

*April 1st, 2015*

## **Trust is improving staff health**

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is on track to be recognised as a North East ambassador for improving staff health and wellbeing.

The Trust has already achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold in the North East Better Health at Work Awards and, following its latest assessment by the TUC and South Tyneside Council, it has demonstrated it is maintaining standards by attaining the 'Continuing Excellence' level. Now, it is aiming for 'Continuing Excellence Plus', with the next step from that being ambassador status.

Andy Kane, head of health, safety and wellbeing, said: "As an NHS organisation, we are very good at achieving the best health and wellbeing outcomes for our patients but, sometimes, we can forget our most valuable asset – our staff.

"Participating in the North East Better Health at Work Award process helps us to set goals to maintain and, in some cases, improve the health and wellbeing of our staff at work, giving them a sense of achievement and improving morale and sickness absence levels, which can ultimately play a significant part in the quality of care we provide to our patients."

**ends**

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

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