

## NEWS SHEET MAY 2020

**We hope you are all well and managing in these difficult times. As you know, all volunteers within the York Hospital have been paused for the moment until the situation with Covid-19 is under control. We will let you know when the restrictions have been lifted.**

**In the mean time, Andy White the Administrator & Volunteer**

**Coordinator has been working from home and will be furloughed from 1 May 2020 for a month which will be kept under review. The Trustees are still continuing to meet remotely throughout the pandemic and you can contact them by emailing [contact.us@foyh.org.uk](mailto:contact.us@foyh.org.uk)**

**Please keep an eye on our website [www.foyh.org.uk](http://www.foyh.org.uk) for updates**

### Message from the Interim Chairman

This has been quite a strange introduction for me in my first few weeks as Interim Chairman of FOYH. You will have seen my letter of 10<sup>th</sup> March telling you of the recent changes in management of FOYH following Derek De Vere's resignation as a trustee and Chairman. Since then the elected Committee has been very busy updating and clarifying procedures, re-examining and updating job descriptions and contracts and arranging furloughs to name but a few. Helping with this has been Judith Whitehead, whom the trustees

approved as my nominated Vice Chair, Mike Hall, Hon. Treasurer and Stephanie Neale, Hon. Secretary. Mike has also been working on the final accounts for the closure of the original charity (500474). The lockdown resulting from the pandemic has caused all sorts of changes, not least the way we are producing this newsletter/news sheet. We don't know yet how the easing of lockdown will affect volunteering.

**Andy White:** There are currently no volunteers of any kind in the hospital

until further notice. Andy is being furloughed for the whole of May. The government will pay 80% of his salary for that month and we will make it up to 100%. All the relevant PAYE, NI and pension contributions will be deducted

as per normal. We will review the situation towards the end of May. All emails and calls to him will be diverted as he can do absolutely no FOYH work during this period of furlough.

### Care packs and toiletry bags

FOYH has donated £20,000 towards the cost of care boxes for staff and toilet bags for patients at York Hospital.

The boxes contain items to help staff on the wards and departments as they care for patients at this difficult time. They include items such as coffee, tea bags, squashes, porridge, cereal bars, cuppa soups pastas/noodles and toiletries as



requested by the staff themselves.

120 care packs of varying sizes, from those for under 10 staff to some for 100-200 staff depending on the number of staff within a ward or department. These were prepared by Rachel Brooks, Fundraising Manager, and her team. They were then distributed to wards and departments throughout the hospital. A postcard thanking the staff for their commitment and hard work and telling them that the packs were funded by FOYH with some donations from local



businesses was included in each pack.

Feedback from grateful staff and teams include ***"A huge thank you on behalf of all the Therapy staff for your lovely***

*care packages we received. They were much appreciated”.*

*“Thank you, thank you, thank you to Friends of York Hospital! We are very pleased with our care box and appreciate being thought about during this time”.*

*“Just to say a big thank you from everyone in SPA as we received our Care Package today. It has lots of goodies that will be enjoyed by all and is very much”.*



Top up bags will be provided in a couple of weeks.

The 200 toiletry bags, for both male and female in-patients, provide among other things a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm, hand cream and a lotion. The cotton bags which were made by the Trust seamstresses and packed by Rachel and her team have been distributed the wards.

### Doctors of the Future?

Another successful year for the 6<sup>th</sup> form shadowing project which is led by Dr Paul Laboi with the support of clinicians and professional staff within the hospital and community. The programme which began in 2016 with one student has developed to 12 students in the 2020 cohort. It runs for a half-day session over 9 weeks and gives 12 students from local state schools the opportunity to meet with consultant medical staff from a variety of specialties, patients and multidisciplinary staff to get a wider view of medicine.

FOYH funded the initiative in 2019 and in 2020. Organisational support has



been provided in 2020 by Stephanie Neale, Honorary Secretary. We had a brilliant group of students this year who were fully engaged with the programme. The Covid-19 situation meant the programme was cut short by two weeks but hopefully we can pick

up the sessions in the autumn – maybe even having a session on “how to manage in a pandemic”?

Feedback from the students:

*“I have found the project very interesting each week, and it’s provided me with a much wider perspective of what different types of doctor I can be through studying medicine at University. All the speakers have been inspiring to listen to and I now have something great to talk about at interviews and in my personal*

*statement- it’s really been an invaluable experience for applying to medicine.”*

*“The sixth form shadowing project has been a fantastic experience. Each week the guest speakers have presented us with eye-opening stories and experiences, which has really helped me to have a deeper understanding of the different aspects of medicine. This project has also allowed me to meet other students who have similar aspirations as me, therefore being able to discuss our goals together has been very beneficial.”*

## **The Boring Stuff**

Since registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation the Trustees have been involved in a lot of work organising/registering the changes with the various organisations such as the Charity Commission, HMRC, Attend.

We are also working through all the necessary policies and procedures to make sure that we have the appropriate governance in place.

**With thanks and best wishes to you all from all the Trustees and Andy White and hoping to see everyone back to normal as soon as possible.**