



July 20th, 2017

## Nurses and midwives join forces on NHS path to excellence

Over 350 nurses and midwives working across the NHS in South Tyneside and Sunderland have gathered together today for the first joint annual conference between South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.

The inaugural conference between the two organisations brought together nursing and midwifery teams to celebrate and showcase the excellence work taking place to improve local NHS services and enhance patient experiences of care.

In his opening address, Chief Executive of South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts Ken Bremner paid tribute to the vital role of nurses and midwives and thanked staff their unwavering commitment to deliver high quality, safe patient care as demand for NHS services and public expectations continue to rise.

He said: "The pressures on our NHS are, without doubt, greater than ever before and this means the challenges facing our frontline teams, every day, are also greater than ever before.

"I am immensely proud to be here today to celebrate the amazing work of our nurses and midwives but also to reflect together about how we can continue to improve and strive for excellence in everything we do for our patients in Sunderland and South Tyneside.

"The challenges facing the NHS mean we must think differently about how we care for patients in future and what we can do to keep our patients healthy and well – the knowledge and skills of our nurses and midwives means they are pivotal in helping us evolve our services in years to come."

Melanie Johnson, Executive Director of Nursing & Patient Experience across both South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland, added: "Nursing and midwifery is a complex and demanding profession and our teams across South Tyneside and Sunderland do a truly exceptional job, every single day, providing compassionate care for our patients.

"Despite the pressures they face, our nursing staff are constantly looking beyond the day job for ways in which they can lead improvements in patient care and today's conference demonstrates the passion and commitment we all share to continuously raise the bar on quality.

"As nursing and midwifery professionals we must continue to strive for excellence in everything we do and push the boundaries on what we can achieve individually, and collectively as a nursing body, to the benefit of our patients, their families and the wider NHS."



A number of keynote speeches and topics were covered during the event, including:

- the future of bladder and bowel care
- improving outcomes in a paediatric diabetes clinic
- the role of nurse practitioners in pre-operative care
- pressure ulcer improvement in out-of-hospital care settings
- falls prevention in hospitals

Motivational speaker Matt King OBE, who has gone from a paralysed teenager to a pioneer pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved in life, irrespective of someone's situation, shared his skills and techniques for maximising potential in people's personal and professional lives. Katie Banham, from Learning to Flourish, an organisation that develops the leadership potential in all staff, also delivered a keynote speech to encourage resilience amongst staff during times of change.

The first joint annual conference between the two trusts 'The Path to Excellence, Delivering the Future' was held in partnership with the University of Sunderland at the Sir Tom Cowie Campus at St Peter's. Both South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland have been working in close partnership with the University of Sunderland since launching the new nursing school in April 2016.

ENDS

*Pictured above: Chief Executive of South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts Ken Bremner, right, and the Trusts' Executive Director of Nursing and Patient Experience Melanie Johnson, second from right, with the University of Sunderland's Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences and Wellbeing Professor Tony Alabaster and Head of the School of Nursing Sue Brent, pictured at the Trusts' first joint annual conference for nurses and midwives*

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

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Notes to editors

In March 2016, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust came together to form an alliance known as South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group serving a population of 430,000 people.

A joint executive management team was introduced in September 2016 and extensive work is now taking place with both organisations working in partnership to transform local services and ensure high quality, safe and sustainable hospital and community health services which are for the future.

On 4 July 2017, a period of formal public consultation began, led by South Tyneside and Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), as part of the 'Path to Excellence' programme and will run until 15 October. The first services being reviewed and formally consulted upon are stroke, emergency paediatrics and maternity and inpatient gynaecology services.

To find out more about how to get involved in The Path to Excellence consultation go to [www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk](http://www.pathtoexcellence.org.uk), call 0191 2172670, or email [pathtoexcellence@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:pathtoexcellence@stft.nhs.uk) [pathtoexcellence@chsft.nhs.uk](mailto:pathtoexcellence@chsft.nhs.uk)