



April 4th, 2016

## NHS finance chief retires

Mike Robson, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's long-serving finance chief, has retired.

Mr Robson's NHS career spans more than 30 years. It began after he trained and qualified as an accountant with Tyne and Wear County Council. He worked for North Tyneside Health Authority and the Regional Health Authority before moving in 1990 to Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, where he became Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive in 1992. He joined South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust as Executive Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive in 1998.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Chief Executive Steve Williamson said: "Mike has been an outstanding Finance Director and Deputy Chief Executive, guiding and supporting the Trust through many changes and challenges, and he is well-respected by colleagues and stakeholders across the North East."

Mr Robson said: "South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's sense of community has always been special and I will miss the people with whom I work. Our Trust is comparatively small but I'm proud to say it has always punched above its weight in ensuring local people receive local services of the highest quality despite, at times, challenging circumstances."

Mr Robson, who lives in Gateshead, is looking forward in retirement to devoting more time to his role as Chairman of St Oswald's Hospice in Newcastle. He will also be looking for other opportunities to do charitable or voluntary work.

He added: "I would like to think I can find some way to still be involved in helping the people of South Tyneside."

Helen Patterson, formerly Deputy Director of Finance at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, has taken over from Mr Robson as Executive Director of Finance. Mrs Patterson trained as a Chartered Accountant and qualified in 1995. She worked in the manufacturing industry for 11 years in roles ranging from Site Accountant and Business Improvement Facilitator to Planning and Logistics Manager. She joined South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust 10 years ago and was Head of Financial Services for eight years before becoming Deputy Director of Finance.

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*Pictured above: Mike Robson with some of his Trust colleagues*

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

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