

# TRUST

## Matters

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• Contact us at: [membership@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@smhp.nhs.uk) • Online: [www.smhp.nhs.uk/trustmatters](http://www.smhp.nhs.uk/trustmatters)



From left: personal assistant Barbara Sherman-Potts, accountant Chloe Abbott, substance misuse service manager Sean Corbett, associate director for child and adolescent mental health services Siobhann Quinn and personal assistant Julie Barns model the new bags.

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### If you only knew... It's in the bag!

Canvas bags bearing the slogan "If you only knew..." are spreading the word about the Trust's anti-stigma campaign as well as helping people with their shopping. Robert Nesbitt, director of community engagement for the Trust, said: "The idea of re-usable bags has captured many people's

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## Staff survey prompts action plan

**The positive teamwork shown by mental health and learning disability staff in Suffolk has been highlighted in a national report.**

The annual staff survey, carried out by the independent Healthcare Commission, also noted the low levels of bullying or abuse from patients compared with similar trusts, as well as the fact that the Trust had invested significantly in health and safety training.

Chief executive Mark Halladay said: "The staff survey is an incredibly powerful way of letting us know what the people who work for us think about their job, as well as areas in which they think we can improve. "We have seen considerable change within the Trust over the last few years, some of which has been uncomfortable for colleagues. I am pleased with the improvements, but I am placing much

greater importance on the areas on which staff are saying we should be concentrating."

The Trust moved from having five areas in the lowest 20 per cent of similar trusts to having seven.

The survey reported high proportions of staff had a negative sense of feeling within the organisation, had suffered a work-related injury or stress in the previous 12 months and intended to leave their jobs.

Staff felt they did not have a well structured appraisal, they didn't receive job-relevant training and the quality of their job design was poor.

The Trust is trying to address these shortcomings. It is investing further in training, has asked a staff group to make proposals for raising morale and is improving appraisals. It is investing in communication and introducing a new approach for de-briefing as part of its risk management arrangements.

We would like to pull together an opinion group so that we can find out more about what you dislike about working for the Trust.

We are particularly interested to hear from people who feel the Trust is not doing enough to support them. We envisage the group consisting of people like nurses, OTs, secretaries, practitioners etc, rather than purely managers.

If you'd like to be involved, call me on 01473 329797 or email [nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk) If you'd like to take part but feel you may not have the support of your manager, let me know and I'll see if I can sort something out with them.

**Nicola Brown**  
Head of communications

# Adrian's memory runs on in his team

**A team of Trust staff are preparing to pound the streets of London in memory of an inspirational colleague who died after a brave battle with prostate cancer.**

Eleven members of the prevention and management of aggression (PMA) staff are taking part in the British 10k Run to raise funds towards research into the disease which claimed their colleague Adrian Meyer.

Adrian worked for the Trust for a number years before his death in 2007.

The PMA team provide physical intervention skills and personal safety awareness training to Trust staff in line with national guidelines and best practice. Without Adrian's initial hard work and dedication, the current PMA team would not have evolved to what it is now.

Steve Grant, the Trust's PMA assistant practice educator, has been organising the fundraising run.

He said: "We have all been training really hard for this and are looking forward to the challenge.

"The fact we are doing this in Adrian's memory is giving us all extra motivation. He was fantastic at his job and almost single-handedly raised the profile of the PMA team.

"He was a kind-hearted man who was always willing to listen to you or offer his help. Many here saw him as a father figure, someone you could trust and whose opinion was always respected. He is greatly missed by us all."

The team is aiming to raise £2,500 towards the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation, which aims to promote worldwide research and spread knowledge of all aspects of the illness. The charity run will take place on 6 July, starting at the Hard Rock Café, Piccadilly, London.

Anyone wishing to sponsor the team can do so online at [www.justgiving.com/pmteam](http://www.justgiving.com/pmteam)



The PMA team

## Are you immune?

The Trust is attempting to update employees' vaccination records so it can judge which staff need to be vaccinated and what vaccines are required.

Your manager will shortly receive a questionnaire from occupational health (OH) for you to complete and return to your manager. They'll then return to forms to OH.

It is extremely important for everyone to complete these forms whether they are permanent, bank or contract staff.

It is also important that you fill in the form as accurately as possible, including not just what you have been vaccinated against, but when and what results you were given. If you have any copies of blood results it will be helpful if you can enclose copies of these with your form.

Your manager will assess whether you are at risk from an infection and grade the risk as high, medium or low.

Once OH has collated all the results we can then start a vaccination programme to ensure that you are all protected from key infections. Your completed forms will be kept in your OH files, which you can have access to at any convenient time.

## Trust stands up for lesbian, gay and bisexual equality

**The Trust has become a diversity champion with Stonewall – the lesbian and gay equality group which helped get civil partnerships recognised, is fighting homophobia in the classroom, and protecting rights at work.**

The Trust has become a diversity champion with Stonewall – the lesbian and gay equality group which helped get civil partnerships recognised, is fighting homophobia in the classroom, and protecting rights at work.

Membership is particularly important for lesbian and gay staff. But we hope that it will also send out a signal to service users and the wider community that we value diversity and will not tolerate homophobia.

**"Basically, we want to attract and keep the best staff to the Trust because we want to provide the best services. It makes sense for us to create a workplace where everyone is comfortable - because all the research shows that people perform best when they can be themselves,"**

said Robert Nesbitt, director of community engagement, who is leading on the work.

**"I've been out at work my whole career. I know that there is still homophobia in the workplace, but this is 2008 and we're determined to promote equality and diversity for all groups, including lesbians and gay men."**

Joining the programme means that we will have access to the best employment practice in the country – big employers like IBM and Lloyds TSB are members, but so are local ones like Suffolk Police and Suffolk County Council. Research shows that lesbian and gay staff are more likely to leave if they face discrimination and that most lesbian and gay staff who feel that they have to conceal their sexuality (for fear of a bad reaction from colleagues) can actually perform worse at work than those who are out.

If you would like to know more or get involved in the programme, contact Robert via [robert.nesbitt@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:robert.nesbitt@smhp.nhs.uk) or visit [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

## If you only knew...

*continued from page 1*  
attention recently. We all know it is important to try not to use too many plastic bags that don't biodegrade well.

"These bags allows us have a small influence on keeping Suffolk's countryside cleaner and tidier and encourages more people not to use plastic bags. Equally they will be a talking point, spreading our message to stamp out stigma."

The bags also signpost people to the campaign website, [www.ifyouknew.co.uk](http://www.ifyouknew.co.uk) The campaign posters have appeared in local newspapers as well as on buses and phone boxes and on pharmacy bags. Our radio advertising campaign has also been challenging people's opinions about others who use mental health, substance misuse and learning disability services.



Jo Hale, head of procurement for the Trust, was surprised to see the campaign on a bag she was given when she collected a prescription.

## Staff chance to see layouts

Staff have an opportunity to see the project plans, ask questions and see the layouts for the new wards at Ipswich Hospital and St Clement's Hospital in Ipswich, as well as the refurbishments for the Wedgwood Unit in Bury St Edmunds, by attending one of a series of roadshows:

These are:

**Main hall, St Clement's Social Club**

22 April, 10am - 11.30am

**MDT/OT room, Chillesford Ward, Minsmere House, Ipswich Hospital**

18 April, 9am-10.30am

**Downstairs training room, Wedgwood Unit**

18 April, 11.30am-1pm

18 April, 2pm-3.30pm

29 April, 9.30am-11am

29 April 11.30am-1pm

29 April 2pm-3.30pm

To book a place on one the above, call Julie Stevenson on 01473 329774 (ext 3774) or email [julie.stevenson@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:julie.stevenson@smhp.nhs.uk)

To manage the service change process, a range of associated sub groups will be launched over the next few months.

## Intranet - The voting begins

The new intranet is coming along, with the software team currently transferring content from the existing site on to the new version. We don't have a 'live' date yet, but intranet administrators should watch out for a link to the new version arriving in their inbox in due course, so that they can check what's there and have an opportunity to add anything which is missing.

The training/instruction pack is also being put together. In the meantime, we had more than 50 suggestions for a new name for the intranet, with the chance to win an as-yet-undecided-but-it-will-be-good prize.

To see the suggestions, and vote for your favourite, visit [www.smhp.nhs.uk/tm](http://www.smhp.nhs.uk/tm)

## If you only knew... about the Northgate School event

Drama students at Northgate High School are putting together a series of sketches for a campaign production at the New Wolsey Workshop in Ipswich, from 12.15pm on Monday, April 28. If you would like to go, or would like to take some clients to see it, then register your name by emailing [nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk) It's free to go.



## Foundation Trust governor elections

The closing date for nominations to become a governor for our new NHS Foundation Trust has now passed and we are now looking forward to elections.

There is one staff seat to fill in each of the five business arms – mental health, substance misuse [SMS], learning disability, child and adolescent mental health [CAMHS] and Suffolk Support Services [SSS]/corporate.

There will be elections for seats in mental health and SSS/corporate, while the candidates for learning disability services and CAMHS will be elected unopposed.

We did not have a nomination within SMS, but any member of staff who works within this directorate and who would like to stand as a governor should contact Alex Lund-Lack via [alex.lund-lack@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:alex.lund-lack@smhp.nhs.uk)

Details of what being a governor entails can be found at [www.smhp.nhs.uk/News/PressReleases/Pressreleasegovernors/tabid/1229/Default.aspx](http://www.smhp.nhs.uk/News/PressReleases/Pressreleasegovernors/tabid/1229/Default.aspx)

This is the timetable for what happens next:

Issue of ballot papers: 07.05.08

Final date for receipt of ballot papers: 21.05.08

Notification of result: 23.05.08

If anyone has any queries about the election process, or about governors, then please contact Alex as above.

The staff candidates:

**Learning disability staff**  
Mohammad Makhdum

**Mental health staff**  
Christopher Mayer  
Elizabeth Morrow  
Antony Wright

**SSS/corporate staff**  
Sheena Rawlings  
David Rollinson  
Clare Hedges

# Centrepiece

## Fire training

Having an annual fire training update is a statutory requirement for all staff. In order to achieve 100% compliance, the fire officers and the education and workforce development department are working together to bring the process for monitoring attendance on this training in line with all other statutory and mandatory training.

You must attend an update session in your workplace as these are site specific. However, there will be 'catch up' sessions arranged periodically to ensure staff that miss on site training can access an update.

The fire training plan can be accessed on via the link below. <http://nwww.suffolk.nhs.uk/scripts/index.asp?pid=18253&id=89280> Please access the plan, find your work location and: Locations highlighted in green Update has taken place for 2008 -

please contact the training department if you missed your session in order for your name to be put on a waiting list for one of the catch up sessions.

Locations highlighted in orange Please apply for a place using the usual A1 application process (For the A1 form, see: <http://nwww.suffolk.nhs.uk/SMHP/TrustWideServices/Education&WorkforceDevelopment/A1applicationForm.PDF>).

If you are unable to make the date(s) advertised please contact the training department in order for your name to be put on a waiting list for one of the catch up sessions.

Locations highlighted in yellow Fire lead to contact the named fire officer to arrange update sessions(s) in the month specified or as soon as possible if no month is specified. Once this has been done please

contact the training department to confirm the details.

Sara Hyde  
Business manager  
01473 329286

### New contact details education and workforce development admin team

Due to maternity leave / part time staff hours, and to help us ensure your enquiry is dealt with quickly and efficiently, please use the central email and telephone contact below for all enquiries to the department

Main contact number:

01473 329300

Main email:

[education.development@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:education.development@smhp.nhs.uk)

Main fax: 01473 329016

For more information about education and workforce development, see:

<http://nwww.suffolk.nhs.uk/scripts/index.asp?pid=17192&id=18253>

## Fraud and corruption

Have you sent the Trust's fraud and corruption policy? The Fraud Act 2006 came into force in January 2007 and is explained in the 'guidance to staff' section. The Act provides for a general offence of fraud with three ways of committing it, ie

- by false representation,
  - by failing to disclose information or
  - by abuse of position.
- It also creates new offences of
- obtaining services dishonestly and
  - possessing, making and supplying articles for use in frauds.

Making a false representation can be written, spoken, by electronic means or by way of conduct. This covers such things as declaring the wrong time on a timesheet or excess miles on a travel claim and talking deceptively about a qualification within a job interview as well as posting inaccurate information on a website or tendering a credit card that is not yours or bogus to pay for items in a shop.

Failing to disclose information is in circumstances where there is a legal requirement to disclose information, such as when a contract is being entered into, so this offence could cover relevant information missing from job applications. See the policy at <http://www.smhp.nhs.uk/SMHP/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=eQwO%2fnydOk8%3d&tabid=160&mid=582>

## Free Office software

NHS employees can now benefit from free use of the latest versions of Microsoft Office software at home. The Microsoft Home Use Programme is an employee benefit agreed between Connecting for Health and Microsoft, and entitles NHS staff to the latest versions of MS Office 2007 or Office 2003 for free – but you will have to pay £18 for postage and packaging. It normally costs £345 for the software.

Send an email to

[nhs.microsoft.ea@computacenter.com](mailto:nhs.microsoft.ea@computacenter.com)

and they'll email you back with details. Payment for postage and packing can be made by credit card, and the software will be sent directly to your home address.

You're not allowed to sell the software on – the offer is just for NHS staff. More details are at

[www.computacenter.com/nhsea/hup/faq](http://www.computacenter.com/nhsea/hup/faq)



## Are you fed up receiving global emails?

The Trust's new email policy has this to say on the subject of global emails:

**Indiscriminate mass mailing to all recipients is annoying to those people who do not have any interest in the subject. General notices must be placed on the Trust's intranet and care should be taken when sending to more than one recipient that the information contained in the e-mail is of relevance to all recipients.**

So – if you feel tempted to press that 'send' button on a global email, first think about whether 2,000-odd members of staff really need to receive it. As you know, staff cover the whole of the county, from Newmarket to Lowestoft, and across all the different service areas too. If it's for wider distribution, then please consider sending it to [nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk) as a Trust Matters item instead.

## Mental Health Act 2007

The Trust preparing to bring in the new Mental Health Act laws which were agreed by the government last year, in order that we have everything we need in place for when they come into effect in October 2008.

Representatives from various areas of the Trust, along with service user and family carer representatives and people from partner agencies, like the police, came together on 7 March to put plans in place for following the new laws in Suffolk and Thetford. The new laws amend the 1983 Act and were devised in order to help people with serious mental disorders get the help they need. This will be achieved in part by simplifying the criteria for when people need a stay in hospital and by introducing new supervised community treatment plans for people returning home after hospital. Staff will have different roles too, such as nurses and other clinicians being able to perform duties traditionally

carried out by approved social workers. Measures to safeguard and improve patients' rights are also included, such as speeding up access to a mental health tribunal. In due course, the Trust will be sending out more information about the Act, and how it will affect service users and their carers.

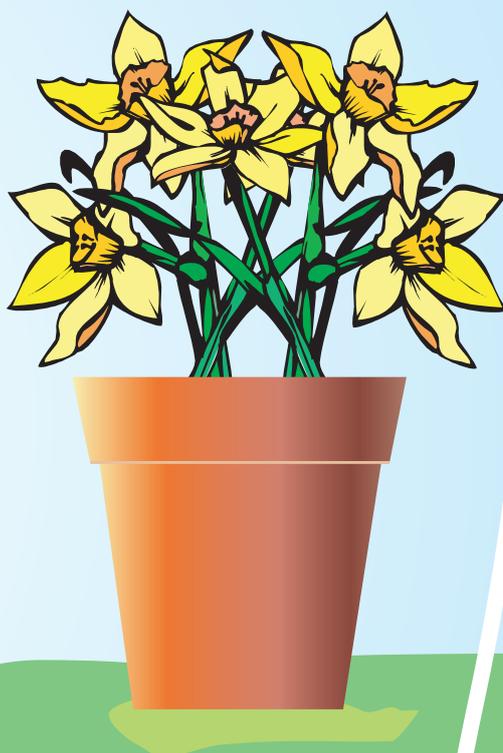
The Department of Health is also going to produce a code of practice, which we will be able to share more widely with you once we receive copies.

## Important changes to eyecare voucher scheme for VDU users

As from 2 April, Accor eyecare vouchers will no longer be issued for eyesight tests.

SPECSAVERS Opticians have been commissioned by the Trust to provide eye examination/eyesight tests to \*VDU users on request. (\*The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992)

Following a request for an eye examination/eyesight test, the risk management team will issue a Specsavers eyecare voucher to staff enabling them to arrange a suitable appointment at their chosen Specsavers opticians.



## Did You Know?

*useful information and updates*

### NEW POLICIES:

- AF24 - Project management
- CL27 - Non-medical prescribing
- CL28 - Admission to Longview adolescent inpatient unit
- CL29 - Liaison with the pharmaceutical industry
- RM18 - Emergency planning

### REPLACEMENT/REVISED POLICIES:

- HR12 - Disciplinary policy and procedure
- HR25 - Change management redeployment and redundancy
- AF12 - Information security
- AF16 - Use of mobile computing devices
- CL17 - Diagnostic and therapeutic medical equipment
- RM01 - Safeguarding children

### GUIDELINE:

Equality impact assessment (EIA) guidance

### STRATEGIES:

Information strategy  
Communication strategy

## Key contacts

**Lisa Llewelyn**, head of the Centre for Service Excellence  
Tel: 01473 329 549

**David Rollinson**, complaints and legal services manager  
Tel: 01473 329 607

**Elayne Jennings**, risk manager  
Tel: 01473 329 604

**Janet Roper**, clinical audit and effectiveness advisor  
Tel: 01473 329 412

**Sara Fletcher**, senior nurse infection control  
Tel: 01473 770 127

# We're a team

Five colleagues have formed a new team which brings together patient and public involvement (PPI), the patient advice and liaison service (PALS), equality and diversity (E&D) and communications.

Together, they are hoping to put structures in place across the Trust to make sure that the aims in their own areas of work are reflected within individual services and departments.

For example, Larry Nicholas (PPI manager) is looking at involving service users and carers in the lion's share of Trust functions and wants to put processes in that this happens automatically.



Sujata Gathani, E&D lead, is currently working on a strategy which makes equality and diversity everyone's business rather than just the remit of one person.



PALS officer James Woolnough is looking at what information is available for service users and their carers will be co-ordinating how this is used.



And Nicola Brown, head of communications, is working to a three-year plan to improve communications within the Trust and with a number of other audiences, including service users, carers, partner organisations and the public – this plan embraces many of the values of the others' strategies and it makes sense to work together.



Director Robert Nesbitt completes the team, bringing together its work under the community engagement strategy.

With a new team comes a new acronym (this is the NHS, after all!), so if you see the abbreviation PPEC, this refers to Larry, Sujata, James, Nicola and Robert and is short for PPI, PALS, E&D and communications.

## MEET THE TEAM



## Staff provide a link for mental health

A team which improves access to mental health services in Suffolk are the subject of this edition's Meet the Team. The 12 Link Workers are supporting GPs in their surgeries by helping patients with mental health issues to access prompt and appropriate services.

Each Link Worker will work in partnership with between five and seven GP practices, meaning the new service will be available countywide.

They direct patients to the most appropriate information and potential sources of support based on their own specific needs. Jean Glasgow, the Trust's

acting team leader, said: "Our main aim is to improve the psychological wellbeing of individuals, their families and friends. We can attempt do this by informing them about options they may not know are available and helping people to help themselves.

**"We are here to speed up access to appropriate services and advice and focus on the process of recovery. In addition, the team can also provide education or training sessions to other healthcare professionals focused on mental health topics."**

Link Workers are experienced mental

health practitioners, with a background in mental health nursing and social care. Local GPs are already seeing the benefits provided by the introduction of the Link Worker service.

Dr Richard West, of the Woolpit Health centre, said: "The Link Worker has provided the practice with invaluable support in getting our patients seen by the most appropriate agency in a timely fashion.

**"It has helped our patients to access a much wider range of services, such as those in the voluntary sector. Overall, this has led to a better service for our patients as well as being cost-effective for the NHS."**

## Lesley's proposal boosts charity fund

**A leap day proposal for her colleagues to 'pay' to dress down for the day netted ePEX trainer Lesley Norburn a total of £170.62 towards a £2,000 fundraising target.**

Lesley, who works in the informatics department in Bury St Edmunds, is raising money for St Nicholas' Hospice by walking – or, as she puts it – hobbling or crawling the premier trek in Iceland in July. She will encounter ancient lava field, bubbling hot springs, snow-capped peaks, volcanos and waterfalls along the way, all in 24-hour daylight. Lesley chose St Nicholas' Hospice because she had ovarian cancer in 1999, when her daughter was just two years old. Thankfully, it was diagnosed early and Lesley recovered after treatment. Many of her friends and colleagues have faced a similar fight, and that – plus the fact



that her father-in-law is the founder and president of the hospice, and that Iceland is always a country she wanted to visit – made the challenge too attractive to resist. As well as the

dress-down day, Lesley organised a hopi ear candling evening in Ipswich with colleague Sanchia Holmes and also put on an evening of music. Look out for 'cash for quiz' sheets coming your way soon.

Lesley has a blog at <http://norburn.blogspot.com> and a fundraising page at [www.justgiving.com/LesleyinIceland](http://www.justgiving.com/LesleyinIceland) Her email address is [lesley.norburn@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:lesley.norburn@smhp.nhs.uk)

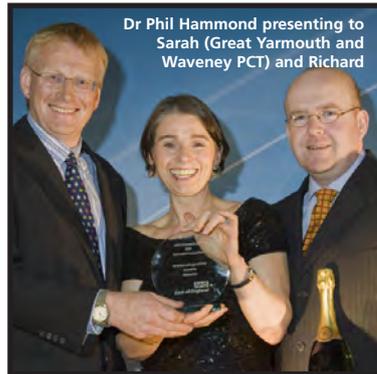
## Get your kit on!

The seventh annual SMHP five-a-side football tournament is taking place in Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds, on 21 May from 10.30am. If any people (service users or staff) would like to take part, either as a team or as individuals who would like to join a team, then they should contact Jack Karney on 01284 352665.

## Innovation award for graphics

**Suffolk Support Services' graphics were pleased to share the stage at an Health Enterprise East (HEE) awards evening at Duxford Airport for a project they developed with Gt Yarmouth and Waveney PCT.**

In the new SHA category for the innovation which 'Best Stimulates Physical Activity in Children to Tackle Obesity', runners-up were Sarah Barnes and Richard Stanley for their idea of Book Bag Tags, featuring a longer-shelf-life message on the importance of regular physical exercise. These tags, developed together with the children, can be attached with a key fob or lanyard to a book bag or school bag and act as a reminder to children, parents and teachers of the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Sarah Barnes and Richard Stanley were presented with the award, together with a cheque for £500 to progress their idea.



## Strategy for mental healthcare

The NHS East of England is launching a three-month consultation on 12 May prior to setting out a vision of healthcare in the area.

There are several aspirations for mental health contained within the consultation, which are:

- All with mental health problems empowered to realise their maximum potential
- Systematic screening; early intervention; crisis resolution; and assertive outreach for dementia
- Better access to psychological therapies
- Better identification of need and support for carers
- Research to collect data for targeted services

Look out for the consultation document on [www.eoe.nhs.uk](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk) from 12 May.

## Fellowships for three psychiatrists

Three psychiatrists have been elected as Fellows of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Dr Siri Robling, Dr Albert Caracciolo and Dr Hassan Gaddal have all received professional recognition for going above and beyond their regular jobs to improve healthcare.

**Dr Robling** worked as tutor in west Suffolk in the past and more recently became the psychiatric link for The Cambridge Graduate Medical School. She also on the Faculty of Training the Trainers course, run by the University of Hertfordshire. She has been working closely with the Newmarket community team in developing new working links with local stakeholders, including users and carers, colleagues in primary care, voluntary organisations providing mental healthcare and with social services, among others.



Dr Robling

**Dr Caracciolo**, who works with inpatients at St Clement's Hospital in Ipswich, has applied a holistic way of addressing not just the mental health needs of people staying in hospital, but also their physical needs by assessing their general health and working with them to address problems with, for example, obesity. He also led on a project in the Ipswich and East Suffolk area to improve how consultants worked with ward and community teams.



Dr Caracciolo

**Dr Gaddal** was elected as a fellow in recognition of his work with faith healers and native healers in Sudan, for his involvement with training junior doctors at the Trust and for his work with the Suffolk East Eating Disorders Service (SEEDS) based in Ipswich.

He is also one of the Trust's lead clinicians in the recovery model of care and works with the central community team, which covers Stowmarket, Hadleigh, Eye and Debenham.



Dr Gaddal

# International Women's Day

**Female members of staff from around the Trust attended an International Women's Day event organised by equality and diversity lead Sujata Gathani last month.**

It was opened by Sandra Cowie, the Trust's only female executive director, and featured a presentation by Rosemary Sturgis, the gender equality lead for women's mental health for the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP). Sujata said: "The feedback from those people who came along on the day was good, requesting similar events around the county and it was good to share ideas about how we can promote equality. "I'd like to take this a step further and hear more about any issues which women have encountered so that we can improve what we do." Sujata is looking to set up staff equality groups across the Trust so that the Trust can make sure any issues which arise at work because of gender, sexuality,

cultural background or disability are tackled and sorted out.

"Equality and diversity for all our employees, and the people we care for, is really important – but if we are to make a difference, we do need the involvement of people who want to make it happen," said chief executive Mark Halladay.

Teams from human resources, Work Life Balance and the education and training department were at the International Women's Day event to offer advice to visitors, while practitioners from the Buddhist Centre in Ipswich led holistic workshops and carried out massages. Claire Poulson, PA to estates director David Leckie, shared her skills as a beautician by giving manicures – because we're worth it!

If you would like to get involved in one of the equality groups, please call Sujata on 01473 329476 or email [sujata.gathani@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:sujata.gathani@smhp.nhs.uk)



Some of the staff and exhibitors at the International Women's Day event.

## Suffolk clinician heads south

**An Ipswich-based consultant psychiatrist has been awarded a travelling fellowship to lecture and present on mental health care in New Zealand.**

Professor Bob Peckitt, senior forensic psychiatrist is in New Zealand at the invitation of the Mid Central District Health Board (MCDHB), which is based in Palmerston North on the country's North Island.

Every year MCDHB awards a travelling fellowship to a speaker of international renown and has this year chosen Professor Peckitt, whose career has included working at Rampton Hospital. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to raise the profile of Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust," he said before he left.

"I am looking forward to exchanging experiences with people on the other side of the world and hopefully bringing back with me new ideas to further improve the already excellent forensic services we have here in Suffolk.

"I also hope it will be the start of a partnership between the Trust and Mid Central District Health Board which will benefit both organisations and their patients."

During what will be his first trip to New Zealand, Professor Peckitt will give talks and lectures on a range of forensic issues in Auckland, Wellington and Palmerston North to clinicians, lawyers and professionals involved in the criminal justice system. For example, at the University of Victoria in Wellington he will give a lecture on women in the criminal justice system in England called "Mothers or Monsters?" to dispel myths and stigma surrounding mental disorder. In addition, he will spend two days with the New Zealand police profiling unit in Auckland.

Professor Peckitt, who returns to England on 4 May, is also a member of The Parole Board of England and Wales. He joined the Trust in August last year and he divides his time between local and regional services. For the past four years has held the post of Visiting Chair in forensic psychiatry at the University of Lincoln.

Based at St Clement's Hospital, Ipswich, he is a strong advocate of multi-agency, multi-professional working with the courts, police, prisons and probation services.

Professor Peckitt has also run community-based services for people in the west of England and is currently building links with the University of Suffolk.

**EDITORIAL** If you have an article (and hopefully an accompanying picture/imagery) for inclusion in the next/future edition of Trust Matters, please email it to the editorial team at [nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@smhp.nhs.uk) Telephone 01473 329797 for enquiries. The next deadline for proposed content is **23 May 2008**.