



October 1st, 2014

South Tyneside cancer patients receive best care

South Tyneside is the top hospital in the country for patient experience of cancer care. The District Hospital came first in a league table compiled by Macmillan Cancer Support, based on research commissioned by NHS England.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Lorraine Lambert said: "This is brilliant news for our patients and for our staff of doctors, nurses and cancer management experts. I am very proud indeed of this achievement, which is testament to the hard work of staff and demonstrates that we are not only giving patients the best, most clinically effective treatment but also the support that they need at a very stressful time in their lives.

"Positive patient experience, which includes being treated with dignity and respect and being given the opportunity to discuss treatment choices, is as vital as treatment to a cancer patient's quality of life and is linked to improved outcomes."

The league table compares the performance of hospitals across the country against measures of patients' experiences whilst being treated in hospital such as: whether their diagnosis and treatment options were explained clearly to them; whether they felt supported in their care and whether they felt they were treated with respect. Trusts were ranked according to the number of times they appeared in the highest 20% on the 61 scored questions, with the top ten being among the ten most often in the 'green' top 20%.

Fay Scullion, General Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Northern England, said: "We congratulate South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust for achieving some of the best results in the recent patient experience survey. We know that the support and care people receive is as important as their actual treatment and can make all the difference between coping with cancer and finding it a real struggle, for example, being told about financial help that is available, or being provided with high quality information about their cancer and its treatment."

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Pictured above: The photograph shows Members of the cancer services team at South Tyneside District Hospital

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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