



July 20th, 2016

Gold standard surgical facilities for South Tyneside patients

The first phase of a £1.6 million development that will provide new, gold standard surgical facilities at South Tyneside District Hospital has opened.

The day surgery zone in the South Tyneside Surgical Centre, with its 27 beds and state-of-the-art equipment and surroundings, offers first class care and a positive experience for patients requiring an operation but no overnight stay.

In the coming months, major surgery and short stay zones will be added. When it is completed this winter, the Surgical Centre, which is being created from two existing wards, will have 69 beds and will offer an integrated service, with a dedicated team of doctors and nurses providing seamless care for patients. Previously, the surgical department was spread over several wards.

The design of the centre is patient-focused and incorporates some of the most up-to-date equipment and features available in the NHS today, ensuring patient safety in an environment which enhances their experience.

Mr Arun Krishna, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon and Associate Medical Director at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The medical staff are very pleased indeed to be at the forefront of this development, which gives us the chance to revolutionise care in South Tyneside for surgical patients and ensure that they get the best treatment and the best possible outcome."

Chief Operating Officer Michelle Arrowsmith said: "The Surgical Centre is fantastic news for our patients. Where and how we deliver our services is crucial to offering safe care to the highest standards. By reconfiguring existing accommodation, we will be able to host all surgical activity together, creating a self-sufficient department to which patients are admitted and treated and from where they are discharged. This investment demonstrates our commitment to providing South Tyneside with the best healthcare now and in the future and will ensure value for money in relation to bed capacity and an effective and efficient service for patients requiring surgical services."

Trust Chairman Neil Mundy added: "I am delighted that the first element of this fine, new facility is now open and offer my thanks to all concerned, including our dedicated clinical, estates and facilities teams, for their hard work to make the vision of a surgical centre of excellence a reality. This is an important investment in the transformation of healthcare to meet the future needs of the communities we serve."

ends



Pictured above: South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Board members, Governors and staff in the new Surgical Centre at South Tyneside District Hospital

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

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