

# Participation Matters



News and updates

## October 2022

Welcome to the next edition of Participation Matters, a quarterly update for you, bringing together stories and updates from our participation partners, volunteers and colleagues.

### HM Queen Elizabeth II, 1926 to 2022

The Queen was a role model of leadership and resilience. The fact she continued to actively lead to the age of 96, demonstrates her tremendous fortitude and sense of duty to her country.

She will be missed by many.

## The return of our volunteers

### Pets as therapy

We are delighted to announce the return of a very special member of the team, Mucci. Mucci is a volunteer therapy dog who has been out of action at our sites since the pandemic.

We recently approached the owner, Michele, about returning to their local hospital, Edenbridge. Michele has been amazing with supporting us to safely return the pair to their volunteering roles.



Michele and Mucci will be visiting Edenbridge Hospital on a regular basis to provide support and care to the patients and colleagues in the ward and day centre. We would like to say a big thank you to the pair for returning, and we are very excited to have them back.

As a trust we are registered with the Pets as Therapy charity. If you are interested in finding out how your beloved pet can become a therapy animal, please [visit this website](#). We are keen to support more services to have therapy animals, so if you are interested, please get in touch.



Since the pandemic, our volunteer numbers have reduced and two of our hospitals, in Tenterden and Hawkhurst, are in particular need of support. Both hospitals are situated in beautiful rural locations in Kent and our colleagues are really keen to have more support on the wards. This could involve talking to patients, playing games and activities, helping with administration, meeting and greeting visitors and general ward support.

If you or someone you know would be interested in sparing a couple of hours a week to make a difference to your local community hospital, get in touch at [kentchft.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.engagement@nhs.net).

## Infection prevention and control

### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Week - 16 to 23 October

IPC week was established in 1986 to highlight the work being carried out world-wide to prevent the spread and severity of disease. However, since 2020 this work has been brought into sharp focus because of the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic. The aim of IPC is to reduce illness by providing health education and vaccination programmes.

With this in mind, we would encourage you to get a flu vaccine this autumn. You can find out if you're eligible for a free vaccine [here](#). The COVID-19 booster will also be offered to some groups. Keep an eye out for invitations sent via text, email or letter from early September.

The logo consists of the words "STAY WELL" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font above the words "THIS WINTER" in a similar font. The text is contained within a white rounded rectangular box with a thin grey border.

**We are also pleased to announce the new assistant director for IPC has been appointed: Meet Jacqui**

"My nursing career spans nearly 35 years and I have worked in the IPC speciality for 16 years. Leading and managing an isolation unit during swine flu, and leading a team during Covid-19 have been life-defining moments in my career.

"My aim is to continue the excellent work the IPC Team has done during the last two years to keep our patients, families and colleagues safe. Protecting each other is a key factor of infection prevention, not just in healthcare settings but also in daily life. Here are a few tips everyone can do to help keep yourself and your loved ones safe through winter:

- have the winter vaccinations you are eligible for, as detailed above
- regularly wash or sanitise your hands
- catch it, bin it, kill it
- opt for a face covering in busy indoor spaces
- let fresh air circulate indoors
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- keep warm, hydrated and active.

"Finally I would like to assure you that patient, carer and colleague safety is the IPC Team's key priority."

## Become a research champion

### How you can get involved

Did you hear about [Northumbria Healthcare Trust's project](#) using artificial intelligence (AI) to support patients waiting for surgery? This research project has enabled the trust's surgeons to analyse waiting lists and help patients better understand any potential risks of surgery.

Would you like to be involved in a research project like this?

At KCHFT, a lot of research is taking place locally. We need research champions to promote this across the health and social care system, to the public, and to people who may be interested in taking part in a research programme.

If this interests you, please email Julie Hedayioglu, Health Psychologist at KCHFT, at [julie.hedayioglu@nhs.net](mailto:julie.hedayioglu@nhs.net).



## Events

### Pride 2022

Every year, pride events take place around the world to celebrate LGBTQ+ social and self acceptance, achievements and legal rights.

KCHFT attended several pride events this summer, including:

- Canterbury Pride on Saturday, 11 June, joined by colleagues from the acute hospital trust and mental health trust
- Medway Pride on Saturday, 20 August, supported by our colleagues from the Sexual Health Service
- Hastings Pride on Sunday, 28 August, along with our Chief Executive, Mairead McCormick and Chief Nurse, Mercia Spare.



### Coming up: Quality Improvement (QI) conference

Guest speakers, interactive sessions and the chance to hear about quality improvement projects happening at KCHFT all feature in our QI Conference this year.

You can join us at the conference on Thursday, 6 October at the Riverside Church in Whitstable, or attend virtually. All presentations in the main room will be livestreamed to virtual attendees. [Book your place now.](#)

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### Interested in getting involved?

To find out more, contact us at [kentchft.engagement@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.engagement@nhs.net), phone 0300 013 2045 or visit our [website](#).

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## Thank you



Our values Compassionate Aspirational Responsive Excellent

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