

## World autism awareness week

To mark world autism awareness week, meet Sophie Evans an apprentice at NBT who has autism. Also find how our [emergency department](#) supports autistic patients.



### Key priorities from our business plans

At last week's Board meeting we signed off our 2019/20 business plan that set out how we plan to meet the demand for our services, the changes and improvements we intend to deliver and our progress towards reducing the deficit from -£48m to -£30m on a total budget of £582m. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

### Research strength growing

We are having a very successful year so far in research activity. We've recruited 29% more patients to research studies than this time last year. The number of studies recruiting patients has continued to improve, reflecting our position in the top third of England. We lead and manage 27 grants with a total value £16.5 million, and the pipeline of future grants is exceptionally good and the strongest in the region. We have also seen our research capacity fund double to £698k, this is an indicator of just how much research we are doing at NBT.

### Travel plan

We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment by offering staff and patients a number of travel options when visiting our sites. This has been highlighted in our 2019 - 2023 travel plan that outlines the progress we have made to date and identifies the journey ahead. We want to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle journeys made to our sites, continue to improve travel choices ensuring they are healthier, sustainable and environmentally friendly. To find out more visit our [website](#).

### Hospital at home

Hospitals around the country are finding innovative ways to cope the increasing demand on services. We recently reviewed our hospital at home service that celebrated its first anniversary earlier this year. The service has been well-received by patients who are able to be cared for in the comfort of their own home. The service has been expanded and now cares for around 20 patients per night and in 2018 saved the trust 3,402 bed days. Here is a [short video](#) of a case study.

## Announcements

### New non-executive director

Kelvin Blake has joined the Board as a new non-executive director. Kelvin is an experienced non-executive director and board level leader. Up until very recently he led some of the largest and complex programmes for BT and has experience in the NHS having spent six years on the Board at University Hospitals Bristol. Kelvin is also currently a non-executive director of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce & Initiative.

### New director of people and transformation

This week we welcomed Jacqui Marshall as our new director of people and transformation. Jacqui brings a wealth of experience from different sectors including higher education and civil service.

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