

Afternoon all!

A further update for you about the overall progress of the Rainbow NHS badge project across the NHS, six months after the project's official launch in February.



If you're receiving this email, it means we have you listed as the named contact person for your trust/organisation (and therefore the person we forward any further queries about the project from staff working with you to)

(if you would like to change the contact person we have on record, just let me know – we prefer to have only one contact person per Trust/organisation though)

We learnt at the end of last week that **over a quarter of a million** of the badges have now been made which, for a project that started with 300 self-funded badges and an idea of what we wanted to achieve, is amazing!

We were slightly surprised to see Boris Johnson wearing a badge earlier this month, but took the opportunity to write to the Prime Minister to welcome him for his show of support, to outline the reasons why projects like this are so important, and to emphasise that those who choose to wear the badge are committing to understanding the issues faced by LGBT+ people and positively pledging to be part of the solution.

Since we last updated you, the number of Trusts in England who've launched the project have almost doubled, and over half of all Trusts in England have now either launched or are planning to do so. At the same time, we're seeing more and more interest from GPs, CCGs and NHS-wide organisations, and we're starting to think about how we build further on the hugely positive response we've had so far.

GP Practices

Throughout July and August we've seen an increased flurry of interest from GP practices and we're aware of several which have now launched the project. What's been absolutely brilliant is seeing practices who ***have*** launched the project reaching out to support others who are interested, and sharing how they adapted our resources to make it work for them.

We've also had a great conversation with the [Pride in Practice](#) team about potentially more closely integrating the two projects ... watch the Twitter feed for hopefully more info on that soon!

Trusts/Hospitals in England: the numbers!

We've now sent an Implementation Toolkit to 194 of the NHS Trusts in England, which is 85% of all English Trusts.

81 Trusts have now launched the Rainbow Badge project across their hospitals/organisations, and from what we can see, demand and enthusiasm has been uniformly high wherever the project has been launched (we know many Trusts have run out of badges almost as soon as they launched!)

We're aware of another **52** Trusts who are actively planning their launch, which means we're now at **almost 60%** of all NHS Trusts in England who have launched or are about to do so.

The Trusts which I am aware of who have already launched are:

Evelina London Children's Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, Barnsley Hospital NHS Trust, Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Women and Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust, Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Isle of Wight NHS Trust, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust (phased launch), Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Foundation Trust, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust, North Bristol NHS Trust, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Foundation Trust, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust, Somerset Partnership NHS Trust, Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, St George's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (paediatric pilot only), Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Whittington Health NHS Trust, Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

If your Trust has launched and you're not in that list, please let me know! Also, if you are actively planning a launch, can you let me know and I'll update our records.

To all those of you who have launched, we are hugely grateful that the principle that there is a responsibility in wearing a badge has been so clearly emphasised, and that this needs to be supported by providing education and resources to staff who sign up. Without that, the badge is just a pretty trinket.

We will always aim to use the [@RainbowNHSBadge](#) Twitter account to boost any social media your Trusts do around the badge project, so please do tag us in if you're tweeting about the project.

In addition to NHS Trusts and GP practices, we've also sent scores of Toolkits to CCGs and several other pan-NHS organisations, and several of these have also already launched badges for their workforces.

Scotland

Due to the different NHS identity and logo in Scotland, the Scottish Government have advised us that they do not support the use of our design in Scotland.

A proposal from a group within Scotland to look at adapting the project for use in Scotland has been submitted to the Scottish Government.

We cannot send Implementation Toolkits to NHS hospitals/organisations in Scotland.

Wales

We have written to the Welsh Health Minister, and he is in general support of the principles behind the project. He has currently put this out to consultation at Public Health Wales level, and we are waiting to hear the decision as to whether the Welsh Government will support the project being adopted in Wales.

We cannot currently send Implementation Toolkits to NHS hospitals/organisations in Wales.

Northern Ireland

Trusts in Northern Ireland are looking to create a similar project using the HSC logo instead of the NHS one.

We cannot send Implementation Toolkits to hospitals/organisations in Northern Ireland.

Ireland

A version of the project has been launched in Dublin in June 2019, with a redesigned badge

Feedback?

If you've not already let us know, we'd love to hear how things are going. As we think ahead to looking at tracking how well the project is working, we think it will be stories that will drive this, so it'd be great to hear what reaction you've had to them so far.

You can keep track of the project's overall progress on Twitter [@RainbowNHSBadge](https://twitter.com/RainbowNHSBadge), and any queries/comments can always be sent to this email address RainbowBadge@gstt.nhs.uk

One of the definite themes that comes through from people wearing the badge is how they help to start conversations that people feel would not otherwise have happened – and talking about things that might be important or worrying is a crucial first step in trying to make things better.

Next Steps

We are starting to think about how we build on what we've already achieved, and we're already working on this behind the scenes – again, watch this space.

The badges only have meaning if we work to ensure that those who choose to wear them understand the issues and how they can be supported to be part of the solution – but projects like this will only ever be a small part of the solution.

Several Trusts have already used the project to support or develop additional work around LGBT+ issues, and equality/diversity/inclusion in general, and seeing how the project is adapted in different places is one of my favourite things about it.

The real strength of the project is how we then build on what has already been achieved, and to continue to translate that into practical steps which result in improvements ... the challenge now is how to harness the clear enthusiasm people have for the project to build together with other initiatives to continue to try to tackle the very real problems and issues that we know are out there, and were the trigger for this project in the first place.

Any queries/comments, let us know, and thank you all so much again for your enthusiasm and support for, and commitment to, the project.

Cheers

Mike Farquhar, on behalf of the Evelina London/GSTT Rainbow NHS Badge team

PS: For those who have asked, yes, the inflatable balloon/blimp rainbow badge that we marched with at London Pride is potentially for short-term event hire; there is a standing cost to the company involved (to cover transport, cost of helium (not cheap!), and their staff time) which works out at around £1000+VAT.

We would also ask for a small donation to the GSTT Charity (who paid for the actual balloon) if anyone wished to use it. We're just working out all the details around that with the company but if anyone is potentially interested, let me know.