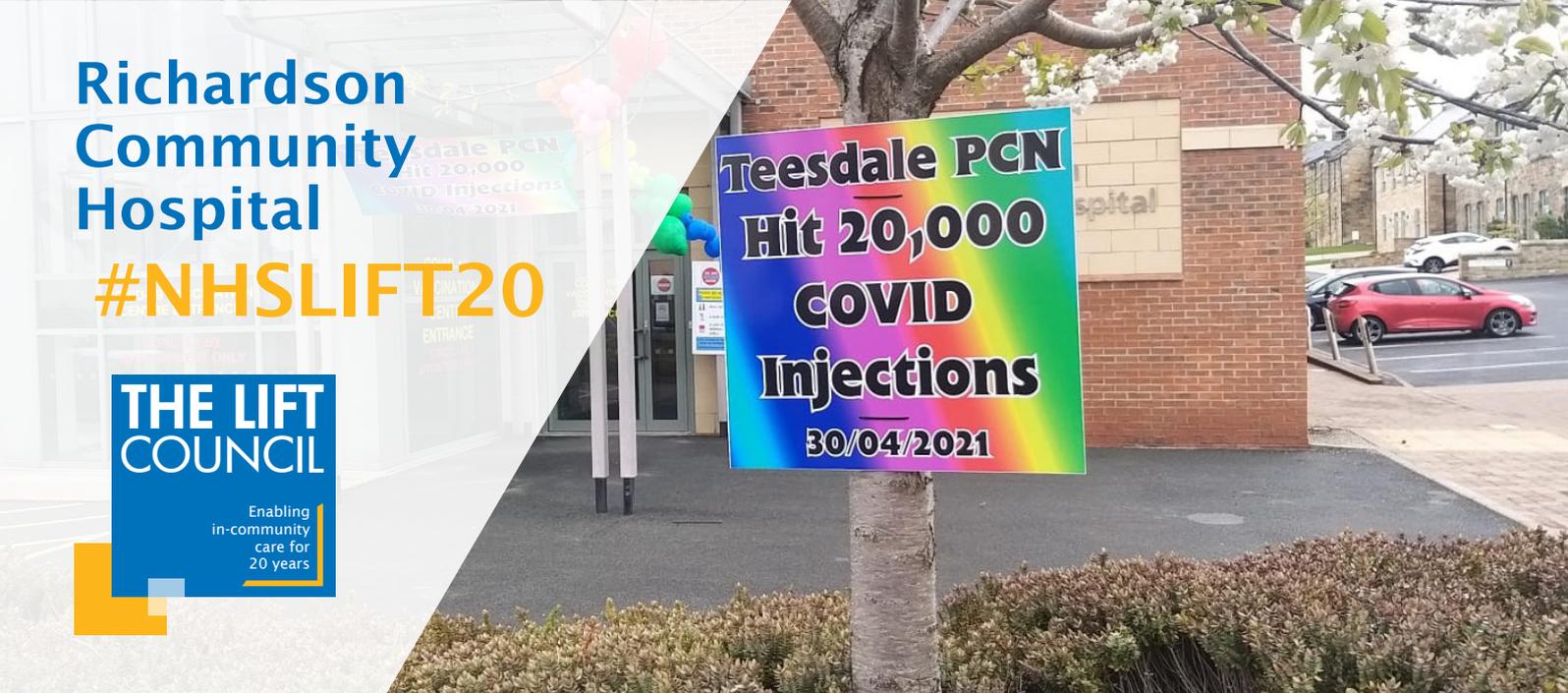


Richardson Community Hospital

#NHSLIFT20

**THE LIFT
COUNCIL**

Enabling
in-community
care for
20 years



**Teesdale PCN
Hit 20,000
COVID
Injections
30/04/2021**

1,000 vulnerable patients vaccinated in three days.

The use of the Richardson Community Hospital helped nearly 1,000 vulnerable people in County Durham get their Pfizer jab on 18-20 December 2020.

2020 was year that tested our National Health Service. Clinicians and healthcare facilities were expected to cope with a pandemic whilst also maintaining vital treatments and overseeing the rapid rollout of a vaccination programme. Twelve months on, they have risen to meet this gargantuan task, supported by a resilient and flexible NHS LIFT estate.

Nowhere epitomises this better than the Richardson Community Hospital in County Durham, run by the Durham & Tees Community Ventures LIFTCo, a member of The LIFT Council. Operational from March 2007, this facility offers a variety of NHS services, including:

- Out-patient clinics, including dental surgery
- District nursing and health visiting
- Antenatal, prenatal support services and community midwifery
- Community paediatrics
- Podiatry
- Community dental services
- Audiology/hearing screening
- Palliative care service
- Day hospice: 14 beds
- In-patient respite: 46 beds

As the severity of the pandemic became apparent, the Community Hospital was called to help. The previously mothballed 24-bed Lawson Ward was recommissioned and brought back into action to support NHS with the anticipated bed pressures. Additional assistance and support were also made available by increasing bed capacity in the Starling Ward from 16 to 24 beds to help relieve pressure on local hospitals.

Further variation works on the premises also helped Richardson remain COVID-secure, including the timely installation of hand sanitising dispensers, floor and lift and stickers as well as posters and the removal and relocation of chairs and equipment for social distancing.

As the focus of the wider NHS moved from ensuring capacity to prevention via vaccination, NHS England identified the Richardson Community Hospital as being a Priority 1 Vaccination Site. Facilitation of the vaccine programme saw jabs being administered from the Day Hospital Area on 18-20 December. Liaising with a network of local GPs, led by the Barnard Castle Surgery, nearly 1,000 vulnerable residents were able to receive their Pfizer vaccine in three days. This rapid start helped the Teesdale Primary Care Network reach 20,000 COVID vaccinations by the end of April this year.

The resilience and flexibility of projects delivered under the NHS LIFT programme has helped support our NHS during one of its most difficult years. We hope there will be more assets like the Richardson Community Hospital from LIFT partners to come over the next 20 years.