained unit, able to compete for work on an equitable footing with other potential providers of services form within and outside the NHS.

A steering group has been set up to lead this work, and a separate sub-committee of the PCT Board is being established to strengthen the governance of the provider arm. This committee will have strong non-executive director representation. A programme of work is under way involving both the commissioning and provider parts of the PCT. This will lead to an appraisal of the options for different models of separation, so that the best one can be agreed to go forward from next year.



Anna Basford, Director of Primary Care Provision said : *“To transform community services for the better we need to be clinical innovators, champions of quality and promoters of good health as well as taking an entrepreneurial attitude. It’s an exciting time in community services, and I’m looking forward to working with all our staff to take advantage of this opportunity to really move services on in ways that benefit both staff and patients.”*





# Bolton pioneers 'teen friendly' health services

Health services in Bolton were commended for their youth friendly approach at a ceremony in the House of Lords today.

Local GP practices, sexual health services, pharmacies, hospitals and services in schools and Further Education centres have been taking part in the new Department of Health 'You're Welcome' programme which works to improve health services for 11-19 year olds and ensure they can receive appropriate healthcare whenever they need to.

The programme aims to:

- help young people to access the best health services to meet their needs;
- engage with young people early on, to help them feel comfortable using health services for the rest of their lives;

and

- strengthen strategies to improve teenage health including reaching vulnerable and marginalised groups

The Parallel young people's health centre in Bolton has been one of the pilot areas for the programme, and a delegation from the Parallel was among those at the House of Lords today.

By 2020, health services regularly used by young people across the country will be expected to take part in the programme. The government has invested £4.5million in a national roll out, so that all young people – regardless of where they live - are able to access services best suited to their needs.

The Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo, Minister for Public Health, said;

*"The 'You're Welcome' programme is doing fantastic work to help children and young people feel comfortable and confident visiting doctors' surgeries, hospitals and other health services.*

*"Tackling inequalities remains a top priority across government. This important programme helps young people to get the support and advice they need to keep them fit and healthy."*



You're Welcome



## Don't forget ...

The Weekly Bulletin goes out every Thursday by email and covers information of general interest to staff. If you would like to contribute any items please send them in by email to [veronica.swinburne@bolton.nhs.uk](mailto:veronica.swinburne@bolton.nhs.uk). Items submitted by Wednesday afternoons will be included in Thursday's bulletin.



# Bolton wins UN Baby friendly status



**N**HS Bolton and the Princess Anne Maternity Unit at the Royal Bolton Hospital have been recognised by UNICEF for the high standard of care they offer to breastfeeding mothers and newborn babies.

The two organisations have passed the first stage in achieving 'Baby Friendly' status by UNICEF UK's Baby Friendly Initiative, which works to help increased breastfeeding rates by supporting mothers to breastfeed. Baby Friendly status is given to maternity units and clinics which have demonstrated their commitment to meeting UNICEF's best practice standards.

Set up in 1992 by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation, the initiative works with health professionals to ensure parents are supported to make informed choices about how they feed and care for their babies.

The assessment is the first step towards the full UNICEF Baby Friendly award. Healthcare organisations wanting full Baby Friendly status have to pass three rigorous assessments carried out by UNICEF UK staff, and meet the key standards described as the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding. It can take up to five years to reach the level of care required for a hospital to receive full Baby Friendly accreditation.

Director of Public Health for NHS Bolton, Jan Hutchinson, said: *"I am delighted that we have achieved this important first step towards UNICEF Baby Friendly status. We know that most mothers want to breastfeed but don't always get the support they need to do so successfully. Working towards full Baby Friendly status will help us to continue to improve the services we offer to families in Bolton."*

The Princess Anne Maternity Unit and NHS Bolton are now working hard towards gaining full Baby Friendly status and plan to apply for stage two accreditation within the next 12 months. Breast feeding is also actively encouraged at Bolton Council's children's centres across the borough.

## Did you know that . . .

When women find out they are pregnant, they can choose to see their local midwife **or** their GP - **the earlier the better**. Contacting a midwife direct may speed up access to maternity care and is a great start for mum and baby.

All pregnant women need a midwife. A midwife is specially trained to provide care during pregnancy, birth and after the baby is born.

The NHS in Greater Manchester wants all women to know this and is launching a campaign to let them know.

So remember, if someone tells you they are pregnant - pass the message on - **going direct to a midwife** is a real choice.

A special phone line has been set up to direct women to their local midwifery service - so go Direct to Midwife 0800 121 4400



Direct to Midwife  
0800 121 4400

**NHS**

# International Recognition

**O**ur Consultant Physiotherapist Sue Greenhalgh has been invited to speak at a conference in the USA on advanced practice in physical therapies. Sue will be attending the event in Washington DC in the autumn as a guest of The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA), and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT). She'll be sharing her views and information about how we do things in Bolton with around 200 leaders from international professional associations and experts in physical therapy policy, practice, education, and research.



## Transforming Services in Bolton

**A**n NHS Bolton team have won a regional award for their work to improve the service they offer to local people.

The MSK (Musculoskeletal) Team provides Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services for people with joint or muscle problems. They were one of just four teams in the North West to be presented with a Transforming Community Services Innovation Award.

The award is for a project which will enable patients to help shape the future of the service, by using a series of feedback mechanisms including a video diary

system and touch screen questionnaires.

The regional awards were presented to the winners by the Department of Health Deputy Chief Nurse Viv Bennett. The other winners were NHS Sefton, NHS Warrington and NHS Central Lancashire. Representatives from each winning project will now be attending a national awards ceremony in London with successful projects from other regions.

The progress and success of all the North West projects can be followed through the NHS Northwest website at [www.northwest.nhs.uk/project/tcs](http://www.northwest.nhs.uk/project/tcs)

## New Type of Support for Bolton Carers



**B**olton carers are being encouraged to sign up for a new scheme aimed at helping them and the people they care for. Caring with Confidence, was launched for the first time just a few weeks ago in Bolton. It's a free learning programme which helps carers develop the knowledge and skills they need to carry out their role.

It's estimated that around one in six people are carers – people who care informally for a family member, friend or neighbour. They often struggle on alone, unaware of some of the practical, financial or emotional help they can get. Nationally one in five people caring 50 plus hours a week are also juggling a full-time job, and 23% of those people asked had been caring for at least 10 years.

Caring with Confidence support and learning sessions will be run at locations across the borough, and carers will also have the chance to take part from home using workbooks or the internet. It covers topics like accessing benefits and grants, understanding the health and social care systems, and looking after your own health and well-being.

**For more information on how to access the Caring with Confidence programme in Bolton, please contact the Caring with Confidence co-ordinator, Scott Alker on 07540578789**

**For carers interested in finding out more information about self-study workbooks or online sessions, call 0800 849 2349.**



**C**ongratulations to Sue Nuttall, our Continuing Care lead. The Royal College of Nursing has awarded her a long service medal in recognition of 15 years as a Union Steward.

Well done to Martin Nunn from Podiatry who is presenting a Footwear workshop on choosing shoes for problem feet at the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists Annual Conference at Harrogate International Centre in November; and to his colleague Hazel Tompkins who has had a paper published in the May edition of Podiatry Now, the journal of the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists, looking at the link between Podiatry and Falls Prevention.

And finally – congratulations to Giovanni Arsciwals, Community Paediatrician at Halliwell Health Centre. He’s a member of the renowned local barbershop choir, the Cottontown Chorus, and for the third time they’ve won a gold medal in the British Association of Barbershop Singers competition, which means they’ll be singing at the London Palladium in September with the other top barbershop choruses and quartets in the country. The concert is called ‘With One Voice’ and it’s in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Charity.

Trust Talk is always happy to hear about your achievements and interests outside of work, as well as work-related successes.

## Well Done!

**C**ongratulations to Lynne Ronan - Advanced Orthopaedic Practitioner in Orthopaedic CATS Service. Lynne has achieved a distinction in her Master Degree MSC Advancing Practice from the University of Birmingham. She has been asked to present her research “A comparison of diagnostic accuracy in the identification of meniscal tears between Orthopaedic Extended Scope Practitioners and Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons” as a platform speaker at the national CSP Congress 2009 in Liverpool in October.

# What is Your NHS Pensions Choice?

Your NHS Pension Choice is an exercise to give all eligible members of the NHS Pension Scheme a one-off option to transfer all of their membership from the 1995 Section into the 2008 Section if they wish.

Eligible members will each receive a Choice Pack which includes an Explanatory Booklet,

a Choice Statement (showing a comparison of benefits in the 1995 and 2008 Section) and a DVD.

Given the logistical size of the exercise it is scheduled to last from 1 October 2009 to March 2012. Choice packs will be delivered in a number of phases, and for us in the North West we’ll start getting them in July 2010.

If you are eligible you should have already received a leaflet with your pay packet. There’ll be lots more information next year, but in the meantime you can find out more at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/choice](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/choice)



## Which NHS Pension path will you take?

Every decision is personal, especially your pension.

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## Dates for Trust Talk

The next edition of Trust Talk will be published in September. All ideas and contributions welcome from PCT employees and practice staff - contact Veronica Swinburnw (tel. 01204 462020). The deadline for submission is 14th August