

Chief Executive's Blog

October 2019

AARON CUMMINS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Hi everyone and welcome to this month's blog. It's been a couple of months since I wrote to everyone, and I wanted to apologise for that.

However in this blog there were a few items I wanted to discuss. I wanted to talk about the national announcement on spending on the NHS, and how that may impact us in Morecambe Bay; to talk about our newly relaunched Flourish campaign; to discuss our approach to bullying and harassment; talk about the memorial we have unveiled at Furness General Hospital; and talk about Brexit.

I've also included the usual updates on what I've been up to in the last month and a couple of other updates, including the next round of Tea & Talk dates for the diary! Read on for more.



NATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON SPENDING

The Prime Minister and Health Secretary made an announcement recently that there would be major investment into the NHS, and in particular into new hospitals. We don't have any more details other than those included in the announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>

We are really pleased that our Trust is on the list to receive much needed investment - it's a real shot in the arm for colleagues across the patch, not just in our hospitals, that our lobbying has been heard and for that I'm grateful to my colleagues on the Bay Health and Care Partners leadership team, those at the Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS, and our local MP's. It's also great news for our patients who have to put up with being treated in facilities, some of which badly need replacing or upgrading.

However the announcement of additional funding doesn't change our underlying position. We are still on course to record a £60 million deficit this year, and despite some superb efforts from teams across Morecambe Bay on our War on Waste campaign and other money-saving measures - we do need to continue that pressure to look at all costs and, where possible, avoid spending money.



We don't know the detail of how much money it will be, nor what it needs to be used for. However, I want to make it clear that we believe our future includes continuing to provide care across our community with two district general hospitals in Barrow and Lancaster - both providing emergency and consultant-led maternity care supported by community services throughout the Bay, and a smaller hospital in Kendal. These were the "stakes in the ground" when we started Better Care Together and they remain so today.

I'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at:
aaron.cummins@mbht.nhs.uk @aaroncumminsNHS

OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

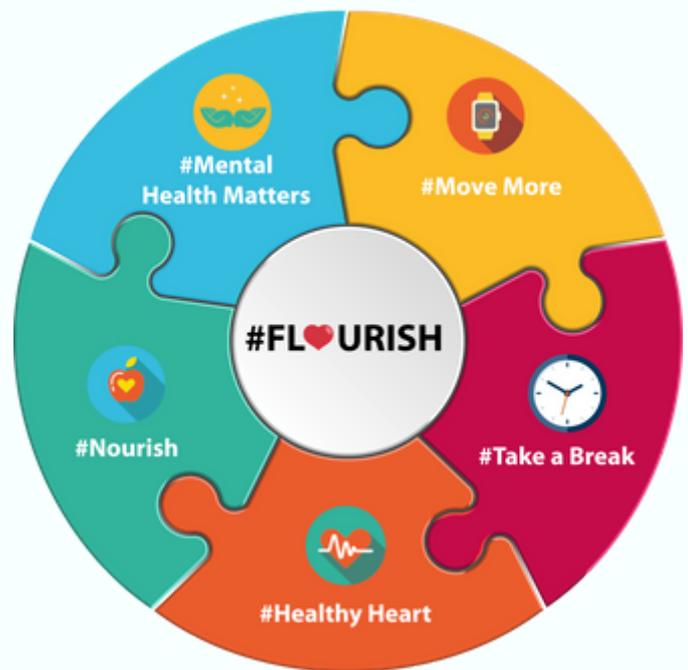
We have embedded our Flourish campaign across the Trust for a number of years now, and at the end of September we relaunched it with a fresh look, feel and energy.

Those who attended the relaunch event in Kendal cannot fail to have been excited by the energy displayed across the different aspects of the campaign.

To be clear – we will continue to focus on supporting colleagues to be active (Move More), make the right choices on food and drink (Nourish), look after their hearts and support their mental as well as physical health.

However, our focus will be helping our teams across the healthcare community make the right choices for them, supporting them in and out of work, and ensuring they get help and advice when they need it.

There's loads of information available on our website, so have a look and don't forget to share what you do with the #flourish hashtag on social media.



BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

You will have heard me say before that I won't and don't tolerate bullying or harassment within any part of our organisation. And while words are easy to say, I want real actions to ensure that this becomes self-evident. I want to develop a culture at Morecambe Bay where we all support each other, we encourage each other to be the best we can be, and where we are not afraid to ask for a little support when we need it.

So in November, as part of our Great Place to Work colleague experience strategy, we will launch a number of tools to help support staff if they experience any behaviours which may be classed as bullying or harassment.



These tools will include a new policy designed to resolve problems early, posters, a toolkit of helpful information including a z card for staff to use, as well as a new web portal which will be the home for all the support required and other useful information.

And we love feedback, so please, when it's launched, tell us what you think! If it doesn't help you, let us know what you would like us to provide so we can look at it in the future.

SOUTH LAKES BIRTH CENTRE MEMORIAL

In early September we received a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to the South Lakes Birth centre at Furness General Hospital.

Later in the month, we unveiled a memorial to commemorate the woman and babies who died at Furness General Hospital's maternity unit between 2004 and 2013.

The statue provides a permanent reminder of those who died through a moon and 11 stars. It also commemorates those who were harmed by the failings identified in Dr Bill Kirkup's report.



The memorial is sited outside the £12 million South Lakes Birth Centre which was built in partnership with the families and local community following publication of the Kirkup Report.

It was a very moving ceremony and the memorial will provide something permanent to ensure we don't forget our past.

BREXIT

You can't switch the news on at the moment without hearing the latest news regarding Brexit. We've been clear - we are planning for the UK to leave the EU on 31 October unless we hear differently, and we will continue to support all those who are affected whether we leave the EU with a deal or without.

Our colleagues from other EU countries are just that - our colleagues, and we want to support them at what must be a very difficult time. Our planning as a Trust fits in line with national policy and we will continue to prepare as best we can for every eventuality.

TEA AND TALK

I'm continuing to go out and about and meeting staff in my Tea and Talk sessions - and you're welcome to come along. If you've any questions or queries, please do make a note. All the future dates are attached in the poster, but the next ones coming up:

Royal Lancaster Infirmary restaurant

Monday 14 October, 8.30am - 10am
Wednesday 20 November, 6pm - 7.30pm
Monday 2 December, 2pm - 3.30pm
Thursday 16 January, 8.30am - 10am
Wednesday 12 February, 2pm - 3.30pm
Tuesday 17 March, 6pm - 7.30pm

Westmorland General Hospital restaurant

Wednesday 30 October, 6pm - 7.30pm
Monday 25 November, 2pm - 3.30pm
Friday 13 December, 8.30am - 10am
Tuesday 7 January, 6pm - 7.30pm
Monday 3 February, 8.30am - 10am
Wednesday 11 March, 2pm - 3.30pm

Furness General Hospital restaurant

Saturday 16 November, 8.30am - 10am
Monday 16 December, 6pm - 7.30pm
Monday 27 January, 2pm - 3.30pm
Tuesday 18 February, 6pm - 7.30pm
Monday 2 March, 8.30am - 10am



Sharing views and ideas

I want your views and ideas

Aaron Cummins
Chief Executive

October 2019 -
March 2020

RLI
Daylight Restaurant
Centenary Building

Mon 14 Oct	8.30am - 10am
Wed 20 Nov	6pm - 7.30pm
Mon 2 Dec	2pm - 3.30pm
Thurs 16 Jan	8.30am - 10am
Wed 12 Feb	2pm - 3.30pm
Tue 17 Mar	6pm - 7.30pm

WGH
Westmorland Site Restaurant
Level 1

Wed 30 Oct	6pm - 7.30pm
Mon 25 Nov	2pm - 3.30pm
Fri 13 Dec	8.30am - 10am
Tue 7 Jan	6pm - 7.30pm
Mon 3 Feb	8.30am - 10am
Wed 11 Mar	2pm - 3.30pm

FGH
Lonsdale Old Restaurant, Level 2

Sat 16 Nov	8.30am - 10am
Mon 16 Dec	6pm - 7.30pm
Mon 27 Jan	2pm - 3.30pm
Tue 18 Feb	6pm - 7.30pm
Mon 2 Mar	8.30am - 10am

I will be visiting different departments and wards across our hospitals to share and discuss my priorities with you all, and ask you for your views and ideas.

If you want a more informal chat with me - no appointment needed - please come along to one of the sessions on the right and have a brew on me. You can also email me with your views and ideas at aaron.cummins@mbht.nhs.uk

Sharing views and ideas

We also recently took Tea and Talk out into the community and met members of the public in Ulverston, hearing about their interests and concerns. I was also joined by local GP Alison Johnstone and Councillor Mark Wilson.

BAY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the BHCP newsletter focusses on our recent Public Assembly events where we started to engage with our local populations on how we can develop ways of working with our communities. Read the newsletter [here](#).

I'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at:
aaron.cummins@mbht.nhs.uk @aaroncumminsNHS

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

In my last blog I told you that Professor David Walker had decided to leave our Trust and that we were appointing a successor. I'm pleased that Shahedal Bari, who many of you will already know, was successful in his application to be our new Medical Director.



I've also already shared that our chairman Ian Johnson has decided to retire. We are still going through the recruitment process and will announce Ian's successor when we have news.

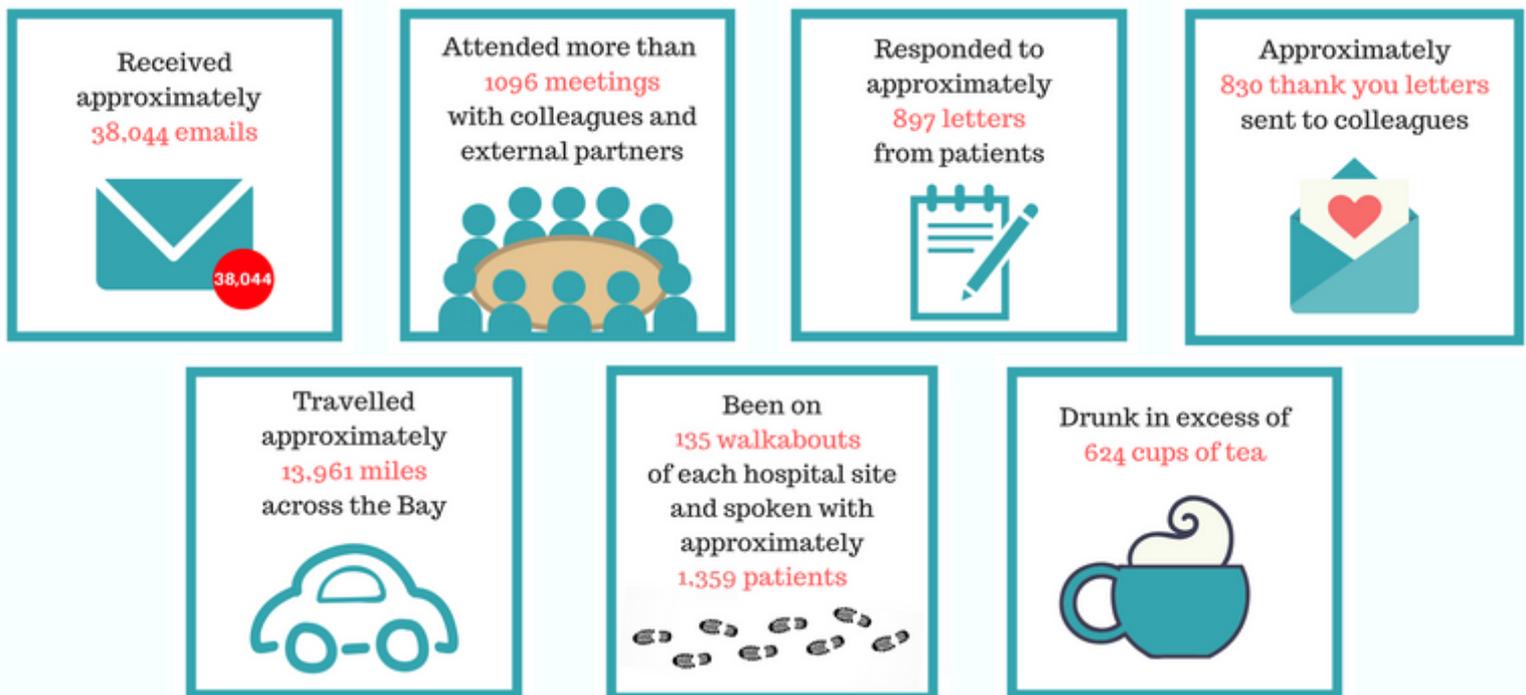
MEDIA ISSUES

It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the media issues about the Trust that colleagues will no doubt have seen, particularly in relation to our urology service.

As colleagues will be aware from other announcements, the Trust has asked NHS England/Improvement to commission an independent review of the issues facing the service - and they have now announced that they are looking into terms of reference and looking to appoint a reviewer. I'll circulate more details as soon as I receive them.

The Trust will continue to support those within the service, and our patients, as we work through the difficult issues.

HERE ARE SOME TOTAL STATS TO-DATE:



Thank you for taking the time to read this month's blog, I hope it was useful. I'm continuing to post regular updates on my Twitter account using #NHSCEODiary, and you can find me @aaroncumminsNHS.

Do take a look if you want to follow what I'm up to. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions, queries, comment, ideas or suggestions! I would love to hear from you.

Aaron Cummins
Chief Executive

I'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at:
aaron.cummins@mbht.nhs.uk @aaroncumminsNHS