

Press release – 19 September 2017

Thanks for NHS staff as South Tyneside sets ambitions for future

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is welcoming staff, patients and the public to its annual members' meeting/annual general meeting on Monday 25th September 2017.

The meeting will recognise the hard work, commitment and achievements of hospital and community-based staff during what has been an exceptionally busy and challenging year for the NHS. It will also reflect on what has been a landmark year for the Trust after joining forces with City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust to form South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group.

One year on since forming the strategic alliance with Sunderland, Chief Executive Ken Bremner will report on the Trust's journey over the past year, the challenges and priorities for the year ahead and the ambitious vision to develop healthcare services in South Tyneside which will benefit local communities for many years to come.

During the first twelve months of the strategic alliance, detailed work has been taking place to discuss how hospitals in South Tyneside and Sunderland, as well as community teams, can work better together to improve quality of care and address challenges facing the whole NHS.

Commenting on the progress during the past year, Chief Executive Ken Bremner said: "We're at the start of a very important transformational journey for healthcare services across South Tyneside and Sunderland and as I reflect on my first year, I would like to thank all staff who have worked extremely hard during a time of significant pressure across the entire NHS to put the needs of our patients first.

"The alliance we have formed between our two organisations provides a very strong foundation to improve the quality and sustainability of our services in the long-term

and to manage the exceptional demand and financial pressures that we collectively face.

“We have started to make some real progress with the appointment of a single executive management team and our absolute focus now is on making sure we build services which are fit for the future and on making sure we listen and learn from our teams, and from our patients, to continuously innovate and improve the quality of care we offer.

“The Path to Excellence programme will form a critical part of our future success and it is important that we are honest about the challenges we face and work together on solutions for the future. We very much look forward to continuing to involve our staff, patients, the public and our key stakeholders as this work progresses over the coming year.”

Those attending the meeting will also have the chance to hear from the Trust’s ‘community integrated team’ (CIT) on how health and social care services are working closely together to support people to remain well in their own homes.

The Trust’s district nursing and community matron service visits patients in their own homes to provide necessary support, advice and care. They now work hand-in-hand with social care staff as part of multi-disciplinary CITs to provide an effective, high quality and co-ordinated response for people with the most complex needs.

The CITs were established in partnership between South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, South Tyneside Council, NHS South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and voluntary organisations. They have been rolled out across the borough for over a year and help to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions by supporting patients to stay well in their own homes.

Melanie Milburn, the Trust’s head of nursing for community services, said: “By working in an integrated way, professionals can gain a holistic view of each person’s needs and then make sure people can access the care and support they need in a more co-ordinated way.

“Patients have a named care-co-ordinator to make sure that all of their health and social care needs are met by the most appropriate professional. The result is truly transformational, leading to better experiences and outcomes for patients and their families.”

Book your place

The annual members’ meeting/annual general meeting is open to foundation trust members, staff and the public. Places are free but limited. To avoid disappointment and to help us plan for the event, please register before 21st September by emailing membershipoffice.stft@stft.nhs.uk or telephone 0191 2024121.

The meeting on Monday 25th September will take place from 3pm until 5pm in Cleadon Lounge, Quality Hotel, Witney Way, Boldon, NE35 9PE. We hope to see as many of our members there as possible. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of our governors and directors.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by **Sharon Emms**

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