

# Chief Executive's Business

## Trust Board

Thursday 23 May 2019

### **Staff Engagement and visits:**

- Special Service of Remembrance for Babies
- Medical Staff Committee Meeting, CAH
- Physician Associates Induction Programme
- MH&D Planning Workshop
- Meeting with Trade Unions
- JNCF Meeting
- Social Work Recruitment Event
- Taking the Lead Programme
- Chief Visits to:
  - ✓ HR Organisational & Development (20.3.2019)
  - ✓ Ivybrook, Newry (4.4.2019)
  - ✓ Booking Centre & Secretaries (16.4.2019)
  - ✓ Radiology (26.4.2019)
  - ✓ Breast Team (01.05.19)
  - ✓ Ceara Special School (9.5.2019)

### **Trust Representation:**

- Chief Executive Meetings
- Transformation Programme Board Meeting
- USC Strategic Forum
- HSCQI Launch
- HSCQI Leadership Alliance Meeting
- Regional Procurement Board Meeting
- Breast Consultation Public Meeting, Armagh City Hotel
- Making Life Better HSC Partnership Meeting
- HSC Digital Shared Services Programme Board
- NICON Annual Conference

### **Stakeholder Engagement Process:**

- Stakeholder meetings with the following Political Groups:
  - SDLP
  - DUP
- Meeting with NIMDTA
- Meeting with HSC Leadership Centre
- DHH Pathfinder SIG Meeting
- Visit to South West Acute Hospital

## Local / Regional Update

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### **1. Permanent Secretary update on transformation (May 15th)**

- 1.1. Vital health reforms are delivering real change but must continue if we are to tackle waiting list and staffing pressures.
- 1.2. That was the message from the Department of Health today, as it launched a progress report on health and social care transformation.
- 1.3. Permanent Secretary Richard Pengelly said: “We are clearly living through a defining era in health and social care.
- 1.4. “Today’s report charts significant progress in the two and half years since the publication of Delivering Together, the 10 year roadmap for transforming the way services are delivered. Without this push for change, the system would now be slipping over the edge into irreversible collapse.”
- 1.5. Mr Pengelly added: “Today’s report is a testament to the commitment and excellence of our staff right across the system. We clearly still have a long way go, with serious challenges right across NI. Too many people are waiting too long for care and staff are under immense and growing pressure. These problems are serious symptoms of an outdated health and social care system that cannot keep up with growing demand. Without reform, they will get worse year on year.
- 1.6. “The long term answer to hospital waiting lists involves reshaping services to improve capacity and provide more diagnoses and treatments. Likewise, staffing pressures are clearly linked to services being spread too thinly across too many locations.
- 1.7. “Without reform, staffing challenges will keep growing and bills for agency and locum cover will continue to climb.”
- 1.8. The update report on Delivering Together details examples of projects taken forward and supported by transformation funding. Public consultations are being held on reshaping stroke and breast assessment services.
- 1.9. Reviews are also underway in other key areas including urgent and emergency care, oncology, neurology, paediatrics, and day surgery.
- 1.10. The day surgery transformation has already seen prototype elective care centres opened for cataract and varicose veins. The Department is planning a public consultation later this year on plans to transfer thousands of other day case routine operations to dedicated elective care centre locations.

- 1.11. The specialities involved are General Surgery and Endoscopy, Urology, Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, ENT, Paediatrics and Neurology.
- 1.12. Another major transformation initiative involves the roll-out of Multi-Disciplinary teams at GP surgeries.
- 1.13. This radical new approach sees GPs working with teams of mental health specialists, physios and other experts to provide local people with the right support, at the right time and in the right place.
- 1.14. The transformation progress report are available online at [www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/progressreportintroduction](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/progressreportintroduction).

## **2. Health summit on urgent and emergency care**

- 2.1. A health service summit is to be held in June on the future shape of urgent and emergency care in Northern Ireland. The summit will bring together clinicians, patient voices and representatives from organisations across the Health and Social Care (HSC) system.
- 2.2. A public consultation on a proposed new regional model of care for the province as a whole will be launched later this year. The summit and public consultation will be key stages in the review of urgent and emergency care announced by the Department of Health in November 2018.
- 2.3. The summit will discuss the team's findings on the key issues facing urgent and emergency care across Northern Ireland and to start to identify possible solutions that will inform the public consultation on the new model of care.
- 2.4. The review was launched following a Population Health Needs Assessment. It highlighted that demographic change is a major factor behind growing demand for urgent and emergency care, with pressures due to intensify significantly in coming years.
- 2.5. Staff from the Southern Trust met with the review team in Craigavon Hospital on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The comments and views of the wide range of staff who took part in the debate will inform the final consultation document.

## **Northern Ireland Audit office reports on Locum Doctors and Patient Safety.**

### **3. Locum Doctors**

- 3.1. Rising costs in relation to locum doctors are putting Northern Ireland's health system under serious financial pressure, according to a review published by the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- 3.2. The report on Locum Doctors presents the findings of follow-up examination into a key area within the sector previously reviewed by NIAO and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The review assessed progress in addressing PAC's recommendations for improvements.
- 3.3. Since the NIAO last reported, total expenditure on locum doctors has almost trebled to £83 million (from £28.4 million in 2011-12). By 2017-18, both the Northern and Western Trusts spent over 22 per cent of their total medical pay bill on locums.
- 3.4. In addition, the review found that Trusts are very heavily reliant on locum doctors provided via agency, which are more expensive than using HSC doctors to provide cover. Total agency spend has risen from £23.1 million in 2011-12 to £73.5 million in 2017-18, and now accounts for 90 per cent of expenditure on locum doctors. Most Trusts are also increasingly reliant on non-contracted agencies, which often charge the highest rates. In 2017-18, £21.3 million (29 per cent of the total agency spend) was paid to non-contracted agencies.

### **4. Patient Safety**

- 4.1. Since NIAO last reported, the total costs of settling clinical negligence claims and the estimated costs for unsettled cases have increased by 56%, from £252.3 million (for the period 2007-8 to 2011-12) to £393.5 million (for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17).
- 4.2. The review also notes evidence that HSC staff have been reporting a high proportion of patient safety incidents, which can potentially help the sector learn and share lessons.
- 4.3. The total number of Adverse Incidents reported has increased from almost 75,000 in 2012-13, to 92,000 in 2017-18. In addition, the 2015 HSC staff survey found that 95 per cent of survey respondents reported the last incident they witnessed.
- 4.4. Other survey findings suggest that 53 per cent of HSC staff were comfortable raising concerns with senior staff, and 54 per cent were confident that their employer would address concerns. The number of Serious Adverse Incidents

(SAIs) reported has reduced, from 626 in 2015, to 198 and 349 in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

<https://www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/sites/niao/files/Final%20Media%20Release%20Locum%20Doctors%20%20Patient%20Safety%209%20April%202019.pdf>

## **5. Consultation on reshaping stroke care and breast assessment services.**

- 5.1. Department of Health consultations on proposals to reshape stroke care and breast assessment services will now run until Friday July 19, a month longer than originally scheduled.
- 5.2. The Department is planning a series of public engagement events in June on both the consultations.
- 5.3. The consultation extensions will help facilitate the vital debate on the best way to reshape services, by providing additional time for the public to fully consider the proposals and submit their views to the Department. The Department also intends to publish further information relating to the proposals during the extended period. This will assist the public's understanding of these important proposed service changes.

## **6. Statement from the Chief Medical Officer.**

- 6.1. The Department acknowledged the high quality service and dedication of the professional and administrative staff who currently provide this vital service across all five Health and Social Care Trusts.
- 6.2. Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael McBride said: "Our proposals aim to build resilience within the breast assessment service at a regional level to ensure patients with suspected breast cancer are assessed as quickly as possible within the 14 days performance target for patients referred to be assessed. These proposals contain four recommendations which the Department believes will deliver positive benefits for patients and the staff who deliver this vital service.
- 6.3. "We would ask everyone to look closely at these recommendations which are entirely patient focused: a dedicated network to support the service; the development of a resilient three centres delivery model to maximise the available resources for breast assessment at a regional level; and, a central regional booking system to ensure that all patients referred will be seen according to their clinical priority and in chronological order ensuring that no matter where they live in Northern Ireland patients will receive the same level of service regardless of how their local Trust is performing against the 14 days performance target in any given month.

- 6.4. “Put simply, resilience means ensuring that the workforce is not stretched too thinly across Northern Ireland because in practice, this leaves services vulnerable to collapse when key members of the team leave or are unexpectedly absent. Consolidating services on fewer sites would allow for the development of more resilient larger teams. This is in the interest of patients and staff as it will create a more stable service regionally.
- 6.5. “The Department would encourage patients, their families, HSC staff and the general public to respond to the consultation document. If anyone has better evidence-based proposals about how to build the resilience of this service, maintaining it in the future and deliver a standard level of care across Northern Ireland we want to hear them.
- 6.6. “We would stress that no change is not a realistic or responsible option.
- 6.7. “In the past 10 years, despite herculean efforts by staff across all Trusts, there have only been twelve months in which services have been able to meet the 14 day target in NI. In the past five years, we have only met it in two months.
- 6.8. “Unless we make changes, increasing numbers of women will face long anxious delays in finding out if they have cancer. We simply cannot tolerate such a situation.
- 6.9. “The proposals are also about strengthening services for the future, in anticipation of increased demand for breast assessment. A surge in the incidence of cancer is projected for forthcoming years, reflecting the growing older population in our society.
- 6.10. “It would be irresponsible to avoid decisions now, in the knowledge that services could be overwhelmed in future by an inability to cope with demand.
- 6.11. “All responses to the consultation will be carefully considered by the Department before any decision is taken on whether to implement the proposals in the consultation document - or any viable alternative ideas that come forward. The Department is aware of the concerns about these proposals which have already been expressed in the media by some members of our staff and other key stakeholders. We take these concerns very seriously and would ask that they be channelled to the Department through the consultation response process so that they can be given thorough consideration. Public engagement events are to be held in June as part of this process.

- 6.12. “We would reiterate that no changes are proposed to the breast screening service. A review of breast treatment services will start in the near future, again with the objective of developing proposals to improve resilience and deliver a standard level of patient access to this service across Northern Ireland.”

## **7. RCN public meetings**

- 7.1. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in Northern Ireland held a series of public meetings about staffing and nurses’ pay in the Health and Social Care service.
- 7.2. The public meetings took at the beginning of May, with one meeting in each Trust area.
- 7.3. This follows discussions at a meeting of RCN UK Council, when the RCN Northern Ireland Board sought approval to ballot members employed within the HSC on industrial action, including strike action.
- 7.4. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/rcn-to-hold-public-meetings>

## **8. Social prescribing**

- 8.1. The Department of Health NI recently launched the SPRING Social Prescribing project.
- 8.2. The new health project will run for three years, and will support 4,000 people aged over 18 across Northern Ireland. It will work with 60 GP practices in partnership with the Healthy Living Centre Alliance and the five Health and Social Care Trusts.
- 8.3. Social prescribing recognises community-centred ways of working can often be more effective than the traditional treatments being used to improve the health and well-being of marginalised groups and vulnerable individuals. Instead of prescribing medicine and referring to hospitals, people will have access to a range of activities including arts, group learning, counselling sessions, cookery, befriending schemes, healthy lifestyle support, sports and yoga.
- 8.4. <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/new-health-project-could-transform-health-services-patients>

## **9. Health protection announcements**

- 9.1. Boys aged 12-13 in Northern Ireland are to be offered a vaccine to protect them against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) related cancers. From September this year the HPV vaccine will be offered to all boys in year nine at school.

- 9.2. Extending the HPV vaccination programme to include adolescent boys is based on advice from the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) an independent panel of experts that provides advice to the four UK Health Departments.
- 9.3. The Department is also introducing a better test for bowel cancer to increase uptake rates and to detect more cancers earlier.
- 9.4. The Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) will replace the Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) test as the primary screening test for bowel cancer in the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) in Northern Ireland.
- 9.5. The new FIT bowel screening test will be introduced from early 2020. Every year in Northern Ireland there are around 1100 new cases of bowel cancer, with over 400 deaths. The Bowel Cancer Screening Programme aims to pick up bowel cancer at an early stage, when treatment can be 90% successful.
- 9.6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47847305>

## **10. Measles warning**

- 10.1. The Public Health Agency are warning people to make sure they are vaccinated against measles after outbreaks across Europe - people travelling to and from the Republic of Ireland, England, France, Italy, Greece and Romania are at particularly high risk.
- 10.2. The PHA has produced a social media video stressing the importance of the MMR vaccine. Measles cases in the Republic of Ireland increased by 244% between 2017 to 2018, according to UNICEF. There were 86 cases of measles reported in the Republic of Ireland last year, up from 25 the previous year.
- 10.3. In March, the UN's children's agency UNICEF warned of a "global spike" of measles cases. The charity said that 98 countries had reported a surge.
- 10.4. Italy recently introduced new laws banning unvaccinated children from school. Children up to the age of six years will be excluded from nursery and kindergarten without proof of vaccination under the new rules.
- 10.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47805697>

## **11. Alcohol-related deaths**

- 11.1. Between 2013 and 2017 there was a 65% increase in female alcohol-related deaths reported in Northern Ireland.
- 11.2. The overall number of deaths attributed to alcohol in Northern Ireland has reached record levels. There were 303 alcohol-related fatalities in 2017, almost 30% more than a decade ago.

- 11.3. Men still account for the majority, but there is growing concern about the number of deaths among women.
- 11.4. In May 2018 a law came into force in Scotland that set a minimum price for drinks depending on how many units of alcohol they contained.
- 11.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47705077>

## **12. New obesity programme**

- 12.1. A new programme - Our Hearts, Our Minds - has been launched in the South West Acute Hospital which aims to help people reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes by becoming more active, stopping smoking and eating better.
- 12.2. The programme is being delivered as part of the transformation agenda and is for patients living with vascular disease, and for people identified as "at risk" of developing heart disease.
- 12.3. It is the first of its kind in the UK and is based on research carried out in Imperial College, London.
- 12.4. During its 12 weeks, a multi-disciplinary team including a nurse specialist, physiotherapist, dietician and psychologist supported by a consultant cardiologist will work alongside the patient and their partner or relative.
- 12.5. A Department of Health survey for 2017-18, which found that 37% of people in Northern Ireland were overweight, and 27% were obese.
- 12.6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47953366>

## **13. Abortion law in NI**

- 13.1. A recent report by The House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee has said that the government must address the lack of clarity about abortion law in Northern Ireland as it is creating confusion, fear and inequality.
- 13.2. The Committee scrutinised what impact the absence of an executive was having on developing policy. It heard from witnesses including doctors, nurses, lawyers and women who spoke from personal experience.
- 13.3. The Commons' committee also found there was uncertainty about the legality of doctors in Northern Ireland referring patients to the government-funded scheme, which provides free abortions in England. It said there could be a conflict between healthcare professionals' duties to their patients and the law as it currently stood.

- 13.4. The report recommends that the Government Equalities Office should publish its legal advice on the scheme funding access for women and girls from NI to abortions in England.
- 13.5. It added that the Department of Health for Northern Ireland should reissue guidance for health care professionals making it clear that referring patients to the funded scheme is not unlawful.
- 13.6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48044805>

## **National / International Update**

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### **14. Contaminated blood public inquiry**

- 14.1. A public inquiry has opened looking at how thousands of people were infected with hepatitis C and HIV from contaminated blood they were given in the 1970s and 80s. This public inquiry was first announced in the summer of 2017.
- 14.2. About 5,000 people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders are believed to have been infected with HIV and hepatitis viruses over a period of more than 20 years. More than 2,000 are already thought to have died.
- 14.3. Thousands more may have been exposed through blood transfusions after an operation or childbirth. Hundreds of victims and their families are expected to give evidence during the inquiry. This is the first UK-wide public inquiry that can compel witnesses to testify.
- 14.4. Ahead of the public hearings, the government announced more financial support for people in England affected by the tragedy, to a total of £75m from £46m, amid complaints other parts of the UK were more generous.
- 14.5. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/apr/29/infected-blood-victims-mass-screening-hepatitis-c-nhs>

### **15. Gosport hospital deaths**

- 15.1. A new criminal investigation is to take place into the deaths of hundreds of patients who were given "dangerous" levels of painkillers at Gosport War Memorial Hospital hospital.
- 15.2. An inquiry found 456 patients died after being given opiate drugs at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1987 and 2001.
- 15.3. A review has since been carried out by Kent and Essex Police to assess if there was "sufficient new evidence". Relatives have been told a "full investigation" will begin. The investigation is likely to take nine months.

- 15.4. Three previous investigations into 92 of the deaths by Hampshire Constabulary resulted in no charges being brought.
- 15.5. The Gosport Independent Review Panel report, published in June 2018, found there was a "disregard for human life" at the hospital. It also found an "institutionalised regime" of prescribing and administering amounts of opiate medication that were not clinically justified. The report said the quality of previous police investigations had been "consistently poor".
- 15.6. It found whistleblowers and families were ignored as they attempted to raise concerns about the administration of medication on the wards, which was overseen by Dr Jane Barton.
- 15.7. Dr Barton retired after being found guilty by a medical panel of failings in her care of 12 patients at Gosport between 1996 and 1999.
- 15.8. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cx2pw2r8yp9t/gosport-hospital-deaths>

## **16. Blackpool Hospital investigations**

- 16.1. One man and three women have been held amid allegations of mistreatment and neglect at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.
- 16.2. Police are investigating after concerns were raised about the care provided to some patients on the stroke unit. Two women and a man previously arrested as part of the inquiry were released under investigation.
- 16.3. The seven suspects, who are all healthcare professionals, have been suspended as part of safeguarding procedures while investigations continue.
- 16.4. The stroke unit is at the centre of a separate murder investigation following the death of 75-year-old Valerie Kneale there in November. A post-mortem examination after Ms Kneale's death found an injury which police said was believed to be suspicious.
- 16.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-47802165>

## **17. Maternity review**

- 17.1. A major independent review has found Cwm Taf health board's maternity services were "under extreme pressure" and the health minister has ordered them be put into special measures.
- 17.2. It was prompted by 25 serious incidents, including eight stillbirths and four neonatal deaths, between January 2016 and last September.

- 17.3. The independent review team has released a separate report, which shares the views of 140 family members, including mothers about their experiences at the hospitals. Nearly two thirds of women questioned felt they had not had good quality care during their pregnancy.
- 17.4. The review team said it was disappointing that lessons had not been learnt from a review of Furness General Hospital services four years ago.
- 17.5. Cwm Taf chief executive Allison Williams said she was deeply sorry, is taking the findings very seriously but recognised "significant work" was still needed.
- 17.6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-48053573>

## **18. GP shortages**

- 18.1. The total number of urgent care shifts in which a GP was not present rose from 57 in 2017 to 146 last year, according to data supplied to Pulse magazine by 79 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and health boards in response to Freedom of Information requests.
- 18.2. Chronic shortages of doctors meant at least six UK regions ran out-of-hours (OOH) services with no GP on shift last year, an investigation has revealed.
- 18.3. GPs said the national staffing shortage was to blame, while warning the potential safety risks now associated with stretched OOH services meant GPs were often no longer willing to work for them.
- 18.4. NHS commissioners said they were using other healthcare professionals, such as advanced nurse practitioners and paramedics, to help fill staffing gaps.
- 18.5. In Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board's out-of-hours service reported the highest number of occasions without a family doctor on shift last year. The region, which covers 384,000 patients, had no GP cover 125 times last year – almost triple the 42 times it operated without a GP in 2017.
- 18.6. In England, two CCGs reported struggling to fill out-of-hours shifts in 2018: Tower Hamlets in east London, serving 331,000 patients, experienced the problem three times in 2018, and North East Lincolnshire, which covers 169,000 patients, had two instances last year.
- 18.7. In Scotland, one health board – NHS Borders, which has a population of 115,020 – responded with figures showing the problem is worsening. It had only two occasions of no GP cover in 2017, a figure that rose to eight last year.
- 18.8. Meanwhile, the number of serious incidents recorded by out-of-hours providers has risen by more than a quarter in the space of a year, according to Pulse's findings. Data provided by 109 CCGs and health boards across the UK to FOI

requests show 108 serious incidents were reported across 44 CCGs and health boards in 2018, against 84 serious incidents in 2017.

18.9. <https://inews.co.uk/nhs/gp-shortages-no-doctors-out-of-hours-pulse-investigation/>

### **19. Blood test for pre-eclampsia**

19.1. Pregnant women in England will be able to get a new type of blood test to check for the potentially life-threatening condition pre-eclampsia.

19.2. NHS England is making PLGF testing more widely available as evidence suggests it speeds up diagnosis which could save lives. More than 1,000 women at 11 UK maternity units took part in the trials during their second and third trimesters.

19.3. Using PLGF alongside regular blood pressure and urine checks cut the average time to diagnosis from four days to around two.

19.4. The NHS in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland could choose to offer the test too.

19.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47771688>

### **20. HPV vaccine**

20.1. The routine vaccination of girls with the HPV vaccine in Scotland has led to a "dramatic" drop in cervical disease in later life, new research suggests.

20.2. Researchers said the vaccine has nearly wiped out cases of cervical pre-cancer in young women since an immunisation programme was introduced 10 years ago. They found the vaccine had led to a 90% cut in pre-cancerous cells.

20.3. The uptake of the vaccine in Scotland is about 90%.

20.4. A team of academics - from Strathclyde, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow Caledonian universities - analysed vaccination and screening records for 140,000 women who went for their first cervical screen from 2008-2016.

20.5. Their study, published by the BMJ, concluded that Scotland's HPV vaccination programme has led to "a dramatic reduction in preinvasive cervical disease". It adds that the vaccine is "highly effective" and should greatly reduce the incidence of cervical cancer in the future.

20.6. Cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer in women under 35 in UK.

20.7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47803975>

## **21. Vaginal mesh ban**

- 21.1. Vaginal mesh implants can be offered again on the NHS in England once certain conditions are met, health watchdog NICE has said.
- 21.2. Use of vaginal mesh was halted across the UK last year amid safety concerns. NICE said operations must be performed by specialist surgeons at specialist centres before their reintroduction.
- 21.3. All instances - and outcomes - of vaginal mesh operations should also be recorded on a national database "to help with future decision-making", it said.
- 21.4. The NHS is not compelled to act on the guidelines - which are for England only - and the "pause" on vaginal mesh surgery remains in place. But services are expected to take NICE recommendations into account when planning and delivering care.
- 21.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47735253>

## **22. Smear tests**

- 22.1. A terminally ill woman has been awarded 2.1m euros (£1.8m) in damages over the alleged misreading of smear tests and the failure to tell her about it.
- 22.2. Ruth Morrissey and her husband Paul, of Monaleen, County Limerick, sued the HSE and two laboratories - MedLab Pathology Limited and Quest Diagnostics. It is the first such case to have been heard in full and to be the subject of an Irish High Court judgment.
- 22.3. Ms Morrissey, 37, was first diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2014. But the court heard she was not told until May last year that a review showed that two smears taken under the Cervical Check screening programme were reported incorrectly.
- 22.4. She claimed that if the tests in 2009 and 2012 had been correctly interpreted and reported, she could have been successfully treated and would not have developed cancer.
- 22.5. Ms Morrissey also claimed that if she had known about the results of the 2014 review earlier, she would have asked for more scans and better surveillance of her condition.
- 22.6. She was diagnosed with a recurrence of her cancer in February last year and given a prognosis of 12 to 24 months.

- 22.7. While a number of other women have also reached settlements, this case which ran for 35 days, is the first of its kind to have been heard in full and to be considered in a High Court judgment.
- 22.8. The HSE admitted it owed a duty of care to Mrs Morrissey. The laboratories denied all the claims.
- 22.9. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-48147987>

### **23. Cataract operation model**

- 23.1. NHS Fife has designed a new system that involves one surgeon working simultaneously between two operating theatres.
- 23.2. The "Jack and Jill" model has increased capacity substantially and the health board said it was already meeting targets to see all patients within 12 weeks.
- 23.3. At the Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline, an innovative new theatre design has helped them get back on track. They have split their large operating theatre in two and use them alternately - one surgeon, two nursing teams.
- 23.4. Since January, the hospital has increased capacity for the most straightforward cataract cases from an average of six per morning list to about 10.
- 23.5. It has cost about £560,000 to set up the "Jack and Jill" surgery in Dunfermline. Fife is the first NHS board to switch to this model.
- 23.6. The health board claims it works for staff and has a big immediate impact on patients. There are about 42,000 cataract procedures performed each year in Scotland.
- 23.7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-48135991>

### **24. Papworth hospital opens**

- 24.1. The first patients have been admitted to a leading heart and lung hospital as it completes its multi-million pound, 16-mile move to Cambridge.
- 24.2. Royal Papworth Hospital, home to the first successful heart transplant in the UK, is relocating to the city's biomedical campus.
- 24.3. The hospital's former home in Papworth Everard - where it opened in 1918 - will shut for good on 9 May.
- 24.4. The hospital has moved to one of the largest life science clusters in the UK, alongside the Laboratory for Molecular Biology - known as the Nobel Prize factory - and AstraZeneca's corporate headquarters and research and development centre.

- 24.5. It will have 300 beds, five operating theatres, a critical care unit - and 1,800 members of staff. The UK's first successful heart transplant was carried out there in 1979 - and the world's first successful heart, lung and liver transplant in 1986.
- 24.6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-48118637>

## **25. US measles outbreak**

- 25.1. American health officials report that more than 700 people have been infected by measles this year, marking a 25-year high for the infectious disease.
- 25.2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Monday that cases had been recorded in 22 states and were mostly affecting unvaccinated children.
- 25.3. Officials said the increase in cases is the largest since 1994, including 78 reported in the past week. There have been no deaths reported as a result of the outbreak.
- 25.4. The disease was declared eliminated from the US in 2000, which meant it was no longer continually present year round, but health officials say that sporadic outbreaks do still occur from travellers coming from countries where measles are more common.
- 25.5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-48095761>

## **26. Health board pay £1m back to the Welsh Government**

- 26.1. Betsi Cadwaladr, which serves north Wales, faced action after almost 6,000 patients waited more than eight months for hospital treatment.
- 26.2. Cadwaladr overspent by £41.3m last year, despite an extra £20m from the government to boost performance. The government has triggered a claw-back mechanism to retrieve some of the money, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said.
- 26.3. The board had to repay more than £3m for a similar waiting list failure in 2017/18.
- 26.4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-48092777>