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Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services
University NHS Trust

WAST Connects

MAY 2024



To Support.
To Serve.
To Save.

Message from the Chief Executive

Hello, and welcome to the May edition of WAST Connects. Last month, Executive Team colleagues and I held a series of roadshows for our staff and volunteers. The roadshows are a great way to engage with colleagues across Wales, an opportunity to articulate our plans for the future and to hear first-hand from those who'll be instrumental in our transformation journey – our people. We talked about the need to evolve the traditional service model on its head and about our ambition to be a 'gateway' to the right care, in the right place, every time. We'll say more about this to stakeholders in the coming weeks and months, but in the meantime, you can learn more about our vision in our Board-approved [Integrated Medium-Term Plan](#), which has been submitted to Welsh Government for approval. I'd like to extend a huge thanks to those stakeholders who've taken part in our recent reputation audit. What you tell us will help with our future engagement approach and also inform further development of our organisational strategy. The story we published recently about drones generated rather a lot of media headlines. We're collaborating with the University of Warwick and industry partners SkyBound to explore whether drone-delivered defibrillators could make a difference to someone in cardiac arrest. It's one of a number of studies we're involved in to advance treatments in the NHS, and our recent move to University Trust status reinforces that commitment to drive research and innovation. As we seek to strengthen our academic, innovation and industry links, we're looking for a [Non-Executive Director \(Academic\)](#) to join our Board, as well as a new [Vice Chair](#) to help shape our strategy, vision, purpose and culture. Interested? Full details are below. Like other public service organisations, we've been gearing up for not one, but two Bank Holidays in May. For those who keep the wheels turning in health and social care, thank you for your sacrifice. If you're fortunate to enjoy a long weekend, have a safe one. Take care.



Jason Killens
Chief Executive
Welsh Ambulance Services
University NHS Trust

Performance at a Glance

April 2024			
<p>There were 32,984 999 incidents</p>	<p>Our emergency service transported 14,344 to hospital</p>	<p>Our Non-Emergency Patient Transport completed 48,363 journeys</p>	<p>There were 67,829 calls to NHS 111 Wales</p>
<p>Our crews attended 4,609 immediately life-threatening red calls</p>	<p>There were 829 incidents attended to by Volunteer Community First Responders</p>	<p>Our Volunteer Car Service completed 3,735 journeys</p>	

Behind the Headlines



Sky's the limit for drone-delivered defibrillators

The Trust has partnered with the University of Warwick and industry partners SkyBound to explore whether drone-delivered defibrillators could make a difference to someone in cardiac arrest. Professor Nigel Rees, the Trust's Assistant Director of Research and Innovation, said: "Drone-delivered defibrillators might sound like something from a sci-fi movie, but if it's the quickest way to get a defibrillator to a patient, it's a fantastic tool in our locker to improve survival rates. "Lone bystanders aren't currently instructed by ambulance call handlers to leave a patient to retrieve a nearby defibrillator, as the priority is the chest compressions. "Delivering a defibrillator directly to them would negate the need to leave the patient, and potentially improve chances of survival." Click [here](#) to read more.

Ambulance worker delivers aid to Ukraine

Nigel Jones, an Emergency Medical Technician in Monmouth, recently journeyed to Ukraine with RE:ACT, a UK and overseas emergency and crisis response charity. He said: "It was a surreal experience. "We actually met the mayor of one of the cities we visited, we taught in various buildings, including a bunker in one area which had a class of about 25 people where you could hear artillery outside. "We trained 110 people, so 110 volunteers now know how to apply tourniquets and administer life-saving treatment, which I'm just so pleased about. "The volunteers were very appreciative of our help, and it was just so worthwhile." Click [here](#) to read more.



Ambulance worker's double challenge for the Alzheimer's Society

Laura Livall, 47, a Duty Control Manager based in Cwmbran, will be jumping out of a plane in May and taking part in her fourth Trek26 of the Brecon Beacons in June in memory of her gran Jean Charles. Laura, who has worked for the Trust for 17 years, said: "This will be my fourth time participating in the Trek26 of the Brecon Beacons, but I've completed other walking challenges, including the Macmillan Mighty Hikes Wye Valley twice and The Gower in recent years, both 26 miles." "I chose the Trek26 as an annual event as I wanted to push myself each year and raise money for a cause close to my heart. "My gran lived with dementia, and she was my real life 'super gran.' "So, if I can be just a little bit super and do my part for charity, then why not be braver and take on a skydive as well as a trek? Click [here](#) to read more.

Teachers injured in Ammanford knife attack thank emergency services

Fiona Elias, Liz Hopkin, and a pupil were taken to hospital with knife injuries, which were thankfully not life threatening. They were all discharged from hospital by the next day. Now, the two teachers have spoken of their experience thanking colleagues and emergency services who came to their aid. Assistant Headteacher, Fiona Elias said: "From the bottom of my heart, my family and I would like to say a huge thank you for all the messages we have received from far and wide over the past few days. "I am deeply indebted to the Police, Ambulance Service, and the NHS staff in Morryston for their excellent care and quick response." Click [here](#) to read the story on Swanseabay.com.





Mind Over Mountains partners with Welsh Ambulance Service

The Trust has teamed up with mental health charity Mind Over Mountains, to offer a series of "back to nature" respite days. The initiative supports health care professionals in dealing with job-related pressures and occasional trauma. The next event is scheduled to take place during the May bank holiday weekend, in the scenic foothills of Llanberis and Dolbadarn in Gwynedd. Click [here](#) to read the story in full.

Get Involved

Opportunity: Vice Chair and Non-Executive Director

The Vice-Chair will support the Chair in the performance of the Board and its effective governance, upholding the values of the NHS, and promoting the confidence of the public and partners. Click [here](#) to apply. The appointment of a Non-Executive Director (Academic) to the Board of the Trust is critical as we seek to strengthen our academic, innovation and industry links. Click [here](#) to apply.



Join the Trust's bi-monthly Board meeting

We invite you to join on Zoom to hear senior leaders discuss a packed agenda including bi-monthly reports from both the Chair and Chief Executive, the Trust's financial performance, strategic workforce plan and digital strategy. Click [here](#) to find out more.



Campaign of the Month

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2024

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE
24 HOURS, SEVEN DAYS
A WEEK

