Operating Theatres

Your career starts here

Building healthier lives
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust is one of the biggest acute Trusts in the country, operating across three large hospital sites; Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull.

We have a workforce of 10,565 and in 2016/17 dealt with 88,713 day case and elective spells, 76,674 emergency spells and supported 10,242 births.

As an organisation, we see and treat more than 1.2 million people every year, along with seeing over 250,000 patients in our Emergency Departments. The Trust is also host to several regional specialities, including Thoracic, Vascular and Oncology.

Across the sites there are a total of 28 Theatres, including a newly-refurbished Interventional Radiology Suite.

In 2016, a £4 million state-of-the-art Hybrid Operating Theatre opened at Heartlands, confirming the Trust’s position as the Regional Centre for Vascular Surgery.

The Theatre, which centres around the GE Discovery 740 robotic machine which utilises 3D technology, can be used for a range of specialist procedures including keyhole endovascular aneurysm repair. It is the first of its kind in the Midlands and one of only three in the UK.

This year, design and enabling works have begun on a multi-million Ambulatory Care and Diagnostics (ACAD) Centre at Heartlands.
The £multi-million project will see the Hospital open a purpose-built Centre which will provide world-class facilities and equipment which will also include the Imaging Services.

Alongside the continuing development of the facilities and equipment, the expertise amongst the Theatre Teams provide a clear career structure along with an abundance of opportunities to learn and develop with the best.

We are committed to developing staff potential at all levels, making the department an attractive proposition for any aspiring individuals keen to build a career in Theatres.
Heartlands Hospital is based in the North East region of Birmingham and serves a diverse, multicultural population. Heartlands is the largest hospital at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. There is a large Postgraduate Centre at this site which houses the Trust’s Faculty of Education as well as extensive Library Services.

The Hospital offers a highly extensive array of facilities and procedures for patients and visitors. Heartlands Hospital has a large and busy Emergency Department and offers a variety of acute care, including acute orthopaedic work with an Emergency Orthopaedic Theatre, operational 7 days a week. It is a Regional Centre for Thoracics, a Regional Renal Centre, offers Critical Care and is the site of a large research facility.

The Theatre Department at this site consists of 13 theatres, including a new state-of-the-art Hybrid Theatre which covers the following surgical specialities:

- Vascular
- Urology
- Colorectal
- Upper GI
- Thoracics
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- Trauma
- Gynaecology
- Obstetrics
- Day Surgery (minor plastics/ paediatric ophthalmics)
Good Hope Hospital  (500+ beds)

Good Hope Hospital serves North Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield and a large part of South East Staffordshire, including Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth. The catchment population is about 450,000. The Hospital provides acute and general medicine and other specialist services including the Partnership Learning Centre, which is part-funded by the Medical School of the University of Birmingham. The Hospital’s Education Centre also includes a Library.

The Theatre Department at this site consists of 8 theatres and a state-of-the-art Treatment Centre which cover the following surgical specialities:

- Urology
- Orthopaedics
- General Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Colorectal
- Gynaecology

Solihull Hospital  (230+ beds)

Solihull Hospital is based near to Solihull Town Centre and provides a range of outpatient, inpatient and 24/7 minor injuries services for its local community. It is also the Regional Centre for Dermatology. A large portion of elective orthopaedic surgery takes place on this site. There is a Postgraduate Centre which also offers library services at this site.

The Theatre Department at this site consists of 7 theatres, covering the following surgical specialities:

- Orthopaedics
- Urology
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Breast/plastic surgery
- Minor Maxillofacial
August 2003
I started working as a Health Care Assistant in the Operating Theatre in 2003 with no other NHS experience. After a year, I wanted to further my career but lacked required qualifications and had to wait for the next academic intake to complete the access course.

September 2007
After successfully completing the access course, I've and now started University full time on Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) Course. This is also thanks to the support from the Trust with the secondment opportunity.

October 2013
I took a six-month secondment to a band 6 role in Solihull Theatres. This meant working on a different site with new challenges and a different experience. This showed me that there are different ways of working and I gained new skills.

June 2014
I started in a Practice Development Practitioner role. This has been of great importance to my career and helped me see what can be done to support students and developing staff as well as my own team.

September 2005
I started the Access to Health Science Course as well as English and Math. This course ran one day a week over two years while I was working full time as a HCA.

October 2009
After my University Course was complete, I started working as a Registered Band 5 in Main Theatres. Over the next few years I gained confidence in my own practice and skills.

April 2014
My next opportunity was back at Heartlands where I was offered a Band 6 role. I've been here ever since and I'm open to progressing as I know I will be supported to grow and develop.

THE FUTURE
WATCH THIS SPACE!

Aaron Sutherland - Practice Development Facilitator - career growth from a Band 3 to Band 6
1989
Community HCA for age concern caring for patients in their home after being discharged from hospital.

1995
I started working as HCA Grade 2 on Ward 9 at Solihull. This was the start and foundation for caring for patients.

1997
I wanted to learn new nursing skills so I went to work at the John Black Day Hospital, OT Assistant Band 3.

1998
I missed the busy hospital life. I took a different direction and started in Theatres at Solihull in DPU as a HCA role, Band 2. I felt I had something to offer and wanted to be an ODP.

1999
I went back to college, to do Maths, English and Computers. I applied to be seconded by the Trust for ODP Training at UCC Westbourne Road. I had to pass an entrance exam and interview panel.

2002
Completed my ODP training. I was offered a post on DPU as Band 5 qualified. Continuing to develop all my skills as an ODP.

2010
Successfully applied for a Band 6 post. Team Leader in DPU at Solihull to this day.

THE FUTURE WATCH THIS SPACE!
Band 1
- Portering duties
- Undertake identified tasks within role
- Undertake defined responsibilities within the department

Band 2
- Assist registered staff in theatre
- Circulating duties
- Undertake identified tasks within role
- Undertake defined responsibilities

Band 3
- Trainee Assistant Theatre Practitioner
- Two year foundation degree to become Assistant Theatre Practitioner

Band 4
- Assistant Theatre Practitioner
- Qualified to scrub for minor/intermediate procedures
- Assist registered practitioner with recovery

Band 5
- Registered Nurse/ODP
- Undertake clinical roles, Anaesthetics Scrub, Circulating and Recovery
- Follow Trust and local policies
- Manage a list/area in the absence of a Band 6
- Read notices/new polices and action where appropriate
- Attend staff meetings
- Complete and document relevant activities
- Mentor and support students new starters
- Undertake a defined responsibility
Band 6

As of Band 5 role plus:

- Complete off-duty
- Undertake appraisals
- Undertake return to work sickness interviews
- Undertake probationary reviews
- Participate in recruitment
- Order equipment/loan kits/stores
- Review operating lists
- Review and comment on local policies
- Undertake health and safety work
- Cover in the absence of Band 7

Band 7

As Band 6 role plus

- Undertake stage 1, 2 and 3 sickness reviews
- Make Occupational Health referrals
- Lead fact finding meetings
- Represent the Unit at meetings
- Complete rotas, off duty and approve annual leave
- Undertake audits
- Authorise change forms and pay details
- Manage extra list requests
- Manage unit vacancy position
- Review work force plans
- Undertake policy development
- Review IR1s and action
- Approve orders to relevant value
- Co-ordinate additional activity
Living in Birmingham

Birmingham is the second largest city in the UK yet, despite its size has a very down-to-Earth, friendly, local feel.

More than three million people have made Birmingham their home, and it’s easy to see why. Birmingham actually has more green spaces than any other city in Europe – 571 parks to be exact – so there’s lots of outdoor space to enjoy with friends and family.

Birmingham is also home to some of Britain’s iconic names, like Jaguar Land Rover, Cadbury’s, Led Zeppelin and Duran Duran – it even inspired scenes in Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings.

Birmingham benefits from the influence of a variety of different cultures. Its annual festivals in the Chinese Quarter, Irish Quarter and Gay Village attract people from all over the world, so living here you’ll have the chance to experience all this vibrant city has to offer.

Loads to see and do

Living in and around Birmingham means you’ll never be bored. Home to the O2 Academy, Jools Holland’s Jam House, Symphony Hall, Hippodrome Theatre and a huge range of clubs and bars. One of Birmingham’s biggest assets is its range of international cuisine.

The world-renowned Balti Triangle is a must, and the city boasts three Michelin-starred restaurants.

Birmingham is a shopper’s paradise, with high street names, designer boutiques and chic malls. The Bullring, The Mailbox and Grand Central are stunning retail outlets right in the city centre.

Birmingham has the largest free public art gallery and the largest public library in the UK. Within half an hour of Birmingham there’s vast open countryside, historic houses and waterways.

There’s also plenty to keep the kids entertained – they’ll love Cadbury World, the National Sea Life Centre, West Midlands Safari Park and Birmingham Nature Centre, and the Central Library has scores of free kids’ activities.