

The Women's View



Learner Awards 2022 Celebrating our amazing staff

Also in this edition...

- Inpatient survey results among the best
- Success for research staff
- Baby Loss Awareness Week - ongoing support
- LWH Charity Launches Bereavement Suite Appeal



Hello everyone and welcome to our autumn edition of *The Women's View*.

There is something special about this time of year, the colours, darker mornings and colder weather setting in. It's a beautiful time of year but also a reminder of how fast time is passing us by. 2023 is just around the corner!

During this time of year we work extremely hard to protect our staff and patients with Flu and Covid vaccinations, and our winter vaccination programme is well under way. Our focus is also on making sure pregnant women are protected as we head into the winter months.

Here at Liverpool Women's we wanted to make it as easy as possible for our pregnant women to be able to access flu, covid or whooping cough vaccinations, particularly those who are more clinically vulnerable or who would struggle to book these appointments through their GP or online.

In collaboration with NHS England, we have established two vaccination clinics, one here at the Women's and the other at our Aintree Centre for Women's health. These clinics will be staffed by a community pharmacist who is trained to give vaccinations and who will also be on hand to reassure and provide further information to women who are still undecided as to whether or not they would like any of the vaccines on offer.

Clinics will run on Mondays and Tuesdays at Liverpool Women's and Tuesdays at Aintree. These are drop-in clinics so there is no need to book an appointment, simply come along to your normal antenatal appointments and speak to a midwife or other member of staff who will advise you where to go for your vaccinations following your appointment.

We hope this makes things a little easier for any of our pregnant ladies and gives you one less thing to worry about.

Many thanks,

Kathryn Thomson
Chief Executive

Liverpool Women's Hospital inpatient survey results among the best

Liverpool Women's Hospital has received its Gynaecology adult inpatients survey results for 2021, receiving an overall rating of performing 'better than expected' across 20 areas compared to other Trusts.

A National Inpatients Survey is conducted each year looking at the experiences of over 62,000 NHS patients who received care in NHS hospitals during November 2021. The survey asked almost 400 Gynaecology patients from Liverpool Women's Hospital (LWH) for their views on aspects of their care, such as: the hospital environment, communication with staff, involvement in decisions and being treated with respect and dignity.

Of the nine categories where an overall rating was published for the Trust, Liverpool Women's overall scores were better compared to other hospitals in 6 categories.

There are a range of questions which make up the inpatient survey which are designed to mirror the patient journey through the hospital. The survey enables the Trust to review its historical results from previous surveys and to benchmark against other organisations.

When compared to average scores, LWH scored better than other Trusts in 20 areas that included: waiting times for a bed on a ward, having peace and quiet at night, being involved with decisions on discharge, being provided with the appropriate information when leaving the hospital, and knowing who to contact if they became worried or concerned.

Dianne Brown, Interim Chief Nurse at Liverpool Women's Hospital said:

"This is a fantastic achievement for the Trust and reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff within the Gynaecology Services to provide the very best care to women and their families, particularly during the last couple of years which have been extremely challenging for everyone."

"We are extremely proud the Adult Inpatient Survey reflects that we are performing 'better than expected' highlighting the areas we have improved on since last year's report. This is a credit to our wonderful staff and should be celebrated. We will continue to strive for further improvements and learn from the feedback."

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey. Full details of LWH's report are available on the CQC website where Trusts are listed alphabetically:

[cqc.org.uk/publications/surveys/adult-inpatient-survey](https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/surveys/adult-inpatient-survey)

[View here](#)

Liverpool Women's Learner Awards

Continuous development of skills and knowledge is vital in providing the highest standards of care for our patients and to meet the trust vision 'to be the recognised leader in healthcare for women, babies and their families'. LWH is committed to being an outstanding employer and a learning organisation aligned to our core value of 'we learn'.

A celebration event took place on 7 September 2022 at the Liverpool Women's and was attended by staff who were congratulated by the Chairman, Robert Clarke and Michelle Turner, Chief People Officer and Deputy Chief Executive and members of the Trust Board of Directors.

Michelle Turner, said:

"Here at Liverpool Women's we believe that learning is fundamental to safe care and a great experience. We look to support the personal and professional development of all staff regardless of role, band, or profession".

The Liverpool Women's work together to develop a culture where everybody:

- Actively seeks feedback from those we care for and those we work with.
- Reflects on that feedback through the lens of "how could it be even better".
- Takes every opportunity afforded to us to learn and further develop.

The awards are a recognition and a celebration of those staff who have taken the opportunity offered to them to learn and further develop their skills so that they can be the best they can be and offer the best care.

Learning that the staff have undertaken includes, the LWH Leadership programme, Apprenticeships, Care Certificate, Mentorship, Coaching and Minute Taking. It was a positive event, enjoyed by all with many saying it has inspired them to further their training.



we learn



Research success at Liverpool Women's Hospital

Research is at the very heart of the care and treatment that we provide to women and their families here at Liverpool Women's. At any one time we could be running multiple clinical trials and research studies within our speciality areas of maternity, neonates, gynaecology oncology, benign gynaecology (including recurrent miscarriage, menopause urogynaecology), reproductive medicine, anaesthetics and genetics.

Our research department has a dedicated team of staff consisting of doctors, midwives, nurses, practitioners and facilitators who are all employed to support and deliver these exciting and valuable pieces of research.

Research is integral to how we shape our services, it demonstrates our dedication to improving the quality of care we offer and to making our contribution to wider health improvements.

As a healthcare provider we can stay up to date with new and innovative treatment options and are able to offer the latest medical treatments and techniques to our patients, which in turn leads to better patient outcomes. With that in mind we wanted to share with you some of the recent successes and achievements of our wonderful research team.



SPECIAL RESEARCH FEATURE ● **SPECIAL RESEARCH FEATURE** ● **SPECIAL RESEARCH FEATURE**



Sian Rogers awarded 4Louis bursary

Sian Rogers, one of our research midwives has been awarded a 4Louis bursary to support her MSc studies.

4Louis is a charity working across the UK to support anyone affected by miscarriage, stillbirth and the death of a baby or child.

As well as supporting families directly, 4Louis supports LWH and other Trusts by providing tools, equipment and training to professionals who care for families.

Sian will be exploring midwives' experiences of caring for women undergoing pregnancy following a stillbirth or neonatal death.



NIHR early career researcher development pathway

Amy Mahdi, one of our research midwives has been awarded a place on the third cohort of the NIHR early career researcher development pathway.

The aims of the programme include:

- Understanding the drivers, policy context and value of research in the NHS and across the NIHR CRNs NWC and GM regions.
- Ensuring the development of the knowledge, intellectual abilities, and methodologies to do and lead research.
- Understanding how to engage and influence others to ensure the wider impact of research.
- Understanding the factors/dimensions that create and enable leadership in research.
- Developing aspirational goals and an initial 3-year career plan to achieve leadership potential.

For further information about research career opportunities open to all staff please visit:

nhr.ac.uk/researchers/career-development-support-and-training.htm

[View here](#)

COVID-19 Research and Innovation Award

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and partners, was awarded the COVID-19 Research and Innovation Award at the North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2022.

The collaborative group worked tirelessly recruiting the highest participant number in the UK to Oxford/AstraZeneca's novel COVID-19 vaccine trial. Within nine months the vaccine received approval - directly benefiting millions of UK patients and within a year 4 billion people globally were vaccinated, helping bring the world out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City-wide response truly demonstrated a willingness to pool and manage collective resources for the benefit of all. Well done Team LWH!



Siobhan Holt, Amy Mahdi, Sally Bell, Emily Rice, Charlotte Stanley and Louise Hardman.



Mollie McGrane, Clinical Embryologist has been successful in being awarded a Health Education England/NIHR Pre-doctoral Integrated Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship. The programme provides research training awards for health and social care professionals, excluding doctors and dentists, who wish to develop careers that combine research and research leadership with continued practice and professional development.



Research is vital to help improve current healthcare and treatment methods. Clinical research practitioners have become integral part of research delivery teams across the UK - working in research delivery roles that involve direct contact with patients or other study participants. Charlotte Stanley has been working as a research practitioner at Liverpool Women's Hospital for the last two years, specialising in genetic research, focusing on both cancer research and patients who have rare genetic conditions. She has recently become the Trust's first accredited clinical research practitioner, allowing her to be recognised as a registered health professional amongst both colleagues and patients.

Liverpool Women's Hospital is one of six UK sites recruiting to the HPV001 trial investigating a potential new immunotherapeutic vaccine for persistent high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in women.

What is HPV?

HPV is a virus that can cause cancers in both women and men, and is the cause for almost all cervical cancers, as well as vulval, vaginal, penile and anal cancers (and some head and neck cancers). Most of us will be exposed to HR-HPV in our lifetimes and most infections are spontaneously cleared by our immune systems, but some people – about 10 to 15% – become persistently infected and at risk of abnormal/pre-cancerous cell growth and cancer later in life. While early detection through cervical screening and prevention through the UK rollout of effective prophylactic HPV vaccines will hopefully prevent many future cases of cervical cancer, women who did not receive the vaccine will not directly benefit and remain at risk of developing cervical cancer in the next few decades.

Why is this trial important?

Despite their ability to prevent many HPV infections, prophylactic vaccines have not been shown to clear HPV or treat cell abnormalities once the infection is established. However, the HPV001 trial is looking at a new therapeutic vaccine that could prevent cervical cancer by clearing HPV infection, reversing/preventing progression of abnormality and preventing the need for invasive procedures to remove abnormal tissue; if shown to be effective, this could be a crucial step in preventing cervical cancer, and, as the trial's UK Chief Investigator Dr Karin Hellner adds, could have *"the potential to change the lives of women suffering from HPV associated disease worldwide."*

The HPV001 trial at Liverpool Women's Hospital

Led by Principal Investigator Dr Paula Briggs and Research Nurse Sally Bell, the research team at LWH have been working closely alongside the colposcopy team to recruit to the HPV001 trial since December 2021, with recruitment planned to end in December 2022.

So far, the research team have screened 14 patients and have successfully recruited and vaccinated 5 participants, with more screening appointments arranged. While some participants were identified after attending colposcopy clinics at LWH, many participants self-referred after seeing the trial advertised online, reading news articles or through word-of-mouth – the response has been fantastic, and some women have even travelled across the country to participate.

Screening visits include providing informed consent followed by investigations (eg blood tests, urinalysis, ECG, colposcopy, HPV testing, etc.) to assess suitability for the trial. Once the results are back and a patient is assessed as eligible to participate, they're invited to attend for a randomisation and vaccination visit, followed by a further visit for a second vaccination 28 days later.

After this, each participant will be followed up at regular timepoints until 12 months after the first vaccination. The research team collect data at all timepoints, which is then provided anonymously to the trial sponsor.





What has the experience of participating in the HPV001 been like from a patient perspective?

“I was feeling pretty worried that I was told I had HPV after my smear test. After receiving news of being HPV positive (and receiving some intimidating leaflets) there’s nothing more I could do other than to wait for the next smear and hope it had gone away - that year felt like a long time.

I know a few people my age who have had bad news after their smear tests and have had to wait anxiously for results and secondary examinations feeling pretty powerless. That was how I felt waiting through lockdown for my next smear.

It was still HPV positive a year later and diagnosed with low-grade cervical lesions, so I was booked in for a colposcopy. After my appointment, I got a call from the research team at Liverpool Women’s Hospital, and they asked me if I would be interested in being part of a HPV vaccine trial.

I absolutely jumped at the chance! I think it is so important that research is done to help prevent people getting cancer; even if I got a placebo instead of the vaccine, I would still be part of a potentially life changing piece of research.

The research team were supportive from the start and I was made to feel in control of the process the whole way through. I asked a hundred questions to begin with because I like to know exactly what I am getting involved in, but the team were understanding and thoroughly soothed any worries I had, and made sure I knew that I could leave the research whenever I wanted if I needed to.

Having the injection was no bother and I was checked up on to make sure I had no adverse affects. I have a couple more appointments left, where swabs will be taken, and then next year I will find out if I was given the placebo or a vaccine - I think the whole team is eager to find out!

It has been so lovely working with the research team who have been, flexible, professional, understanding, and incredibly friendly throughout the trial year. I really hope that this research is a step in finding ways to help people with HPV and relieve some of the anxiety associated with the diagnosis.

I would like to extend my thanks to Dr Paula Briggs, Sally, Emily, and the team for the opportunity to be involved and for making sure I was safe and informed. Research for the win!”



Baby Loss Awareness Week

ongoing support available

Baby Loss awareness week takes place between 9 - 15 October. Each year the Honeysuckle Team here at Liverpool Women's work hard to break down barriers, address stigmas and raise awareness throughout the week.

This year the team had a full schedule of activities planned throughout the week which included:

Information stand main reception

The Team were on hand in Main Reception chatting with staff and patients about the bereavement care at LWH and support that is available.

Annual remembrance service

The service was held on Tuesday 11 October at St George's Hall. The team were joined by hundreds of families who came together to remember their precious little ones. Liverpool men's choir sang beautifully and families were able to sit together and make crafts.

Throughout the service the team highlighted their ongoing support and monthly support group, open to anyone affected by miscarriage, ectopic or molar pregnancy, termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly, stillbirth and early neonatal death.

Group sessions take place in a calm, welcoming environment with refreshments, crafts and a listening ear for anyone.

Watch a short video about the support group here:
vimeo.com/758003796

[View here](#)

Upcoming support group sessions

- **Thursday 27 October 2022**, 6pm - 8pm
Blair Bell Centre, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, Crown Street, Liverpool L8 7SS
- **Friday 18 November 2022**, 10am - 12noon
Deysbrook Village Centre, Deysbrook Way, West Derby, Liverpool L12 4XF
- **Thursday 8 December 2022**, 6pm - 8pm
Blair Bell Centre, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, Crown Street, Liverpool L8 7SS

Please contact The Honeysuckle Team to book a place: 0151 702 4151
honeysuckle@lwh.nhs.uk

Visit by Chief Midwifery Officer of England, Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent

Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent visited the Trust on Tuesday 11 October and officially opened the first Bereavement Room on Delivery Suite, launching our Bereavement Suite Appeal. The appeal aims to raise £100k to transform a number of rooms across Maternity and Gynaecology. Providing much needed home from home comforts for our families who have sadly lost a baby. You can watch a short video on the appeal here:

liverpoolwomens.nhs.uk/charity/bereavement-suite-appeal

[View here](#)

During her visit Jacqueline awarded Bereavement Midwives, Maria Kelleher and Pauline McBurnie and Bereavement Support Worker, Sarah Martin with a special Chief Midwife Award for their endless work and compassionate care given to our families at their most difficult time.

Remembrance Garden

The team visited Springwood Crematorium Remembrance Garden and laid flowers on behalf of the Trust. There was also a short service in the Multi Faith Room, with the LWH chaplaincy team.

Training

The team also provided training for five gynaecology nurses and 38 newly qualified midwives as part of the LWH preceptorship midwifery programme.

Press and media

There was a lot of media interest in Baby Loss Awareness Week this year and the team gave interviews with BBC Radio Merseyside and Global News, reaching stations such as Radio City, Greatest Hits and Heart North West. The week drew to a close with the global wave of light on Saturday 15 October, a time when bereaved families around the world unite by lighting a candle to remember all the babies taken too soon.

Charity Update



Liverpool Women's
Hospital Charity

Liverpool Women's *Lights of Love*

The charity's *Lights of Love* messaging page is open for those who would like to light a candle and leave a message to remember a loved one.

If you would like to share your 'light of love', visit:
visufund.com/liverpool-womens-lights-of-love-2022

[View here](#)

There is also the option to support our Bereavement Suite Appeal through a small donation.

The Bereavement Suite Appeal

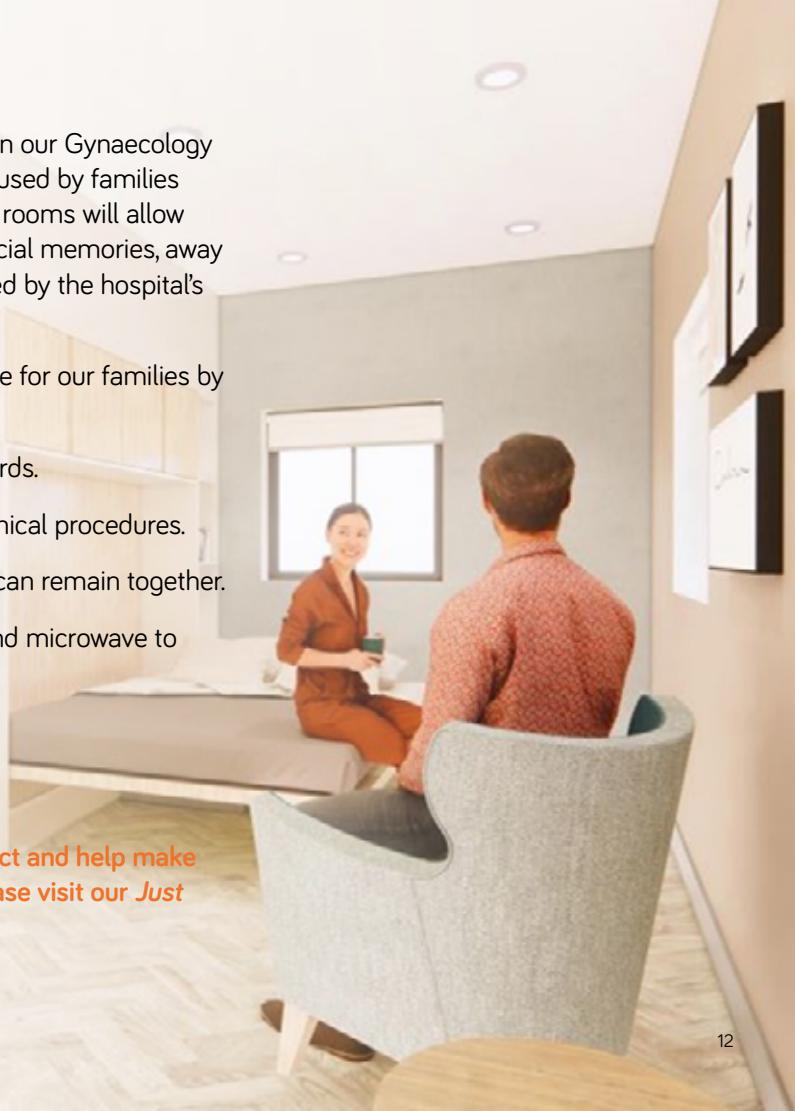
We are aiming to raise £100,000 to transform clinical rooms on our Gynaecology and Maternity wards into comfortable, home-like spaces to be used by families who have sadly experienced a pregnancy loss or still birth. The rooms will allow families to stay together in peaceful surroundings to make special memories, away from the bustle of the rest of the hospital whilst being supported by the hospital's nurses, doctors and Honeysuckle Team.

We hope to make the suite of rooms as comfortable as possible for our families by introducing:

- Soundproofing to protect families from the sounds on the wards.
- LED cloud lighting to create a calm atmosphere for during clinical procedures.
- A pull-down double bed to allow partners to stay so families can remain together.
- Comfortable furniture and basic amenities such as a kettle and microwave to create a self contained space.
- Artwork to create a peaceful and relaxing environment.
- Soft furnishings to create a home-from-home feel.

If you wish to make a donation to support this important project and help make a difficult time a little easier for our Honeysuckle families, please visit our *Just Giving* page: justgiving.com/liverpoolwomen

[View here](#)



Strictly for Liverpool Women's Hospital

Saturday 16 November 2022, 6pm

We hope you managed to bag a ticket for this year's big event because tickets are now completely SOLD OUT!

All of our ten dancers have now been partnered with a professional dancer and we are excited to reveal more on our social media channels soon.

Follow us @LWHCharity The evening will be packed with dancing, entertainment and a fantastic raffle. We will be sharing updates with you in the next edition of *The Women's View*.



A special thank you to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service who have been fundraising for the re-plant of the hospital's roundabout.

Pupils from Archbishop Blanch school have submitted ideas for the project and the winning design will be revealed in November 2022.

Santa Dash Sunday 4 December 2022 Liverpool City Centre

Please join the Liverpool Women's team for this year's Santa Dash!

If you would like to sign up, please email:
fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk



We will be bringing the charity's annual Christmas Fair to the hospital's main reception on

Monday 12 December

Watch this space for our plans for the day and who will be joining us!



Wanting to tick something off your bucket list in 2023? Take a look at our charity's calendar of events.

Liverpool Half Marathon
Sunday 26 March 2023

Charity Skydive with Black Knights Parachute Centre
Saturday 20 May 2023

Wirral Coastal Walk
Sunday 11 June 2023

Liverpool Cathedral Abseil
July 2023 - dates to be confirmed

Three Peaks Challenge
Saturday 26 August to Sunday 27 August 2023

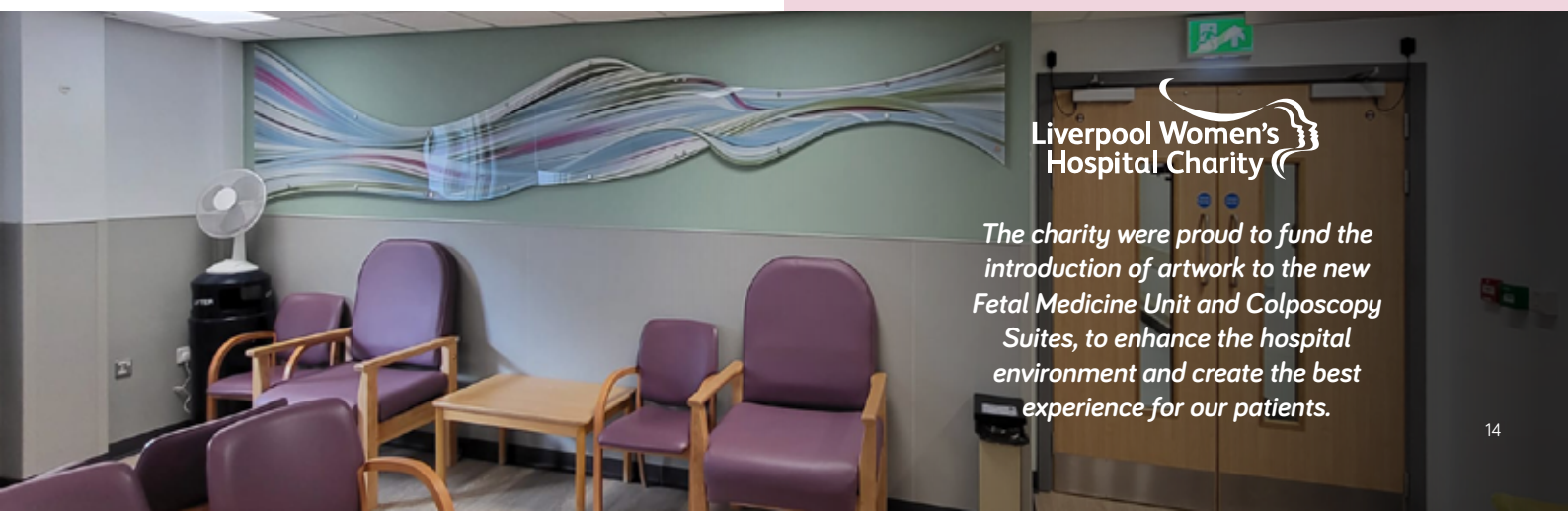
Please email: fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk or pop into the Fundraising office opposite the main reception to register your interest or to find out more. The charity has purchased a limited number of places for each event.

Don't miss out on one of these exciting opportunities!



Neonatal Family Integrated Care (FI-Care)

The Neonatal unit is passionate about delivering family integrated care to the babies on the unit and has worked with the charity to introduce support literature for families, alongside beautiful artwork throughout the unit to mark the Neonatal journey.



The charity were proud to fund the introduction of artwork to the new Fetal Medicine Unit and Colposcopy Suites, to enhance the hospital environment and create the best experience for our patients.

Mona Lisa Laser

We are delighted to have reached the fundraising target of £50,000 to purchase a Mona Lisa Laser to be used in research trials.

Dr Paula Briggs will lead the research programme into the effectiveness of laser therapy for the treatment of vaginal atrophy. Special thanks to Abby Younis and the Peri-Meno Queens for their incredible fundraising efforts.

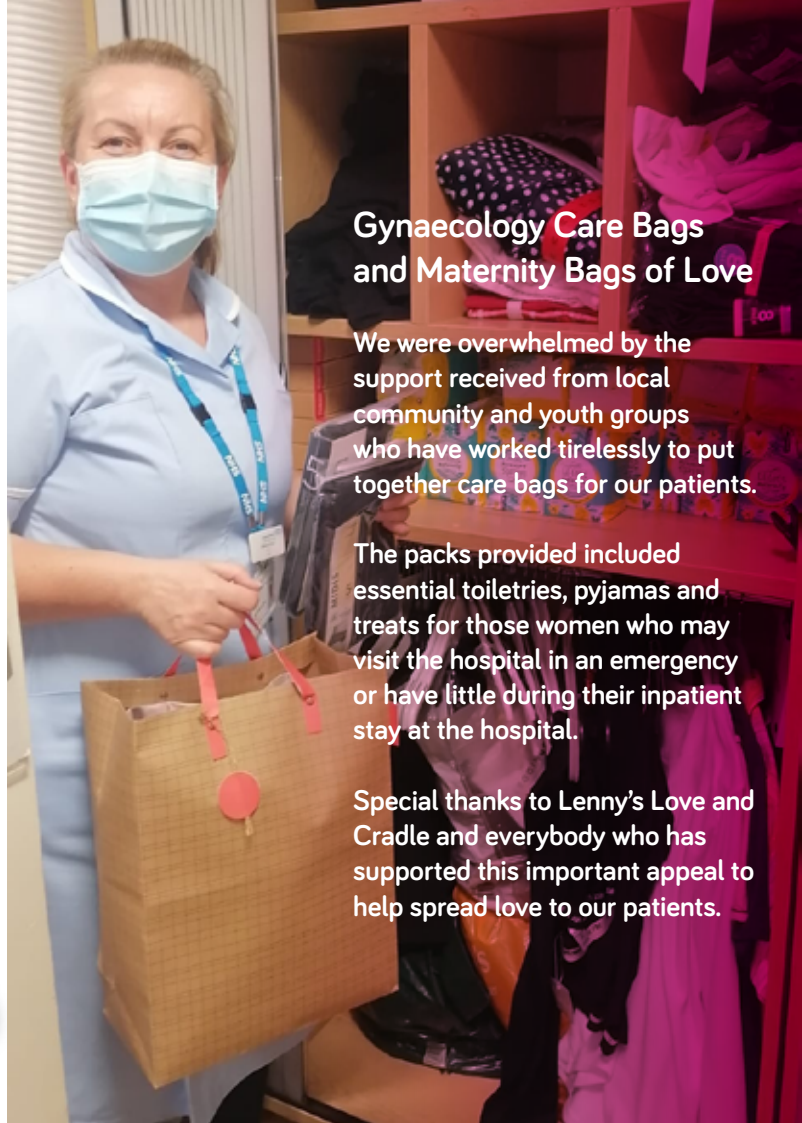


Gynaecology Care Bags and Maternity Bags of Love

We were overwhelmed by the support received from local community and youth groups who have worked tirelessly to put together care bags for our patients.

The packs provided included essential toiletries, pyjamas and treats for those women who may visit the hospital in an emergency or have little during their inpatient stay at the hospital.

Special thanks to Lenny's Love and Cradle and everybody who has supported this important appeal to help spread love to our patients.



Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to all staff, patients, families and members of the local community who continue to support the hospital through charitable donations, in-kind gifts and fundraising for the charity. Your support helps us fund important projects to improve the experience of the patients at Liverpool Women's Hospital.



MRI Scanner Lighting

The charity is excited to be funding the skylight system for the MRI Scanner in the hospital's new Community Diagnostic Centre. The images will be positioned above the scanner for patients to look at whilst they receive their scan and will help to provide the best experience for patients who may feel nervous.

COVID Flu Whooping Cough

Vaccination Clinics
9am - 4pm

**Liverpool Women's
Hospital**

Monday and Tuesday

**Aintree Centre for
Women's Health**

Tuesday

Pregnant women under the care of Liverpool Women's Hospital can now access their COVID, Flu and Whooping Cough vaccinations. Come along after your antenatal appointment or drop in when passing.

No appointment needed.
Ask your midwife for more information.