

A message from Maddy...



This week I'm delighted to be able to welcome a number of new faces to the team. Maggie Bulman and Lynne Wilson have both joined us recently from York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Maggie as Project Manager and Lynne as Project Support Officer. Maggie will lead our Business Development team, supporting Zulf Ali, our Director of Strategy and Commerce. Paul Marshall, who some of you may already know from his previous role at the Tesco store at Askham Bar, is also joining us as Trainee Project Support Officer. Look out for an update on the projects that Maggie, Lynne and Paul will be progressing for us in the next newsletter in two weeks' time, when we'll explain a little bit more about their roles.

Thanks to a brief respite from the flurry of storms we've experienced during the last few weeks, Portakabin were able to deliver our new, temporary modular building to the York Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar last week. They did a great job of keeping disruption to a minimum as they put the building in place section by section, due to its size. This temporary building replaces our 'tent of hope' and will be used for a number of healthcare services, including vaccination clinics. In case you missed it, this time lapse [video on our Facebook page](#) was filmed over the course of a single day and shows how quickly the portable building transformed the look of the site.

Pop-up Covid-19 vaccination clinics continue to take place at venues across the city. For full details, [click here](#).



Covid jabs for 5-11 year olds

Over the last fortnight, we've been busy vaccinating eligible five to eleven year olds, some of whom enjoyed making use of our 'selfie frame' when they visited the York Vaccination Centre for their jabs (see photographs left). Parents of children who are at serious risk from complications of Covid-19 infection or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed will receive a letter or a phone call inviting them to make an appointment for their child to be vaccinated. Appointments must be booked in advance; we're not operating a walk-in service for the age group.

Playing our part in the city's recovery from the pandemic

Through our Covid Recovery Hub, we're working with partner organisations to offer a wide range of services aimed at helping both individual patients and the NHS to recover from the impact of Covid-19. Here's what we're doing:

Welfare calls to patients with Covid

Working with York Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), since the pandemic began we've made daily welfare calls to thousands of local people who are self-isolating to see how they're coping with their symptoms/illness, and ensure that they can access food and medical supplies.

We offer patients at higher risk from Covid-19, such as older people, people with health conditions and pregnant women, the opportunity to monitor their oxygen levels at home using a device called an oximeter that they can use on their fingertip. We also offer them guidance on when to seek additional medical advice.

Supporting patients with Long Covid

Starting this month, we'll be helping York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that patients with Long Covid are able to access the NHS resources that they need to recover. We'll also help patients to understand when they need to highlight any concerns they may have about their recovery. This involves contacting them at regular intervals to tell them what signs to look out for and when to contact their GP if they're not recovering as well as we'd like them to.

Helping to ensure that patients are hospital-ready

We're also working with City of York Council and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to develop a support system for people who are on hospital waiting lists. We want to ensure that patients who are waiting for an operation are as well as they can be when they're due to have their surgery. This means checking their blood pressure, carrying out blood tests and doing all we can to ensure that they are well enough to have their operation when the time comes.

Peppermill Court

We provide medical care to patients at Peppermill Court in York, a 12-bed, step-down unit for people with Covid-19 who are discharged from hospital but not well enough to go home.

The unit was set up by City of York Council in partnership with York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and is a residential unit for people who are well enough to be discharged from hospital but have Covid-19 and still require some medical care. Patients are typically discharged from the unit once they've completed their period of isolation.

The unit was established in January 2022 in response to an identified need for such a service to ease the pressure on local hospitals during the busy winter period, and offer support to those with Covid-19 who are well enough to leave hospital but still require some care. The unit will continue to be available for patients as long as it is needed.

Cervical screening campaign

Public Health England is currently running an awareness campaign reminding those who are eligible for cervical screening (women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64 years) not to ignore their invitation.

To make it easier for patients who work during the week to attend their cervical screening appointments, we hold clinics in York every Saturday. These are for patients who are registered at any one of our [11 member practices](#). Patients who would like to book an appointment at a Saturday clinic can telephone 01904 557140 or 07947 341959. Please be aware that this telephone number is for booking appointments at the cervical screening clinics only and we cannot deal with other enquiries on this number.





Over to you...

We'd like to invite our member GP practices to share your news updates as part of a new, regular feature in this newsletter.

To start the ball rolling, Prior Medical Group have shared these images (left) of their smart new branding, which has recently been applied to signage outside their surgeries. I'm sure you'll agree, it looks fantastic!

- If you'd like to share a news item in a future edition of this newsletter, please email your ideas to Lucy Oates at lucy@lucyoates.co.uk.

Look out for our next newsletter update in two weeks' time. In the meantime, please follow us on our social media channels by clicking on the links below.

Thank you all for your hard work and support.



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