

Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future 2: Good Relations Bulletin



Volume 12 – June 2020

We are delighted to welcome you to the 12th edition of the Good Relations Bulletin which highlights the sterling work the BHSCT is doing to ensure that we provide health and social care in inclusive, shared facilities.

During this challenging time when our frontline staff are working so hard to keep us safe and save lives, it is a

pleasure to highlight some of the good relations work our staff are involved in throughout the Trust.



This edition provides us with a glimpse of the beautiful 'River of Hope' Artwork unveiled by our Chief Executive Dr Cathy Jack at our new Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre at Belfast City Hospital. The colourful artwork depicts the future dreams and aspirations for Northern Ireland by patients and staff which are now permanently flowing along the River of Hope.

An innovative Information Poster and Book Mark 'Now You're Talkin'...' are also highlighted in this packed edition. The poster and bookmark were co-produced by parents and the Trust's Speech and Language service to promote a better understanding of language development and language impairment for a bilingual child. The arrival of people from other countries into NI has enriched the diversity of our population, our cultural perspectives and has significantly changed the number of languages spoken here as noted by a recent Department of Education NI audit - the findings of which should be

borne in mind when thinking about how we as a Trust deliver our services and seek to make them inclusive and welcoming to all.



Finally, in this edition, we have taken the opportunity to focus on a diverse range of some of the Trust's proactive initiatives all aimed at promoting good relations and ensuring that service users, irrespective of race or background are provided with equality of opportunity to access health and social care. I hope you enjoy reading about all the wonderful initiatives.

Christine Stamp

Director of Performance, Planning and Informatics

‘Now You’re Talkin’.....’ Initiative



‘Now You’re Talkin’..’ is a colourful new Information Poster to promote better understanding of language development and language impairment in the child developing language bilingually, as well as best advice to parents of bilingual children.

The Information Poster and a Book Mark have been co-produced between parents and the Trust’s Speech and Language Department.

The novel initiative was spearheaded by Trust Assistant Speech and Language Therapy Manager Florence King.

Florence explained the purpose of the materials: “The Information Posters and Book Marks are designed to give support for developing awareness of speech-language communication needs in bilingual children as well as best advice for parents”.

Florence, who has been working with parents, bilingual children and their families has shared the promotional materials widely including with GPs, health visitors, all nursery and day care settings in BHSCT, with and through interpreters regionally, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists nationally, Speech and Language Therapists regionally, GP trainees and the Ulster Paediatric Society.

Did you know?

A Department of Education, NI school report in 2018, based on enrolment data 17/18 revealed that almost 90 different first languages are spoken by pupils - of which Polish and Lithuanian are the most common (after English).

In addition, the report highlighted the languages spoken by pupils in schools and how many including: Portuguese – 1279; Romanian – 1005; Malayalam – 814; Arabic – 723; Tagalog/Filipino – 668; Slovak – 580; Latvian – 567; Chinese (Mandarin/Putonghua) – 545; Bulgarian – 502 Hungarian – 502; Irish – 454.

Staff and Service Users Dreams and Wishes Set Sail on River of Hope



The hopes and aspirations of service users and Trust staff will be permanently sailing up stream on the beautiful River of Hope at the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre at Belfast City Hospital. The artwork was produced as part of the Trust celebrations to mark Good Relations week when service users and staff were invited to put into words their thoughts and hopes for the future. The words and sentences were then creatively transformed into a beautiful River of Hope by Artscare artists Grainne Kielty and Anne Quail.

Unveiling the artwork the Trust Chief Executive Dr Cathy Jack (pictured left) reiterated Belfast Trust’s commitment to promoting good relations:



“We as a Trust are committed to the promotion of good relations between people of different religions, racial groups and political opinions and whilst we cannot address all the ills in society, Belfast Trust, as the largest employer and provider of integrated health and social care in Northern Ireland, believe it important and incumbent upon us to play a significant role in building an inclusive and shared society based on mutual respect.

Dr Jack highlighted that the Trust took its responsibilities seriously in ensuring that our services, facilities and employment were accessible and welcoming shared spaces for a diverse population and the artwork was “one element of our second generation Good Relations strategy – Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future 2”.

Dr Jack also referred to the relevance of the art being displayed in the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre: “It seems fitting that we permanently display this beautiful artwork here to underpin the recurring themes of hope and a journey in achieving and maintaining good relations and good mental health. Our River of Hope flows naturally out to the serene water features and courtyard.”



The artwork and the ongoing determination by the BHSCT to promote good relations was acknowledged by the Chief Executive of the Community Relations Council, Jacqueline Irwin. The Chief Executive applauded the Trust for being the first Trust in Northern Ireland to develop a Good Relations Strategy and acknowledged the partnership working between the Trust and the Community Relations Council over the last nine years. Ms Irwin

emphasised the importance of promoting Good Relations in Health and Social Care to enable an inclusive environment where service users and staff feel safe and comfortable in shared facilities.

Those attending the unveiling of River of Hope at the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre which included service users and staff were treated to light refreshments and the beautiful background guitar playing by ArtsCare resident Musician Brendan Poppelston. The artwork, which marks the culmination of ongoing engagement and co-production with services users and staff also accords with the Trusts Arts in Health Strategy which recognises the importance of art in terms of improving health and wellbeing.



Pictured above left to right – Aidan Dawson, Director of Women and Children’s Hospitals; Dr Cathy Jack BHSCT Chief Executive; Anne Quail and Grainne Kieley, River of Hope Artists; Jacqueline Irwin, Chief Executive Community Relations Council; Veronica McEneaney Equality and Planning Manager BHSCT; Paula McHugh, Arts Manager BHSCT; Orla Barron, Equality and Planning Senior Manager; Charlene Stoops, Director of Planning, Performance, Informatics BHSCT and Peter McNaney, Chairperson BHSCT

Snap Shot of BHSCT Good Relations

BME Self Directed Support project

This project aims to increase the uptake of self-directed support within the Chinese community in the first instance. The plan is to extend the project to other BME communities in the future. This project was recently nominated for a regional social work award.

VPRS - Welcome Centres

The Trust is a partner in the consortium to support the implementation of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. The Trust assesses and addresses any immediate health and social care needs in the welcome centres and links with colleagues in other Trusts to ensure appropriate follow up and referral as required. While in the welcome centre, Trust staff deliver “An introduction to health services” talk and provide families with an information booklet about health and social care in NI.

BME Carers Group

The Trust facilitates a BME Carers group which provides an opportunity for carers from BME communities to come together to access information, support and a break from their caring responsibilities. The group is supported by the Community Development worker for BME communities and the Trust’s Carers Co-ordinator.

Roma Community Health Workers

The Trust employs two Roma Community Health Workers. The workers support a range of activities aimed at supporting people from the Roma Community to access mainstream health services. They also support the delivery of a Roma Health signposting clinic and work in partnership with South Belfast Surestart to deliver early years services, including a Roma baby café.

Traveller Health and Wellbeing

The BHSCT commissions a range of services from Extern, Community Restorative Justice, Barnardos and HEART Healthy Living Centre to help improve the health and wellbeing of the Traveller community. Services involve work with Travellers who are homeless, family support work, early years work and work to integrate Travellers into mainstream health and wellbeing activities.

Research: BME Older People in Belfast

The Trust produced a report “BME communities: the health and wellbeing of older people”. The report detailed some of the health and wellbeing issues experienced by older people from BME communities in Belfast and included a number of recommendations on how these could be addressed. A steering group continues to meet to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

BHSCT facilitates a range of cultures at an ethnic minority carers meal

A group of carers met up in February at Cosmo in Victoria Square. The group were treated to a world buffet menu at Cosmo which caters for a wide range of preferences including Halal, Asian and Vegetarian.



Global Kitchen: Feasting on a budget

South Belfast Round Table on Racism organised this successful initiative which took place in January for 4 weeks. Participants were able to:



- Learn or improve their cooking skills
- Learn how to make your budget stretch!
- Enjoy the relaxed and informal setting
- Enjoy the lunchtime feast that was created and have fun!

The course which was organised by Dr Stephanie Mitchell was free of charge and also offered participants the option of a Food Safety level 2 certification (language permitting) besides, all free of

charge. For current info contact: Stephanie.mitchell@sbrtr.org.uk 07548 938508

Interpreting Services for Black, Minority Ethnic (BME) Community



Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Interpreting Service



Since the outbreak and spread of COVID-19, many of our HSC services and essential information sources have switched to telephone contact and virtual consultations with few services being delivered face to face. However it is important to remember that services still need to be inclusive and accessible and as such interpreting services do remain available. Interpreting Services can be accessed through The Big Word or the NI Health and Social Care Interpreting Service (NIHSCIS) while Written Translations can be accessed via a Register of Contractors.

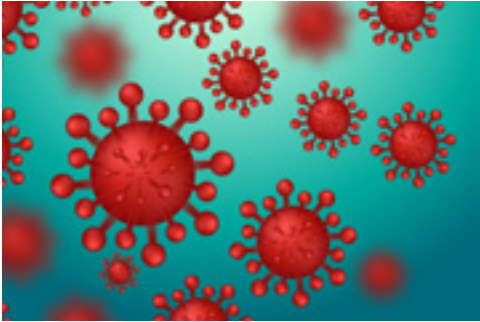
The NI HSC Interpreting Service can currently offer a limited face-to-face service and some video conferencing on request. The Big Word offers a telephone service either for short conversations face to face or via a three-way telephone option in an extensive range of languages.



Contact Details

For guidance about booking The Big Word and the NIHSCIS please click [here](#). For information about written translations contact Lesley Jamieson at lesley.jamieson@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Steps taken to protect Black, Minority Ethnic (BME) Staff



Belfast Trust is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all our staff and the promotion of good relations is an integral part of this.

As the largest health and social care provider in Northern Ireland, (employing one of the largest workforces - where approx. 4% is from a BME community) and in line with our Good Relations Strategy 2 – ‘Healthy Relations for a Healthy Future’, we strive to ensure that all staff irrespective of religion, race or political opinion feel safe welcome and comfortable in work.

In light of regional and national statistics which show BME staff have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, precautionary guidance has been issued to help protect our BME staff. The guidance is very much a living document especially as research into the trends is currently being undertaken in UK.

Key to the guidance is correct infection control practices including observing social distancing and correct PPE. In addition, assessment of risk by managers with advice from Occupation Health teams and the possibility of redeployment is also available particularly when a BME member of staff has an underlying condition. The Trust appreciates that this is a stressful time for all staff as we face uncertain times and unfamiliar working practices however higher levels of anxiety may be experienced by BME staff given the higher rates of Covid-19. Belfast Trust asks BME staff to talk to their manager, seek peer support and use the staff counselling service to help at this challenging time.

A comprehensive range of health and wellbeing support including psychology support is available to all staff and can be accessed by clicking [here](#) for further information

Please click [here](#) for more information about the guidance for BME staff.

If you have any comments or require this bulletin in alternative formats please contact Lesley Jamieson in the Equality and Planning Team on lesley.jamieson@belfasttrust.hscni.net