

Monday 5 March 2018

Your NHS needs you – to help celebrate 70 wonderful years!

On 5 July 2018, our NHS will celebrate its 70th birthday and healthcare leaders in South Tyneside and Sunderland are looking to capture the thoughts, memories and reminiscences of those that have worked in or been treated by local NHS services over the years.

To help celebrate the momentous occasion, both South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust would like to hear from:

- Any staff working in the NHS who began their careers in the fifties, sixties and seventies
- NHS families! Any generations of nurses/midwives/doctors in South Tyneside or Sunderland who have all worked in the NHS
- People who worked in the NHS back in 1948 when it all began to get a sense of what healthcare was like and how much it has changed over the years
- People who remember the days before the NHS and what happened if you became ill

Both Trusts are interested to hear from local people about their memories of the NHS and to see any old photographs or artefacts they might have which would be of interest to the local community as we recognise the achievements of one of the nation's most valued institutions.

With exactly four months to go until the big day, leaders at the South Tyneside and Sunderland are also keen to hear from any patients who simply want to say thank you to the NHS for the care and treatment they may have received in South Tyneside or Sunderland. People should get in touch via: trustcomms@stft.nhs.uk or by calling 0191 404 1127.

Melanie Johnson, Executive Director of Nursing and Patient Experience with South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts, said: “Seventy years is a remarkable milestone and the perfect opportunity for us to recognise the achievements of our local NHS and the vital role it plays in all of our lives.

“We are really interested to hear from people about their experiences of the NHS and their memories over the last seven decades – whether as a patient, a member of staff, a carer, a volunteer or simply a supporter. I’m sure there will be people out in the communities of Sunderland and South Tyneside who have some wonderful stories to tell and some fantastic memories to share with us.

“Over the last 70 years, the NHS has become the envy of the world and delivered huge medical advances and improvements to public health, meaning we can all expect to live longer lives. None of this would be possible without the skills, dedication and compassion of NHS staff.”

To find out more about NHS 70 nationally go to www.nhs70.nhs.uk

ENDS

Some facts about the NHS

- It was launched on July 5, 1948 by the then minister of health, Aneurin Bevan
- It was based on three core principles to which it remains true to this day:
 - that it meets the needs of everyone
 - that is free at the point of delivery
 - that it is based on clinical need, not the ability to pay
- The NHS in England deals with over 1 million patients every 36 hours
- The NHS employs more than 1.5 million people, putting it in the top five of the world’s largest workforces, together with the US Department of Defence, McDonalds, Walmart and the Chinese People’s Liberation Army
- It has delivered huge medical advances and improvements to public health, meaning we can all expect to live longer lives

- It is thanks to the NHS that we have all but eradicated diseases such as polio and diphtheria, and pioneered new treatments like the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant
- The NHS continues to drive innovations in patient care, including bionic eyes to restore sight and surgical breakthroughs such as hand transplants
- Looking to the future, the NHS is becoming more integrated and investing in new medicines, genetic research and digital technologies like apps and artificial intelligence, which will ensure we continue to live longer and healthier lives

Issued by **Kay Jordan**

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