



November 16th, 2016

Commitment to supporting those experiencing domestic abuse

South Tyneside health staff are being encouraged to find out more about how they can provide practical and emotional support to those affected by domestic abuse.

Safeguarding nurses from South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust have arranged information stands in South Tyneside District Hospital and in the Trust's Clarendon administration building, in Hebburn, throughout Domestic Abuse Awareness Week, November 21st to 27th.

There will also be a conference at the hospital on Thursday, December 1st, where staff will be able to find out more about how to recognise domestic abuse. Speakers will include representatives from Northumbria Police, the women's refuge and South Tyneside's Options service, which provides confidential and non-judgmental advice on domestic abuse issues in a safe place to women over 16.

Louise Burn, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Deputy Director, Nursing and Quality, said: "Around one in four women and one in six men are victims of domestic abuse at some point in their lives but fewer than half report it. Every year in South Tyneside, 3,500 incidents are reported to the police.

"Our Trust is committed to ensuring that anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse has the opportunity to obtain the help they need to empower them to report abuse and to move on from its impact. By equipping our staff with the knowledge and skills to provide the right support and advice, we can help to protect those who have experienced domestic violence or who are at risk from it."

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Pictured above: Members of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's safeguarding team, left to right, Tracy Dawson, Christine Johnson and Catherine Turner

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

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