

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**22 April 2024**

## **Claire Harley appointed as new Hospital Director of Benenden Hospital**

**Benenden, Kent** – Benenden Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Claire Harley to the role of Hospital Director.

Claire has been the Director of Patient Services at Benenden Hospital since May 2010. During this time, she has significantly contributed to the success of the hospital, bringing a strong commitment to teamwork and ensuring high quality, safe care and an excellent patient experience.

Prior to joining Benenden Hospital, Claire was Clinical Team Manager of Therapy Services at NHS Greenwich in addition to holding the position of Chair of the Professional Executive Committee for NHS Greenwich. She had been at Greenwich since 1997, working closely with teams to redesign services, improving access and quality.

Claire succeeds Jane Abbott, who led Benenden Hospital for 15 years and retired this April after a long career devoted to healthcare. Jane had first joined Benenden Hospital as Director of Nursing and Quality in 2003.

Claire Harley said: "I'm delighted and proud to be appointed to this position and taking over from Jane, who has done such an amazing job for the hospital over the last 15 years. I will continue to focus on our growth as an organisation, the health and wellbeing of staff, and the quality we provide to our patients.

"Our 2028 Vision is to be the South East's leading private hospital, renowned for excellence, and I am privileged to be working with such a talented and dedicated team in the delivery of that vision."

Reporting to Benenden Health's Chief Executive Officer Bob Andrews, Claire will oversee the delivery of the day-to-day operational activity and implement the hospital's strategy, as well as being a member of Benenden Health's Executive, focusing on delivering their business plan and corporate strategy, including HR strategy, corporate services, regulatory liaison, commissioning and funding.

Chief Executive Officer Bob Andrews said: "I'm delighted to welcome Claire Harley to the role of Hospital Director. During her time at Benenden Hospital so far, her expertise, dedication and strong commitment to ensuring high quality, safe care, and excellent patient experience have significantly contributed to the hospital's success.

"I look forward to her joining our senior executive and working together as we deliver our

collective objectives for both Benenden Hospital and Benenden Health's continued growth and successes.

"I also want to thank Jane Abbott for everything she has done within her significant career, both within and without Benenden Hospital. All who work with her know that she is an inspirational leader and a caring colleague. I wish Jane well in whatever she chooses to do next."

### **About Benenden Hospital**

Opened in 1907, Benenden Hospital is an independent hospital and subsidiary of Benenden Health, providing first-class treatment for a wide range of specialities.

The only private hospital in Kent to be rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), it offers a wide range of healthcare consultations, treatments and diagnostic services to self-pay patients, [Benenden Health](#) members and those with private health insurance. It also offers some services to NHS patients via the e-referral system.

Providing the highest standards of patient care for over 100 years, the hospital offers fast access to over 250 treatments from highly experienced consultants, supported by dedicated clinicians and specialist teams, in calm and comfortable, modern surroundings.

<https://www.benendenhospital.org.uk/>

<b>For Further Information</b>	<b>Follow Benenden Hospital</b>
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