

Chief Executive Update on Emerging Issues and Achievements – for Trust Board (Public) on 6 November 2025

1. Emerging Risks/Updates on Risks

No additional details are provided beyond those already addressed in other Trust Board papers.

2. Key Achievements

2.1 NI Advancing Healthcare Awards – update from Mr McMullan

The Allied Health Professionals in Belfast Trust did incredibly well in terms of teams shortlisted and winners at the NI Advancing Healthcare Awards.

Our Winning Teams:

Award for Excellence in Cancer Care

'Tube Fed, Home Led' Sarah Jayne Faloon, Clinical Specialist Head & Neck Oncology Dietitian, Northern Ireland Cancer Centre and the Head & Neck team

Award for Excellence in a Support Role

Ronan Leyden, Administrative Officer and Therapy Assistant for the Regional Functional Electrical Stimulation Service

Stephen Grainger, Physiotherapy Assistant

Award for Outstanding Leadership

'No Show, Know Why' – DNA as a signal for action Ashling McElvanna, Principal Podiatrist, Jennifer Madden, Consultant Podiatrist

Rising Star Award

Winners:

1. Jennifer Ramsbottom Specialist Dietitian
2. Meg Minihane Specialist Dietitian
3. Fiona Harris Occupational Therapist
4. Claire Tuohey Occupational Therapist

Teams Shortlisted:

Radiotherapy prostate prehab team

Belfast Trust Community Rehab Team

Connected Community Services

East Belfast SureStart

Sleep Physiology Team, Mater Hospital

2.2 Nursing and User Experience Updates – update from Mrs O’Neill

‘Green and Serene’

Cancer Centre Gardens Relaunch 20th August 2025

The Cancer Centre gardens, located on the second floor of the Cancer Centre, is a peaceful retreat where patients, families, visitors and staff can enjoy the colourful surroundings and therapeutic environment.

The area had become overgrown and unkempt due to COVID lock-down and staffing limitations. However, thanks to the dedication of a team of Macmillan Volunteers and the generous funding provided by Friends of the Cancer Centre, the space has been carefully and thoughtfully restored and improved.

The restoration included extensive weeding, replanting vibrant seasonal flowers, shrubs and plants. Seating areas were repainted and mosaic tiles restored.

To mark the relaunch, patients, families and staff gathered for a special celebration in the gardens. Live music was provided by Keith, a talented Belfast Trust Volunteer Musician whose gentle melodies added a joyful and reflective atmosphere to the occasion.

Patients and their families emphasized the importance of the gardens as a therapeutic space which gives them a space to enjoy away from the clinical settings of the wards.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Volunteers - Peter, Patricia, Gill, Derek and Richard who continually give their effort and commitment to maintaining and improving the gardens. We hope patients and their families continue to enjoy the serenity of these beautiful gardens.



Recognition Award Nomination

BHSCT was nominated for two awards at the Minorities Recognition Awards (Northern Ireland) and were awarded 'Highly Commended' for 'Outstanding Management of the Year'. The Trust was nominated for this award in recognition of the collaborative working between Central Nursing, Mental Health and HR as part of International Nurse Recruitment: Mental Health project.

BHSCT Mental Health Team recently recruited Band 5 staff nurses as part of International Nurse Recruitment: Mental Health project. These individuals are internationally educated and they have emigrated from a range of countries including Pakistan, India and various African countries. These new nurses are away from home. For many it is their first time living and working in the UK and in the NHS. The new nurses have lots to adapt to; missing families, home cooking and the weather! The Mental Health team led by Donna Stinson (Senior Professional Nurse Lead for Mental Health) and ably supported by a team of Nurse Development Leads, namely, Martina Mountcastle, Ciara Fitzsimmons, Joanna Darling and Michael Rooney. Donna and her team were assisted by Jill Armstrong (Lead Nurse Workforce Planning) and Luise Rice (International Nurse Education Facilitator). HR International Staffing colleagues also assist to support staff with tailored induction events to welcome the new starts. The new staff have an extensive itinerary that involves study, orientation to the ward and finding a place to live within 6 weeks of arrival. The Mental Health Team have developed a holistic, person centred approach to induction and support that places wellbeing at the heart of all they do. New staff are supported with ward allocation, often keeping friends together which helps them to settle in, and form social connections. New staff have a bespoke training schedule which is relevant to their role in a mental health setting, their previous experience and qualifications and the needs of the service.

Staff recruited via this process have provided positive feedback relating to their experience and some of this feedback has recently featured in our Trust 'Good Relations Bulletin'. Staff have advised of how they were warmly welcomed into the Trust and how well they feel supported which has resulted in job satisfaction, and feeling both happy and content in their role and place of work. The team have worked in partnership to ensure that staff have a smooth entry to the workplace and to help

these staff feel safe. Staff are also supported to reach their full potential to provide excellent patient centred care to the adults and young people accessing our mental health inpatient services within BHSCT.



2.3 Safety Quality Belfast – Update from Ms Moira Kearney

At this year's BHSCT Safety Quality Belfast (SQB) the team from Oncology were the overall winners Their project was to increase the percentage of BHSCT patients diagnosed with lung cancer offered a referral to the Cancer Support and Information Centre from 2% to 50% by June 2025. A referral to the centre offered patients and their families support and onward referrals in areas including financial benefits available, counselling at Cancer Charities. Through this project they exceeded their target and as of March 2025 100% of BHSCT patients are referred. This achievement has been maintained to today.

The team are now rolling out their learning to other tumour sites and have already commenced this work with in Neuro-oncology.

2.4 Quality Standards in Imaging – Update from Mrs Marion Mulholland

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) and College of Radiographer (CoR) Quality Standards in Imaging Year 2 assessment for BHSCT Imaging Services took place on 8 October 2025.

This was a full-day review forming part of the three-year accreditation cycle.

The outcome of the assessment was highly positive. The Trust's Imaging Services was found to be exceeding the required standard in 33% of the documentation and service aspects reviewed and meeting the standard in the remaining 67%.

There were no actions identified and the assessors provided a small number of recommendations for ongoing enhancement, which the team will work towards.

The reviewing team commented on the high performance, professionalism and strong governance culture with the Imaging Services team.

2.5 Medical Photography – Update from Mrs Marion Mulholland

The Institute of Medical Illustrators is the professional institute of choice for the medical illustrator. The leading body in Europe, it exists to promote the role of the medical illustrator as a professional member of a multi-skilled team who offer a range of core clinical illustrative and communication services as part of the healthcare team for the benefit of patients and clients.

The Institute strives for the highest professional standards and supports, guides and motivates its members to achieve success and personal recognition for the quality of their contribution to the healthcare team.

This year, Belfast Trust had four members of staff who made submissions to the IMI panel for judging, and we are delighted to announce that all the team received recognition and awards for their submissions, receiving 11 awards in total.

3. Other Updates

No additional details are provided beyond those already addressed in other Trust Board papers.