

Welcome to Imaging Insight, the newsletter that aims to keep staff and stakeholders informed on the work of the Lancashire & South Cumbria (LSC) Diagnostic Imaging Network (DIN), and other related updates.

Network Development & Maturity

Confirmation received that £1.9m capital to be allocated to LSC DIN in 23/24 for procurement of equipment

Outline resource plan submitted to NW Regional Diagnostics team in support of funding extension request for the DIN team for 23/24 and 24/25

Next Network maturity assessment completed for submission to NW Region 25th July

Data Workstream

LSC Diagnostic Imaging capacity and demand model tested and refined, now rolled out across all trusts and being used to inform planning/decision making

LSC DIN cross trust dashboard further developed and rolled out

Work underway to develop and agree standard LSC diagnostic imaging dataset

Workforce Workstream

Finance expertise secured to support development of business case for additional radiographers and radiologists in line with approved LSC 5-year recruitment plans

System level radiographer recruitment approach being explored

Survey circulated to new graduate radiographers to gather insights on career choices



Procurement Workstream

LSC radiology equipment/asset register developed

Data gathering in progress to support other key priorities; review of insourcing/outsourcing arrangements, maintenance/ service contracts and consumables procurement

Digital Workstream

DIN Digital Project Manager commenced in post June 22

Radiology reports for UHMB are now available on the Shared Care Record (clinicians in all other organisations are able to access these via the Shared Care Record Link) Testing in progress prior to go live within other trusts

Discussions underway on RIS/PACS convergence across trusts, project documentation in draft

Clinical Reference Forum

Northwest Radiopharmacy services task and finish group established, co-chaired by LSC DIN Clinical Lead, to find solutions to service provision challenges

LSC MRI Out of Hours pathway refresh to take place in line with refreshed Royal College of Radiologists Guidelines (awaiting publication)

Supporting local trust implementation of critical alerts solutions, where required, in advance of consideration of LSC network solution for the future



Meet the Diagnostic Imaging Network Team

Name: Moira Rawcliffe

Title: LSC Diagnostic Imaging Network Workforce Lead

Following a career of over 35 years as a Diagnostic Radiographer, largely as the Nuclear Medicine Lead and formerly as the Radiology Service Manager at ELHT, I retired.

Now 2 years later my role is focused solely on the Clinical and Non-clinical staffing within the L&SC Diagnostic Imaging Network focusing on challenging issues such as training, recruitment, career development and retention.

Initially I was apprehensive at the thought of this, new to me world of 'Teams meetings' and getting reacquainted with everyone across the 4 provider trusts. Yet, it has quickly become apparent that the skills and scope of work being carried out in the departments are impressive, innovative and a million miles away from the more traditional roles of not too long ago.

I look forward to working collaboratively with staff from each of the trusts, sharing good practice and developing a L&SC Diagnostic Imaging Service that is the envy of others.

Fun Fact: I am a Bell Ringer and delight in waking folks up from their Sunday morning lie in whilst ringing at Waddington church.



Name: Janet Fletcher

Title: Workforce and CRF Project Manager for the LSC Diagnostic Imaging Network

Janet qualified as a radiographer in 1991, and started working life in Oxford before working in Lausanne, Switzerland; Townsville, Australia and Bristol, UK. She moved to Belfast in 1999 and progressed to Specialist Radiographer in barium enemas during her time at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In 2010 she became the National Officer for the Society and College of Radiographers in Northern Ireland, a role that encompassed both professional and trade union representation for its members.

On returning to England in 2015, she took up post as Specialist Radiographer in Intervention at the Royal Preston Hospital.

Janet joined the Diagnostic Imaging Network in September 2021. In both workstreams there have been a number of key priorities identified. One of the biggest challenges is ensuring the right workforce are in the right place to support our population. This can be achieved by working collaboratively across the system.

Fun Fact: Janet is a Brownie Guide Leader. She is currently spending her spare time fundraising in order to take a group of guides to Switzerland in summer 2023.



Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net



[Diagnostic Imaging Network](#)





Sharing Successes; Directions to Better Pathways

When was the last time you stopped and acknowledged a good sign? Probably never, and that's because good signage is often something we take for granted or overlook completely. Bad signage on the other hand, causes confusion and even complaints from those it's designed to help. At a time when diagnostic efficiency is a high priority, ensuring a smooth patient flow is critical.

This was evident at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital where signs throughout the trust referred to the Radiology Department as 'X-ray', and occasionally directed patients to the incorrect waiting room. Upon noticing a pattern in patient feedback, Carol Wood, Operations Manager for Radiology at East Lancashire Hospitals Trust, initiated a project to tackle the root cause and overhaul the department signs.

As part of the Life Cycle programme, Carol secured funding to improve the signage within the trust and erect new signs within the department. No longer referred to as 'X-ray', the new 'Radiology' signs now lead to a large 'Welcome to Radiology Level 1' ensuring patients know they're in the right department. Additionally, from the main entrance, new signs clearly direct patients to the appropriate reception for their diagnostic thereby reducing confusion. Finally, to complete the patient pathway, Leighan Beesley, Radiology I.T. Systems and Performance Manager, also developed the internal systems to ensure patients receive the correct directives in all communications from start to finish.

Since making the improvements, staff within the department have noticed an increase in patient satisfaction and clinical throughput, patients are no longer waiting at the incorrect reception desks and subsequent bottle necks have stopped. Carol also highlighted "a magnificent impact on staff morale" as a direct result of the new signage, "the staff feel the new signage supports greater recognition of the profession and raises the profile of our service. Moreover, by using the same burgundy for the department signs as the clinician's epaulettes, our team now feel much more at home".

Through implementing this project, Carol and Leighan have highlighted that improvements for staff and patients don't always require large budgets, and that smaller changes can have large effects, especially in things we may normally overlook.



Surveying for the Future

As the LSC DIN grows, more opportunities are being identified to share learning and best practice across the network to improve patient outcomes, pathways, and employee satisfaction.

On behalf of the LSC DIN, Lindsay Emmett, Senior HR Business Partner for East Lancashire Hospitals has produced a survey for Radiographers who have graduated in the last 3 years which aims to better understand why radiographers have chosen their career path and how LSC can become an employer of choice for radiography graduates.

The survey can be accessed via the link below.

[Graduate Radiographer Survey](#)

A Look on the Social Side

There's so much happening within the LSC Diagnostic Imaging Network, it's difficult to contain it all in a monthly newsletter. Whether it's good news stories, project milestones or upcoming events, we want to make sure everyone knows what's going on across the network.

We are exploring the options for using social media to share information more widely. We welcome your feedback on which social media routes you think would be most successful. Watch this space for more updates as this develops.



Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net



[Diagnostic Imaging Network](#)





LSC Network visit to Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals

Since April this year, the central LSC Diagnostic Imaging Network team have been visiting local NHS trust providers to engage in two-way conversations with Radiology staff about the Network's vision and priorities in 2022/23.

Jack Smith, Director of the LSC Diagnostic Imaging Network said: 'Sharing information and listening to staff views is an essential process for planning and delivering quality improvements for patients and staff. Only 3 months into our new operational form as a collaborative Network involving 4 NHS trust organisations, we are already starting to see the benefits of sharing and adopting good practice across organisations. We are taking on board the positive change ideas presented by the frontline to inform joint decisions as a Network of services. This has helped to secure initial financial investments in 2022/23 for additional imaging activity, staff training and recruitment, and additional imaging equipment where it is needed most. A clear and confident step towards achieving better access for patients to the right test, at the right time and in the right place'.

In June, Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital welcomed the LSC DIN team alongside Deborah Mitchell, Regional Director for Diagnostics, to their Radiology department. Following the visit, Deborah praised the exceptional work being carried out in the trust and championed the use of shared best practice across LSC to improve patient pathways. Overcoming challenges in Diagnostic Imaging as a network is the key to the success of all our trusts and is instrumental in moving forwards together.

Visits to Furness and Westmorland General Hospitals took place on 18 July. Highlights from these visits will be shared in a future edition.



Caption This!

Why not enter our caption contest this month, simply take a look at the picture and email in your best caption!

We'll announce the winner in next month's newsletter and can't wait to read those entries so get thinking!

Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net



Getting in Touch

We welcome your involvement, comments, and ideas. If you have any feedback, would like to share ideas, an issue or priority which you feel should be taken into consideration for any of the workstreams, please don't hesitate to get in touch via:

Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net



Lsc.diagnosticimagingnetwork@nhs.net



SCAN ME



[Diagnostic Imaging Network](#)

