

NEWS IN BRIEF**Trust is the first to use community feedback**

THE Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust has become the first in the UK to use real-time feedback to improve patient experience.

It is an opportunity for members of the public to give their opinion on the services currently offered so that they can be improved in the future.

The trust, which provides both health and adult social care services, has made service improvements after asking patients and service users their views on the care they received in both of the areas.

In total, it received 18,602 responses, which were used to calculate a score in the 'Friends and Family Test', which was above the national guidance, suggesting people across Staffordshire would recommend its services to their loved ones.

Director of nursing and quality Siobhan Heafield said: "During the last 12 months the number of patients who have participated in feedback has doubled enabling the trust to expand its knowledge of patient experiences in a wide range of community services and make improvements where necessary."

Region's police dog squads avoid cuts

THE number of police dogs used by Derbyshire's force has reduced by four since 2009.

The information was revealed following a Freedom of Information request which revealed more severe cuts to dog squads elsewhere in the UK.

The number used in Staffordshire has actually increased, the figures showed.

MAJOR £160,000 IMPROVEMENTS FOR ROAD COMPLETE

FINISHED LOOK...
Walton Road, Drakelow, has now fully reopened following £160,000 worth of improvements
(Photo: Simon Deacon)

MORE than £160,000 of improvements has been ploughed into a road which will see 2,000 homes built nearby over the next 15 years.

Walton Road, Drakelow has come to the end of long road closures which allowed major work on Drakelow Bridge, just south of

the approved major Drakelow Park development.

Workers have replaced the original bridge decking in Walton Road with a concrete/steel filler beam deck which has cost £140,000.

The filler beam deck consists of a concrete slab with stiff reinforcement made of rolled beams

and reinforcement of steel bars – usually used for railway bridges. The council also took the opportunity to complete some resurfacing work further down the same road which cost another £22,000.

While the cash injection is not connected, it comes as work starts on Drakelow Park which will

see £4.2 million investment into highways as part of a compensation agreement.

It will also mean the construction and completion of Walton Bypass, a new primary school, healthcare facilities, neighbourhood centres and a £3.8 million contribution towards schools.

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**£1k raised – all from old stamps**

by **Stephen Sinfield**
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A USED stamp collection started by recovering Burton leukaemia patient Katherine Sinfield is close to reaching the £1,000 milestone.

The 33-year-old Balfour Street resident started the campaign in the midst of her treatment last September for the charity LeukaemiaCARE.

Now, nine months and more than 30kg of stamps later, the charity has revealed it has received in excess of £900 as a result.

Katherine said: "When I started the appeal a lot of people questioned how much money I could raise from tiny scraps of paper. The figures now speak for themselves, as Burton Mail readers have embraced the campaign and have donated tens of thousands of stamps."

"I've also had substantial donations from businesses and other charities who no longer collect stamps, which has greatly bolstered the appeal."



Take Five Minutes
a Burton Mail campaign

"Some exceptionally kind readers have also donated commemorative first-day covers and entire collections – these hold significant value compared to standard franked stamps. "Reaching the £1,000 target well within 12 months is remarkable, but I still want more stamps."

"Let's see if together we can strive closer to the £2,000 mark before the campaign's one-year anniversary rolls around. The appeal has far exceeded everyone's expectations and continues to grow, but it is important to keep the momentum going."

More stories about Katherine online at:
burtonmail.co.uk

Stamp success — Mail readers rally for the cause

THE majority of stamps donated as part of the campaign have been sent to the Worcester-based charity LeukaemiaCARE, which offers advice and support to patients and families affected by blood cancer, with smaller quantity donations also sent to the charity Leukaemia and

Lymphoma Research. Donated stamps should only have a 4mm to 8mm border of paper around the edges, as excess paper lowers the value. UK stamps should be separated from foreign stamps wherever possible. The amount charities receive per kilogramme of stamps

varies, but typically they can expect a return of between £4 to £5 for UK stamps and significantly more for foreign stamps and first-day covers. Readers or businesses wanting to help should drop their used stamps off at the Burton Mail's High Street offices.