

# Briefing for Elected Representatives

A newsletter from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

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14 May 2021

## Covid-19 Vaccines Delivered at Learning Disability Day Centres

Our Vaccination Team and Learning Disabilities Day Support Services provided service users with the opportunity to access the Covid-19 vaccine from their own Day Centres, providing them and their families with the reassurance of a familiar environment, supported by familiar faces.

Service users were vaccinated where they felt most comfortable, either in their cars, on Trust transport or in their Day Centre. Read more [here](#).



## Link Between Physical & Mental Health



Did you know, there is a strong link between physical and mental health? 46% of people who have a mental health issue will also have a co-existing physical condition.

We are now working with Allied Health Professional (AHP) leaders and colleagues at regional forums to try and influence strategic direction to ensure AHP input is part of the multidisciplinary team.

In February 2020 we introduced our first Band 7 physiotherapist into the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre at Belfast City Hospital.

Check out this [video](#) to hear from our staff working at the Centre, along with feedback from patients in their care.

## Staff Recognition: NHS Blood & Transplant



Health Care Assistant, Caroline Millar from the Royal Victoria Hospital Emergency Theatres has been awarded the 'Exceptional Partnership Award' from NHS Blood and Transplant, in recognition of her exceptional commitment and dedication for the 'gift of life' by Belfast Trust Specialist Nurses for the Organ Donation Team.

Organ Donation saves lives. We encourage you to read more [here](#) and to share this [link](#) with your constituents.

## Making Silent Voices Heard: Belfast Recovery College wins STAR Award

Last month, the Belfast Recovery College won an AONTAS STAR Award for their 'Making Silent Voices Heard' initiative. Belfast Recovery College implemented a unique Learning and Leadership Initiative developing a Community of Leaders through Learning - Making Silent Voices Heard. Their vision was to place the Learner Voice at the core of the College leadership, operations and curriculum.



Watch more [here](#).

The Belfast Recovery College offers a range of free courses that are available for anyone with an interest in mental health and wellbeing including: service users, family members and staff.

Creating and delivering courses together using the combined expertise of mental health professionals and peer trainers with real life experience, breaks down traditional barriers and allows people to learn together to inspire hope, opportunity and control in an individual's personal recovery journey.

The Recovery College is not about getting qualifications and degrees. It is about living well to a better degree.

## Listen: Latest Episode of our BAME Podcast

Earlier this year our Ethnic Minority Staff Network started a new podcast series. The podcast is hosted by Coumilah Manjoo, Co-Chair of the Ethnic Minorities Staff Network.

In the [latest episode](#), we hear personal experiences of the pandemic, coping mechanisms and advice to managers for supporting BME staff.

We hear about the approach taken by the Department of Health to protect BME communities, and what steps the Trust has taken to ensure safety of all staff in the workplace.



***If you would like to speak to a member of the Public Liaison Team please:-***

**Tel: (028) 9504 5888 or Email: [publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net)**

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