

We now have a **Vaccine Buddy system**. Colleagues across the Trust have volunteered to offer support and a listening ear to those colleagues who may have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine.

These buddies will offer short support sessions giving a safe space to share and discuss any worries or concerns. They will also describe their own experience of how they decided to have the vaccine.

The support sessions will be non-judgemental and all information shared during the support sessions will be confidential.

Read on to see who the current Vaccine Buddies are. If you would like a 15-minute chat with any of them, by phone or via Microsoft Teams, please give them a call or send an email.

The British Islamic Medical Association has issued a [myth-busting guide called 'COVID-19: Answering the Myths'](#) which you can view on their website. There are also lots of [questions and answers](#) on the staff Coronavirus resource pages online.

Nikki Roome

Hello, my name is Nikki Roome. I work as a Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children. I have had roles as a CPN and also in CAMHS prior to this.

I have had conversations with colleagues and friends who are unsure about having the vaccine. I understand it is natural to be hesitant about trying something that is so new. I feel it is important to offer people time and the space to talk about their concerns and maybe worries about having the vaccine. That is why I would like to support this initiative. I am able to be flexible with my time and can offer to chat with people on weekdays, in the evenings or at weekends if that helps. I am also based at Kingsway on a Monday if people want to catch me then. Please email nicola.roome@nhs.net.



Jane Elliott

I am a Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and have recently become a vaccinator for the COVID-19 vaccine. I believe the vaccine is a way back to some normality but I am aware people have lots of questions about the vaccine. I myself had many questions so I would like to help people make an informed decision about whether to have the vaccine or not by listening and discussing their concerns with them. I work 9am – 5pm but I am happy to be contacted either by phone/text or email to arrange a suitable time to chat. Please email jane.elliott2@nhs.net or call 07795 391226.



Sharon Rumin

A Buddy for me is:

Someone you can share your concerns with; someone who is experienced in a specific role and able to guide or signpost you in the right direction; someone who knows how things work across the organisation and is prepared to share that experience with you; someone you can trust who is friendly caring and polite; someone who understands the fears and concerns



you have, who will not judge you but support you. Please email sharon.rumin@nhs.net or call 07534 713734.

Matt Tacey

My name is Matt and I am the Interim Service Manager of Killamarsh CMHT but will be stepping into the Clinical Lead Role for the North of the county. I am very proud to have received my COVID-19 vaccine and want us to resume normality. I was keen to become a COVID Vaccine Buddy to firstly, listen. I appreciate you may have anxieties, fears and worries, but I want to be able to hear you and provide good and reliable knowledge and information. There is a lot of misinformation in the media which is very overwhelming and convincing – you will not be alone in believing some of this. Please, do contact me to have a discussion, if I do not answer, send me an e-mail letting me know convenient times to contact you back. Please email matthew.tacey1@nhs.net or call 03001 233372, extension 30305.



Sue Turner

I decided to become a vaccination buddy so I can reassure colleagues about how easy it is to be inoculated. I also want to encourage them to feel proud to be vaccinated knowing they are protecting others. Please email sue.turner17@nhs.net.



Chetna Mistry

Hi, my name is Chetna Mistry. I work in CAMHS. I am a Lead Nurse and soon to be qualified Systemic Family Practitioner. Colleagues' reservations about the vaccine came to my attention at a BAME network meeting, which inspired me to put myself forward to be a buddy. I myself am from an Indian background and have had the vaccine. Initially I had reservations about how safe it was, but after weighing up the pros and cons, the risk to myself and loved ones, and recognising I was in a privileged position to be offered this vaccine I decided to take it. In this role I hope to offer colleagues a safe space to discuss their concerns about taking the vaccine and invite them to consider an alternative perspective in their decision making to have the vaccine. I work Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. Please email chetna.mistry@nhs.net or call 07771 730387.



Deepak Sirur

My name is Dr Deepak Sirur. I am a consultant addiction psychiatrist working in Chesterfield, Named Doctor Adult Safeguarding and a member of the Trust's workforce race equality steering group. I have had my first dose of the vaccine. I am keen that people are given accurate and understandable information to be suitably informed to make a risk-balance judgement. I am aware that access to knowledge and trust with institutions as well as a lot of circulating false information is impacting on people's ability to make an informed choice and I am happy to talk to colleagues on how I came to my decision. I will not be applying any pressure on



individuals to accept the vaccine. I am a strong advocate of capacitous choice and that employment pressure or fear should not be influencing people's choices for physical health interventions. Please email dsirur@nhs.net.

Serita Bonsignore

I'm Serita, Interim Assistant Director EDI. I joined the Trust on the 23 February 2021 and wanted to support the COVID-19 buddy programme because having elderly parents and in-laws, I've experienced how COVID-19 has meant many older people haven't seen their grandchildren. I think the vaccine gives us all of a lot of hope that we will be able to interact with our families and friends in a safe way, which I am personally really looking forward to. I appreciate that the pandemic and the vaccine have brought up many questions and concerns for so many of us, so I'd be happy to support anyone that wanted to spend some time to reflect on how they feel about it. Please email serita.bonsignore@nhs.net.



Diane Blurton

I am a Registered Nurse with the Amber Valley Community Older Adults team. I have worked in the team for 18 years and have been a peer flu vaccinator for both teams that are based at Ripley Library. As a peer vaccinator I do have some colleagues who are not keen on having vaccinations and, although I do encourage people to have their vaccinations, there are some people who are anxious about having the vaccines or injections. I do think that it is important for the people (whether it be a colleague or patient) who are anxious about this to have someone that they can talk to about their anxieties. The role of vaccine buddy is also to point them in the direction for further information should they feel that they need this and then they can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the vaccination/injection if they wish. Please email diane.blurton@nhs.net



Christopher Santoro

Hi, my name is Christopher Santoro and I currently work as a Senior Research Assistant in the Criminal Justice Team and at the Kedleston Unit. Prior to this I've worked clinically with individuals with diagnoses of personality disorder and in neuropsychology. Primarily, I'm here to listen and to make space for the understandable and valid anxieties around having the vaccine, allowing for an open conversation about these. Above and beyond my training, I can understand these anxieties acutely, as I struggled with the decision to have the vaccine given that I have an underlying health condition. Space to "get out of my own head" and really be open about the way I was feeling enabled me to make an informed choice about whether having the vaccine felt like the right thing for me, that's what I'd like to give other's the opportunity to do. I'm happy to be flexible with regard to when I can be contacted, feel free to email me on christopher.santoro@nhs.net and we can arrange a time that works!

