

## A message from Mike...



As the first Birthday of the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar approaches, we've been reflecting on the immense challenges of the past year and are looking ahead to a bright future for our growing team.

It's a year since we began transforming a disused car park on land owned by City of York Council into what would become one of the largest vaccination centres in the UK. We initially offered a drive-through winter flu vaccination service from the site but, by December 2020, the focus switched to delivering the local Covid-19 Vaccination service from the white marquee that soon became known as the 'Tent of Hope'. In January, we were chosen to run one of the first National NHS Vaccination Centres, vaccinating people living within a 45-mile radius of York.

We were soon vaccinating up to 4,000 people per day and have delivered more than 370,000 vaccinations to date - that's around one in every 250 vaccinations delivered nationally. It has been estimated that in the North East and Yorkshire alone, Covid vaccinations have prevented 3.6 million infections, 21,000 hospitalisations and 16,700 deaths.

We'll be marking the site's first birthday by decorating the Tent of Hope and exhibiting photographs taken throughout the year. We'll also host our first Careers Fair (more details

below). Looking back to last October, it was almost impossible to imagine how instrumental it would become in the city's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been a real hub of activity, and our team of staff and volunteers there have coped admirably with everything the pandemic has thrown at them.



During the coming months we will, once again, be offering flu vaccinations and covid vaccination boosters from the site, but it's rapidly becoming a Health Village from which we're offering an ever-wider range of services, including health checks for adults and children with specific conditions (read on for information about the launch of an innovative pilot project).

We've leased the site until the end of 2022 and, in the longer-term, we're on the look-out for a more permanent base from which we can offer these and many other services. However, the York Vaccination Centre has played a hugely important role during the last year and we're very grateful to our member GP practices, City of York Council and our many other partners for supporting us in our response to the pandemic and our efforts to give the people of York even greater access to primary healthcare services.

Come and learn about the wide range of career opportunities that we can offer, as well as those offered by our member GP practices.



## Nimbuscare's first Careers Fair

I'm delighted that the many different career opportunities available in the healthcare sector will be showcased at our first Careers Fair next Saturday 9 October. This will take place at the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar, from 10am to 2pm. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the wide variety of roles on offer with Nimbuscare and our member GP practices, so please do encourage anyone you think might be interested to come along and find out more.

 **Nimbuscare Careers Fair**  
Saturday 9 October, from 10am to 2pm, at the  
York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar.

## Lunch with the Archbishop

A number of our employees and volunteers recently joined key workers from across the Diocese of York for a reception in the grounds of Bishopthorpe Palace. Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and his wife, Rebecca, invited people who had been recognised by work colleagues, neighbours and local churches for 'going the extra mile' during the pandemic.





Archbishop Stephen Cottrell said: “I was humbled to hold this thank you event for frontline workers in the grounds of Bishopthorpe Palace. It was amazing to talk to so many people whose dedication and work undertaken during the pandemic helped to relieve so much suffering. I was very keen to invite those on the ground, those working in the NHS, care workers, emergency services, those who have helped keep our supermarkets open, driven the buses and delivered the post, staffed food banks, taught children in school, volunteered at vaccination centres, or those who have simply been incredible neighbours. Thank you so much.”

## Pioneering scheme launched for babies and young children

Healthcare teams in York have come together to set up an innovative pilot scheme to help prevent babies and young children from going into hospital with breathing difficulties. The pilot offers a bespoke and dedicated GP and paediatric nurse-led service, which will manage children under the age of two years with bronchiolitis, who do not need an admission to Children’s Wards at the hospital. Instead, they will be seen by an experienced children’s nurse from York Hospital, working alongside a GP, in a child and family friendly ‘Hub’ at our Askham Bar site.

Sal Katib, Head of Children’s Nursing at York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust explained: “In child health we are expecting a significant surge in demand for children less than two years of age with respiratory viruses and bronchiolitis. This is not unusual, but this year it’s predicted to be very challenging due to the relaxation of social distancing measures, which, during the last 18 months, has reduced viral infections in children. “To manage this predicted surge, the idea for a community hub was agreed. The purpose is to manage those children who are not unwell enough to require a hospital admission, and to safely identify those who do.”

The pilot scheme, which begins on 4 October, will follow set criteria to allow children who need further monitoring and assessment to be directed to the Askham Bar Healthcare Village. Once there, our clinicians and a children’s nurse from the hospital will work with families and carers to monitor babies for up to six hours. The hub will be open from 4pm until 10pm each evening.



The new 'Paediatric Ambulatory Treatment Hub' is a collaboration between York and Scarborough Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and Nimbuscare. This is joint working at its best and we're so pleased to be part of this work to support children in our community.

## Coffee morning success

Thank you to everyone who attended or supported our coffee morning at the York Vaccination Centre last Friday, (pictured left), which raised more than £220 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

In fact, it went so well that we're holding a second event on Monday 4 October at our headquarters at Regus Tower Court on Oakdale Road at Clifton Moor (YO30 4XL). The Coffee Morning begins at 11am and is open to our staff, volunteers and colleagues from partner organisations. Donations of cakes would be very welcome.

## Three separate vaccination streams now in operation

This week, the logistical expertise of our staff, volunteers and 11 member GP practices has been challenged as we began to run three separate vaccination streams from the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar.

We've been inviting some people for their annual flu vaccines, as well as delivering Covid vaccines and booster jabs. Boosters are by invitation only; people will receive a text message almost six months after their second dose. The people of York continue to come forward for their vaccinations, which is fantastic. It means that 90 per cent of those over the age of 50 are now doubled jabbed and 73 per cent of 18 to 29-year-olds have had at least one jab.

To coincide with Freshers' Week, we also staged a series of Pop-Up Covid vaccination clinics at the University of York and York St John University campuses this week.

Our team is pictured (left) at a clinic in the chapel at York St John University, which was one of the most unusual settings we've held a clinic in to date.

The clinics were open to members of the local community, as well as staff and students at the universities. The final event will be held at the University of York tomorrow (Saturday 2 October), from 10am to 4pm in the Spring Lane Teaching Building on Harewood Way.



## Equipped to face the future

General Practice has, once again, been attacked in the media for supposedly not caring for patients. The publicity has been damaging, unbalanced and hurtful to the committed teams working within GP practices.

The reality is that General Practice has been evolving for some time. The sheer volume of patient demand and shortage of clinicians meant that we could never continue seeing all our patients face-to-face within an acceptable time frame. Put simply, if we saw all patients within surgery, many would have to wait several months for an appointment.

Most of our York GP practices have embraced new digital patient management systems. It's the way forward and York is at the forefront of this innovation, thanks to the unique relationship that we all have through our membership of Nimbuscare. Given the choice, lots of patients tell us they prefer telephone appointments, and GP practices can certainly treat and care for more patients each day using this mixed appointment system.

In York, the reality is that General Practice will never be the same again – it will be better. That's because we're working hard, introducing innovation and coming together to address the challenges, making us stronger and better equipped to face the future.

*Thank you all for your hard work.*

*Look out for our next newsletter in two weeks time and, in the meantime, please follow us on social media for more news updates:*



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