

## From the Chairman:

Dear Members,

I hope that you are keeping well. This is an update on the current steps Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, including Harrogate Integrated Facilities, is taking to manage the Covid-19 pandemic. The teams throughout the Trust are focussed on supporting patients and each other at this very difficult time. The Board of Directors and Council of Governors are full of admiration and gratitude for their selfless and absolute professionalism. We have managed to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with national guidance and above, however the concerns about whether the supplies will arrive in time do continue. To date they have. The NHS organisations in West Yorkshire and Harrogate are working closely together and help with mutual aid for equipment when necessary.

Harrogate District Hospital has been reorganised into Red (Covid-19) and Green (Non-Covid-19) streams for the wards, emergency department and critical care. One of the wards has been converted into a 35 bed critical care unit which allows our usual Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU) to focus on patients who do not have Covid 19.

Much of the focus in the news is understandably on hospital services in the NHS. Colleagues in Community Services and services for healthy children are also having to adapt to protect their patients and themselves. This involves undertaking some calls over the phone or by video. In certain circumstances they will also need to wear protective equipment when visiting patients.

There are two very clear messages I would like to give members – while we are still in lockdown, please follow the government’s instructions. These protect members of the public and colleagues throughout the NHS and social care. The second message – if you or your family or friends need your local health services please do not delay. We are seeing greatly reduced attendances at hospital and are very concerned that some people who should be seeking help aren’t doing so. We are here for everyone.

We continue to be overwhelmed by messages of support, gifts and offers of help. We are receiving these through our Harrogate Hospital and Community Charity and our Volunteers service. We have been able to make a lot of donations available to Trust staff through a “shop”. Items are free and colleagues are invited to make a donation to the charity. I would also like to thank the Friends of Harrogate Hospital and the Friends of Ripon Hospital. Their support provided in so many ways is greatly appreciated. Here is a link to the latest newsletter from the Harrogate Hospital Community Charity.

<https://hhcc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/HHCC-Spring-Newsletter.pdf>

Finally, it is with great sadness that I let you know that a colleague who worked as an agency nurse for the Trust for two years has died. Zaua Ekoli, known as Josie, had worked in a range of wards and departments. She was popular and greatly admired and will be very fondly remembered. Please continue to take great care, with very best wishes,

*Angela Schofield,  
Chairman  
April 2020*

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## NHS Nightingale Yorkshire & Humber

HDFT is proud to be working with NHS Nightingale Hospital Yorkshire and the Humber. The new, temporary hospital is being established in Harrogate to provide up to 500 critical care beds within Yorkshire and the Humber as part of the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will support NHS trusts in the region to treat the most complex patients in their own hospitals whilst caring for other, less difficult cases at the new facility. The regional NHS Nightingale Hospital has been built and mobilised by a team of specialists from partner hospitals and NHS bodies from across the region with the support of the British Army and main contractors BAM Construction.

It is one of five Nightingale Hospitals to be built nationally to provide additional critical care capacity in the event that there is high demand for intensive care for patients with Covid-19 over the coming days and weeks.

Colleagues from the Trust have been helping with the establishment of the Nightingale Hospital for Yorkshire and The Humber, and our teams are particularly (but not exclusively) supporting with pathology, radiology, IT, meals from Harrogate Integrated Facilities and management of the whole enterprise as the HDFT Chief Executive, Steve Russell, has been seconded to be its Chief Executive under the overall oversight of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

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## Harrogate Scrubbers

**Facebook group 'Harrogate Scrubbers' has been launched by Fran Taylor in response to the national shortage of scrubs. NHS staff who previously didn't require scrubs, urgently need help to keep work/home clothing separate, protecting both them and their families. Gaining over 200 followers and raising over £4.5k in the first 24hrs, the group has committed to make 700 scrubs for staff working in the Harrogate area to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.**

According to Fran, 'the community response has been genuinely humbling, with offers of help from people stuck at home, community groups, local companies and professional sewing groups. It has created a team atmosphere and real community spirit, actually giving people a purpose and the ability to feel that they are supporting the NHS both through staying at home, but also doing something productive while they are there.' She added, 'even if you can't sew, we need people to deliver the fabric and patterns to the homes of the people who can help out. We need people who can help cut the huge rolls of fabric in spaces like village halls, volunteers to cover the admin behind the deliveries, and we need supplies donating and money raising. Just £27 will sponsor three full sets of scrubs plus a laundry bag for a hospital worker which will allow them to protect themselves whilst they are working. This money will allow us to buy fabric and our fantastic network of volunteer sewers, drivers and distributors will do the rest. These scrubs will be delivered directly to workers at the hospital and will make a massive impact on the fight against Covid19.'

According to Fran anyone can volunteer, you don't have to be a professional dressmaker, 'We have furloughed opticians and retired former NHS workers who are sewing from their homes and producing quality items that will save lives. We also have a huge army of volunteer drivers who are so grateful to have a purpose and help other people out; this really is a celebration of people coming together and I feel so lucky to be a part of it.'



HDFT's Chief Operating Officer and Accountable Emergency Officer, Robert Harrison, said: 'We are overwhelmed by the public response to supporting both the NHS and our local hospital and staff. The ability to change out of work clothes, wash everything at 60 degrees and avoid any cross contamination is becoming increasingly important as the number of patients in hospitals grow. Community initiatives like this are very welcome, as there simply aren't enough supplies to cover all staff. We are very grateful for the support of members of the public – thank you to the wonderful local community for your support for the NHS.'

To donate, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/harrogatescrubbers>

Join the Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/harrogatescrubbers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/harrogatescrubbers)

If you are interested and want to get involved, please join the Facebook group for details. Alternatively, contact Fran directly [fran.g.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:fran.g.taylor@gmail.com).

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HM Government **NHS**

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**STAY HOME**  
**TO HELP US**  
**SAVE LIVES**

**IF YOU GO OUT,**  
**YOU CAN SPREAD IT.**  
**PEOPLE WILL DIE.**

**STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES**



HM Government **NHS**

**Coronavirus**  
**Wash your hands**  
**more often**  
**for 20 seconds**

Use soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food

For more information and the Government's Action Plan go to [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS**