

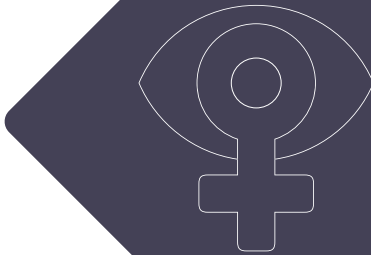
# The Women's View



Lifesaving surgery performed  
on twins whilst still in the womb

Also in this edition...

Neonatal equipment donation to Ukraine  
Celebrating nurses, midwives and AHPs



## Hello everyone and welcome to another jam packed edition of *The Women's View*.

We've had a somewhat busy few months here at Liverpool Women's and we are thankfully continuing to see a gradual return to normality around the hospital with many of our COVID-19 restrictions being eased.

Recent changes to our restrictions mean that anyone attending the hospital who is free from COVID-19 and its associated symptoms are not required to wear a facemask, unless it is a personal preference. We have also been able to return to pre-pandemic arrangements in most of our main entrance and waiting areas which makes for a much more pleasant environment.

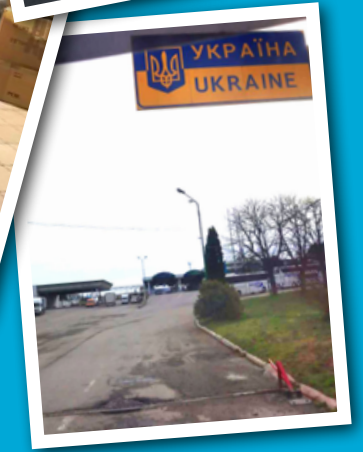
This really is great news for many of us at the Trust. I've missed seeing the many smiling faces when out and about and it's giving us a great sense of normality. However, it is important to note there are some requirements still in place, especially for our most vulnerable patients. For all the information on this please head over to our website.

[View here](#)

There is a great buzz around the place at the minute, with our first face to face staff awards event in over two years taking place this month. I'm really looking forward to celebrating with our wonderful staff at the magical St George's Hall. It is very much overdue and I'm looking forward to celebrating all of our achievements together. We'll bring you all the details of what happened on the night, including all our winners and much more, in the next edition.

Best wishes,

**Kathryn Thomson**  
Chief Executive



## Liverpool Women's donates life saving neonatal equipment to Ukraine

Following the airstrike that devastated a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, staff at Liverpool Women's Neonatal Unit rallied together to see how they could help.

Sat together on a night shift the Neonatal Unit staff discussed ways in which they could help the people of Ukraine, especially their fellow neonatal teams providing care. Aware many donations of Trauma Equipment for adults had been donated the team decided to donate essential neonatal equipment. Led by Neonatal Consultant, Anna Paweletz the team went through medical stock and equipment on the unit which resulted in them identifying a substantial amount of kit which could be safely donated.

Along with the consumables needed for the day to day running of a neonatal unit, such as feeding syringes and tubes, longlines, cannulas, trachea tubes, transwarmers etc, the kit also contained larger pieces of equipment such as humidifiers, monitors and ventilators.

Following the success on the Liverpool Women's Neonatal Unit, Anna reached out to her colleagues in other Trusts to see if they were in a position to donate any equipment to which she has had a positive response.

Anna said:

*"Following our discussions on how we could help I came across a charity called Medical Aid Ukraine. Medical Aid Ukraine had successfully collected and delivered medical and surgical equipment to hospitals in Ukraine.*

*I also learned many other NHS Trusts across the country had donated essential medical equipment but to my knowledge there has not been any specific neonatal or paediatric collections in our area and the majority of donations have so far been focussed on adult patients."*

*Wondering if our donation would help, I contacted Medical Aid Ukraine who confirmed the charity had received several requests for Neonatal equipment including one from the Children's Hospital in Kyiv, so we knew this donation was much needed.*

*Having been made aware of our donation the charity contacted the President of Ukraine Neonatal Society, who requested our supplies be sent to the Regional Clinical Hospital, Neonatal Centre Lviv, where a lot of women and children have been evacuated to."*

The donation was collected from Liverpool Women's by Medical Aid Ukraine on Wednesday 6th April and made it safely to Lviv on Sunday 10 April where the kit was handed over to the medical staff at the Neonatal Centre Lviv.

*"I would like to thank the Executive Board and the Neonatal Unit's clinical leadership team here at Liverpool Women's for their generosity and for supporting such a worthy and essential effort which will benefit many babies and families."*

A medical aide in Ukraine said:

*"A huge thanks to Liverpool Women's Hospital for their donation of neonatal and maternal equipment, which has been successfully delivered to Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital, we are so grateful for your support."*



## Lifesaving surgery performed on unborn twins whilst still in the womb

A local couple are the first patients in the Northwest in recent years to receive lifesaving surgery at Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust on their unborn babies whilst still in the womb.

## After years of trying to conceive Ammaarah and Adil were overjoyed when they were told they were expecting twins at an early reassurance scan, however at just 24 weeks they were given the devastating news that they had been diagnosed with Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS).

The twin babies were suffering from a rare condition that if left untreated could result in the loss of one or both babies. The condition known as Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) affects approximately 5 to 15 percent of identical twin pregnancies, meaning approximately 6,000 babies may be affected each year.

It occurs in pregnancies where twins share one placenta and a network of blood vessels that supply oxygen and nutrients essential for development in the womb.

Sometimes the vessel connections within the placenta are not evenly dispensed and there is an imbalance. One twin gives away more blood than it receives and runs the risk of malnourishment and organ failure, while the other receives too much blood and is susceptible to overwork of the heart and other cardiac complications.

Ammaarah said: *“When we were given the news we had been diagnosed with TTTS we didn’t fully understand the severity of the situation, it was only when we were told about the stages of TTTS, that we realised the position we were in. We had no idea stage 4 would mean fetal death, it was a very anxious time.”*

Once diagnosed the couple were urgently transferred to Liverpool Women’s Hospital to be seen by Dr Asma Kahlil, Professor of Fetal Medicine and Director of the Fetal Medicine Unit at Liverpool Women’s.

Dr Asma who has been treating TTTS for more than 10 years said: *“When Ammaarah and Adil were referred to me they were stage 4 TTTS. I explained to them that without surgery we could lose one or both babies. Treatment for the syndrome comprises of a minimally invasive procedure called a Fetoscopy (keyhole surgery) and normally takes around 30 minutes. During the procedure a small instrument (laparoscope) is inserted into the uterus in order to see the fetus and placenta.*

*“Once in position a tiny laser fibre is then used to seal off the abnormal blood vessel connections to stop the harmful sharing of circulations. The procedure is normally performed around 16 – 26 weeks, however it doesn’t come without risks. Without treatment, 80-90% of twins could die. Laser improves the survival rate of some cases, but not all. Some twins sadly do not survive after surgery”.*

A couple of hours following surgery Ammaarah and Adil were taken for an ultrasound scan and received the fantastic news that the procedure had been a success and both babies were safe and well. Ammaarah said: *“We were so happy when the two heart beats were detected, we feel very fortunate that the procedure was a success for us, it was quite a unique experience.”*

Under the watchful eye of Dr Asma the couple attended weekly scans throughout their pregnancy and in February 2022, the twin girls were safely delivered into the world at 34 weeks via C-Section.

Adil said: *“The care we received at Liverpool Women’s has been absolutely brilliant, from the time we were transferred all the way up to being discharged. We would like to say a huge, massive, heartfelt thank you to Dr Asma and all of her colleagues, the Fetal Medicine Unit, transitional care, the house keeping staff, everyone who looked after us. We feel like we became one big family, we can’t thank them enough.”*

Watch Ammaarah and Adil tell their amazing story.

[View here](#)





# future generations

## Would you like to get involved in our plans to make our services fit for future generations?

You may be aware that over recent years (since 2015), Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust has been working hard to ensure that our services remain fit for future generations of women, babies, their families, and other people we care for.

We have referred to this work as our *Future Generations* programme. *Future Generations* has involved us looking at the services we currently provide to consider how we can make them even better for the future, ensuring that they are delivered in the safest way and in the safest location to meet the needs of our patients.

This work has continued over the last six years but understandably with other more recent priorities such as managing the response to COVID-19, we haven't been able to make as much progress as we would like. We are pleased to say that we are now at a stage where we can start talking to our key stakeholders about *Future Generations* again including our patients, families, staff, and the wider community.

Over the next few weeks and months we will be looking to engage with people who are interested in our plans for the future. This will include a range of engagement activities and we will keep you regularly informed about opportunities to get involved.

To register your interest in getting involved with some of these activities, please complete the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/cDB57NHivc>

[View here](#)

You can find out more about Future Generations including a set of frequently asked questions on this section of our website:

[www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/futuregenerations](http://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/futuregenerations)

[View here](#)

# NEWS

## Change to Board of Directors

Our Chief Nurse and Midwife, Marie Forshaw has taken the decision to retire later in the year. Marie was appointed as Chief Nurse and Midwife at LWH in 2020 and her decision to retire follows a successful 35 year NHS career as a nurse, midwife and health visitor. Marie will still be with LWH until towards the end of the Summer but she wanted to share her decision now so the Trust and her teams are aware. Please follow this link to watch a short video message from Marie in which she explains her decision and plans for the future in more detail.

[View here](#)

## Celebrating nurses, midwives and AHPs

Our nurses, midwives and AHPs at LWH have recently celebrated 200 years of women's and children's healthcare in Liverpool. As part of the celebration we put together a brief timeline which you can view online.

[View here](#)

## Clinical Audit Success - key actions by clinical teams

Key actions by the Clinical Audit and Effectiveness Team key that have improved healthcare or made a difference to patients:

- Duty of candour.
- Re-audit of the management of pregnant women with epilepsy.
- Usage of sodium bicarbonate in extreme preterm babies.
- Recommendation (SBAR) and weekly update of cases re-audit.
- Auditing the compliance against domestic abuse protocol/procedure.
- Audit of emergency theatre list timing and effectiveness.
- Re-audit for image quality of posterior-anterior chest x-rays.
- Analgesia efficacy for major gynaecological procedures re-audit.

[View here](#)



We are proud to announce that on Saturday the 26th of November we will be bringing Strictly Come Dancing for the Liverpool Women's Hospital to LFC's Anfield Stadium to raise money for the Bereavement Suite Appeal.

The following ten staff members and supporters of the Trust will compete on the night with professional dancers to win the title of Strictly for the Women's Hospital Champion:

Natalie Canham  
Will Cowan  
Carl Griffiths  
Jay Hughes  
Pauline McBurnie

Puru Natarajan  
Garry Price  
Gilian Walker  
Sarah Walker  
Kate Walsh

Tickets are now on sale at £60, including a three-course meal and entertainment, with all proceeds going towards the Bereavement Suite Appeal.

The appeal aims to raise £100,000 to renovate a number of bereavement spaces across the hospital for women and families who have experienced the loss of a loved one, a baby or a pregnancy.

These spaces provide a calm and private environment away from the general activity of wards for those experiencing grief and requiring bereavement support. We would like to enhance these spaces to ensure that women and their families are given the best possible experience during such a difficult time.

To purchase a ticket or table for the evening, or for more information, please email: [fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk)

**£60**

Per ticket  
Tables of 10  
available



*Strictly for  
Liverpool Women's  
Hospital*

*Saturday 26th November 2022, 6pm*

Join us for an evening of dance,  
glitz and glamour raising funds for  
Liverpool Women's Hospital Charity  
Bereavement Suite Appeal

Drinks reception

Three course meal

Strictly show and entertainment

Liverpool Football Club,  
Anfield Road, Liverpool

Liverpool Women's  
Hospital Charity 

Registered charity number 1048294

Please contact [fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk) for tickets and enquiries



# let's go neon for neonatal

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Friday the 17th of June by going Neon for Neonatal for the Liverpool Women's Hospital.

We loved seeing all of our supporters, staff and patients getting their glow on for our Neonatal Unit and raising vital funds that will enhance the care given to our premature babies and their families.

This appeal is one of our favourites of the year and always has such an impact on the difference that we are able to make for the Neonatal staff, patients and families.

You can still donate by texting **GONEON** to **70085** to give £2.





The easiest way to stay up to date with all of the latest charity news and activities is by following our social media pages.

 @lwhcharity

 @LWHcharity

 @LiverpoolWomensCharity

[www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/charity](http://www.liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/charity)