

## SEPTEMBER 2018

### Proposed merger with Somerset Partnership

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Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust (which runs Musgrove Park Hospital) and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (which runs community and mental health services) have been working as an alliance to look at how we can work better to provide high quality services to our patients across Somerset. We have decided the best way we can achieve this is by merging which, if approved, will mean we will be one of the first acute, community and mental health trusts in the country.

Like the rest of the country, the NHS in Somerset is facing a number of challenges with more people using our services than ever before and increasing costs. Like other organisations in the country, we've also got a shortage of doctors, nurses and other clinicians. We believe that by merging, we'll be better able to address these challenges, but the single most important reason our trusts have decided to work towards a merger is to make services and outcomes better for the population of Somerset. We will be able to avoid duplication as well as removing the gaps that can sometimes occur when people transfer between services, which are frustrating for patients and their families and carers. The merger will help us to deliver more joined-up care with patients only having to tell their story once when receiving the care they need.

If the merger is approved, it should happen in Autumn 2019 with a new name. You will hear more from us about our plans as they develop. If you want more information, you can contact the membership office at [Members@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:Members@tst.nhs.uk).

### Musgrove MRI scanner campaign

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Musgrove needs a new MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanner. Our two current scanners work to full capacity, seven days a week. A third MRI is needed at a cost of £1million.

The campaign is being generously supported by our League of Friends and the Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy (SURE). We are also grateful to the Somerset County Gazette for its support. We have raised over £929,000 so far. This is due to the incredible generosity of the Somerset community and beyond - individuals, organisations, businesses, trusts and foundations. But we still need the final push to meet the £1million target.

Most of us are likely to need an MRI scan at some stage of our lives.

#### **The benefits of a new MRI scanner are:**

- Reduction in waiting time will decrease from eight to four weeks
- Additional MRI scanning capacity
- Faster scan times
- Analysing sports injuries
- It reduces the risk of iodising radiation making it the preferred imaging method for children and young people.

If you wish to donate please send us a cheque made payable to 'Love Musgrove MRI' to Love Musgrove, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton TA1 5DA, or call the Fundraising Office on 01823 344 437.

### Governor drop-in sessions

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Governor drop-in sessions are an excellent opportunity for governors and the public to meet. These sessions are held in the hospital's Jubilee Concourse (by M&S), from 12 noon - 2pm. The next sessions will be held on Tuesday 18 September and Wednesday 10 October 2018. Further dates will be posted on the governors' page on the website for your information at <https://www.tsft.nhs.uk/about-your-hospital/members-and-governors/meet-the-governors/>.

## Governor elections

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Elections will be held in November to appoint governors on the Council of Governors for Musgrove Park Hospital to represent the Taunton Deane, East Somerset, West Somerset, Rest of England and Staff constituencies.

For further information about what the role of governor involves you can access the Information Booklet for Prospective Governors and details on how to nominate yourself at <https://www.tsft.nhs.uk/about-your-hospital/members-and-governors/council-of-governors-elections/>. Alternatively, contact the Membership Support Officer, Carol Lydiate, who will be happy to talk to you and send you the information. Carol can be contacted on [members@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:members@tst.nhs.uk) or telephone her on 01823 342511. The nomination stage is open from 7 September to 5 October 2018 and voting will take place between 29 October and 21 November. New governors will commence their role on 1 December 2018.



### Musgrove Park Hospital declares its new radiotherapy CT scanner officially open

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A brand new £500,000 state-of-the-art radiotherapy CT scanner has officially opened at Musgrove Park Hospital by the Mayor of Taunton, Catherine Herbert. The scanner is a vital piece of equipment which is essential in the planning of radiotherapy treatment.

The SURE charity (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment) raised the money to buy the radiotherapy scanner through the dedication of its team of fundraisers in the community.

The radiotherapy CT planning scanner is the first major piece of equipment to be upgraded as part of a three year equipment replacement programme.

## Our People Awards 2018

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Patients who feel they have received outstanding care from staff at Musgrove Park Hospital or across Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust are being invited to nominate that someone for a special award. The two trusts will be holding a joint awards ceremony to celebrate the special achievements of staff on 22 November 2018.

Nominating someone can be done quickly and easily by downloading and filling in the short online form which is available on our website at: <https://www.tsft.nhs.uk/about-your-hospital/our-people-awards/>. Alternatively you can request a copy of the nomination form by emailing [ourpeopleawards@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:ourpeopleawards@tst.nhs.uk). The closing date for nominations is Sunday 30 September 2018.

## Communicating with our members

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We aim to send most of our membership communications by email in order to keep postage costs to a minimum in future. We would be grateful if you could provide us with a current email address if our records show we do not hold one for you. If your contact details do change, please can you let the membership support officer know by emailing [members@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:members@tst.nhs.uk) and she will update your record.

### **Joint Annual General Meeting and Annual Members' Meeting** (Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)

**Wednesday 26 September 2018**

The Paddock Stand, Taunton Racecourse, Taunton, TA3 7BL

*Doors open at 13.15—health related exhibition stands are available to view*

*Annual General Meeting—14:00—16:00*

To reserve your place at this years' event please email the Membership Support Officer, Carol Lydiate, on [members@tst.nhs.uk](mailto:members@tst.nhs.uk) or telephone 01823 342511.

**NHS Discounts:** As a member you can access NHS Discounts by registering at this link. <https://tsft.group-login.com/login>