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## Excellent way of improving patient safety is in line for national award



A scheme which is driving up safety standards by encouraging staff at South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts to report and share examples of excellence they see in the course of their work has been shortlisted in the national Patient Safety Awards 2018.

The entry submitted by the Trusts' alliance, South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group, was selected by the judges to go forward to the next stage in the *Changing Culture* category. The winners will be announced on July 9th.

Over the last 10 years, The Patient Safety Awards have become one of the biggest celebrations of outstanding practice in the NHS and independent providers, as patient safety continues to be at the forefront of new policies within healthcare. The

organisers said that this year there had been a 'staggering increase' in the number of entries from all over the NHS and wider healthcare industry.

Both South Tyneside and Sunderland Trusts have implemented Excellence Reporting, whereby any member of staff can fill in a form to acknowledge individual colleagues and teams for everything from great care, and superb teamwork, to willingness to go the extra mile. Everyone recognised in this way receives a personal letter of appreciation from Chief Executive Ken Bremner. Following the initial launch of Excellence Reporting in Sunderland in February 2017, over 450 reports of excellence were received by December. It was introduced in South Tyneside in October 2017 and, in one month alone, 45 reports were submitted. Feedback from staff who have received a letter from the Chief Executive has been extremely positive, with some saying that it made their day and that they felt overwhelmed and valued.

The new method of positive reporting complements the robust systems which both Trusts have in place for reporting incidents and risks.

Mr Bremner said: "I am delighted that our Excellence Reporting system has been shortlisted in the Patient Safety Awards 2018. Working together in the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group, our Trusts have a fantastic opportunity to share learning in an open and supportive culture so we can provide excellent care for our patients. Whilst it is, of course, vital that we learn from experience when things go wrong by reporting errors, near misses and incidents, it is also very important that we have mechanisms for learning from good practice and when things go well, and to say thanks to our staff."

The Trusts have already established links with The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust for learning from excellence and it is hoped other Trusts will join the network to replicate the Excellence Reporting model across the region.

**ENDS**

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