

Our story





We are NHS Nightingale Hospital Bristol.

We are here to save lives, provide hope and improve the resilience of our Severn hospital network.

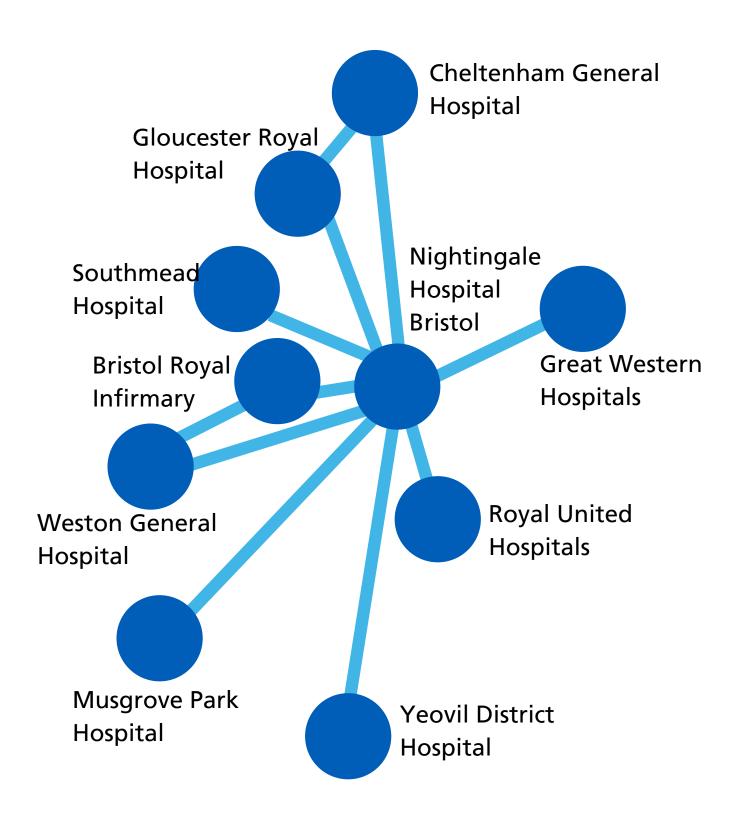
We hope we are never needed.

But we are here when you need us, ready and willing to care with compassion.

We are all in this together.

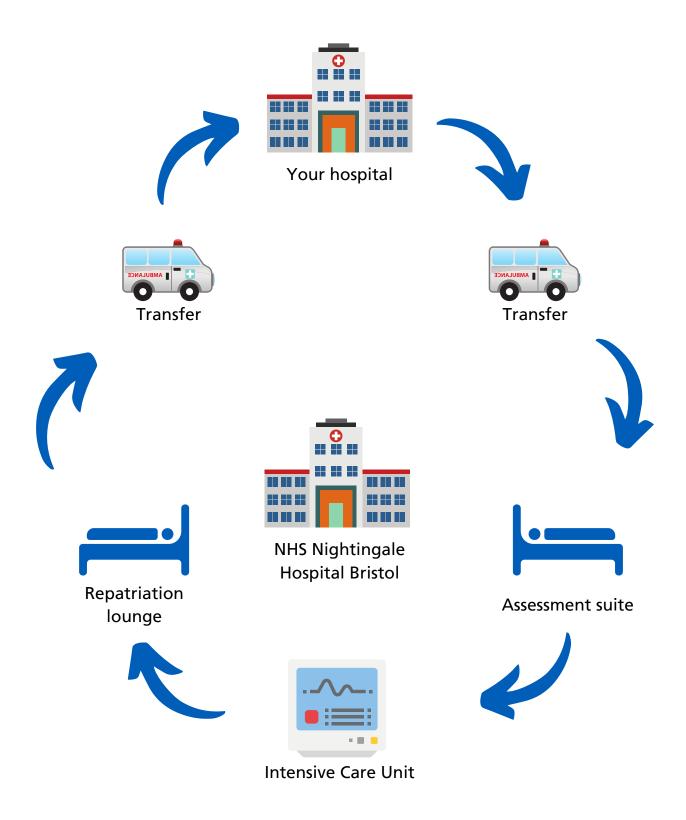
Severn critical care network







The patient journey



Marie-Noelle Orzel, Chief Officer

Marie-Noelle Orzel is a nurse and ambassador for clinical leadership. She has extensive experience as an Executive Board member of large NHS organisations, including a Foundation Trust and a major University Teaching Trust. She has held chief nurse and chief executive officer positions.

Marie-Noelle has experience across all sectors of the NHS where she has worked for the majority of her career. Working in an executive capacity she has an impressive track record of delivery, both operationally and financially while maintaining clinical quality standards.

She currently works as a non-executive director of a mental health trust and independently in healthcare consultancy. Previously Marie-Noelle worked in a national role as an improvement director for NHS Improvement supporting challenged healthcare organisations.

Marie-Noelle was awarded the OBE for services to the NHS and nursing in 2005 and the QVRM for services to the Reserve Forces in 2013 both in the Queen's birthday honours lists.



I am honoured to be leading a fantastic group of people who are fully committed to providing high quality care to those most in need and supporting our NHS family. The NHS, working with the military and other organisations, are doing in days what normally takes years, if not decades. The passion and dedication of everyone involved is truly inspirational. It is wonderful and humbling to see so many different organisations and people come together with one simple aim: saving lives.

Paula Clarke, Deputy Chief Officer

Paula joined the NHS as a general management trainee and over the last 30 years has held senior manager posts in commissioning, provider and primary care organisations, working predominantly in the integrated health and social care system in Northern Ireland. Paula has almost 12 years' experience at Board level, including serving as the interim chief executive of Southern Health and Social Care Trust in 2015/16.

Since 2016, Paula has been executive director of strategy and transformation with University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, leading on the merger with Weston Area Health Trust, a new trust strategy and quality improvement focus.

Paula has extensive experience in integrated care and operational service delivery, strategic planning, continuous improvement, partnership working and service transformation programmes.



It is a privilege to be part of the team tasked with delivering the extra capacity we need to be able to look after patients during a COVID-19 surge. My focus will be on working closely with hospitals and wider partners across the Severn area to plan, deliver and operate the nightingale unit in a co-ordinated and aligned way. Our shared aim is to deliver safe and compassionate care to patients at their most vulnerable, and by working together we can deploy the expertise of our fantastic teams most effectively. In the midst of all the hard work we need to look after ourselves and each other so the health and wellbeing of the whole team here will be a priority for me.

Mr Tim Whittlestone, Medical Director

Tim is the deputy medical director at North Bristol NHS Trust with a portfolio for transformation and partnerships. His experience has been in creating and delivering clinical and organisational networks in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester region and across the South West.

For the past five years Tim has lead the critical care teams at North Bristol NHS Trust while being a practising clinician specialising in cancer surgery and testicular cancer.

Tim is clinical chair for surgery, anesthesia and critical care with renal medicine at North Bristol NHS Trust and until taking on the role as medical director for the Bristol Nightingale Hospital was chair of the COVID-19 clinical reference group at the trust.

Tim is also a networks and partnership clinical specialist (ICU, vascular, urology, screening, trauma and burns).



It's a real privilege to be part of this collaborative project. The key to ensuring that we are resilient as a region is to build a network that can transfer patients and care for them equally well across all of our hospitals.

At Nightingale Bristol we're building something that we all hope we never have to use but we will be ready if and when we are needed.

Hayley Peters, Nursing Director

Hayley became the executive director of patient care in September 2015 at Musgrove Park Hospital, having joined the trust as deputy director of nursing in July 2013. Hayley went onto become the chief nurse for both Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in November 2017 before the two trusts merged in April 2020 to create Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. Hayley also chairs the Somerset Local Workforce Action Board.

Prior to becoming an executive, Hayley worked in senior clinical leadership roles in the south west, London and the south east. Hayley's professional career centred in critical care, first as an intensive care nurse and later, following a period of training at Birmingham Medical School, as one of the first physician's assistants in anaesthesia to practise in the UK.



I am delighted to join the Bristol
Nightingale team during this
unprecedented time. Like you, I
recognise the critical importance
of this healthcare facility
in serving our communities. Our
priority is to achieve the best
possible outcomes for the patients
we serve while ensuring the
physical and psychological safety
of colleagues in the hospital.

Catherine Phillips, Finance Director

Catherine joined North Bristol NHS Trust from the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust, where she was director of finance since September 2007.

She has over 25 years' experience in senior finance roles within acute trusts and specialises in financial control and the interaction between financial and operational performance.

Her lead areas are financial strategy and management, commercial strategy, capital, audit, performance management, contracting and business planning.



I am delighted to be asked to join the team for the Nightingale hospital and looking forward to working with colleagues from across the patch to provide the extra capacity required for the population of the South West.

Neil Darvill, IM&T Director/CIO

Neil has over 30 years NHS experience, 16 years at Board level. He has been responsible for numerous significant digital transformation initiatives which have resulted in wide scale improvement involving groundbreaking technological developments.

Neil is currently responsible for setting and driving forward the digital strategy at North Bristol NHS Trust. Also, he is taking the lead on the design and provision of IT and information solutions to support the successful operation of the Bristol Nightingale Hospital.



I am proud to be part of the team leading and supporting the NHS Nightingale Hospital Bristol.
Together we are building something unique in the Severn region. It is great to see everyone working together with such dedication and kindness.

Brian Johnson, Director of Estates and Facilities

Brian is a chartered engineer who held senior engineering leadership roles within consultancy businesses delivering projects nationally and internationally for over 15 years, including secondments to interim positions for the delivery of capital and operational projects within NHS trusts.

In 2016 he joined Capita Health Partners as regional operations director for the South West, before joining the Royal United Hospitals Bath in 2018 and in 2019 taking on the role of director of estates and facilities.



I'm excited to be joining the Nightingale team and helping support our NHS and colleagues in the delivery of this essential new regional facility. It's a testament to what can be achieved and delivered in the face of adversity and I hope my contribution will underpin its success in saving lives and further supporting our regional health services.

Jane Harris, Director of Communications

Jane joined Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group in April 2019 as head of communications and engagement. In December 2019 she took on responsibility for the Somerset health and care strategy communications and engagement programme (Fit for My Future).

Prior to relocating to Somerset, Jane was head of communications at Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Jane's professional career started in NHS complaints and litigation before moving into communications. Jane holds post graduate qualifications in corporate communications and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (and an accredited practitioner).

Jane also holds a PhD in english literature from the University of Sheffield on gender and nationalism in American women's writing of the nineteenth-century.



I am honoured to join the Bristol
Nightingale team and help
support critical care capacity across
the Severn region. We are all in
this together and it is fantastic to
see the passion and commitment
of such a wide range of people
combining to create this new
facility and enhance our ability to
care for those most in need.

Steve Aumayer, HR Director

Steve is a highly respected human resources and organisational development leader. He has worked across multiple industries and has held roles including global HR director for two fidelity investment companies, vice president of HR at Orange and executive director of OD and workforce for both the national healthcare provider in Qatar and for University Hospitals Bristol.

He has also been a director in the Deloitte human capital team and a managing consultant for HayGroup.

Steve is passionate about working with organisations to release the true potential of people and runs his own People Consulting business.



I feel privileged to be a part of the team opening this critical facility. The engagement of all of our colleagues across the NHS and the many other organisations offering their help and support has been overwhelming and demonstrates the way the whole community is coming together to deal with this crisis.

Adrian Coombs, Programme Director

Adrian spent 30 years in the Police force in the south west, the last ten of which were spent planning and commanding a number of major operations. Adrian is highly experienced in contingency and emergency planning.

Adrian was a overall tactical commander for the London 2012 Olympic Games sailing venue at Weymouth and Portland in Dorset.

Following his retirement from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, he established Major Events Boss Limited and for the last eight years has run security and operations for a range of high profile major events including the Ryder Cup.

Adrian is also an associate lecturer at a number of UK universities and colleges.



I am honoured and humbled to join the team working on the Nightingale Hospital Bristol. The current crisis has impacted the events industry but our transferrable skills mean we can support amazing projects like this. I proud to be an NHS volunteer, working with this fantastic group of people.



The Severn network region:

- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- Yeovil District Hospitals NHS Foundation
 Trust



We are deeply grateful to our host, University of the West of England

We thank all our partners without whom none of this would be possible:

- Ministry of Defence Abbey Wood
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Major Events Boss Limited
- Kier
- Southmead Hospital Charity
- Our amazing volunteers
- and many many more organisations and businesses who are supporting us

Thank you! You are all NHSHeroes