

April 25th, 2018

Work underway on new £5m energy centre for South Tyneside Hospital



Work has begun on a new energy centre at South Tyneside District Hospital which will ensure the hospital can continue to serve future generations of families for many decades to come.

Representing an investment over £5 million, the state-of-the-art energy system is another demonstration by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust of its commitment to investing in the hospital site.

The development, which it is anticipated will take around 12 months to complete, involves the building of a new boiler house and the introduction of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit, which will offer the capability to make more efficient and effective use of valuable energy resources and help reduce the Trust's carbon emissions.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive Ken Bremner said: “This exciting development marks significant investment by the Trust in the hospital and demonstrates our total commitment to providing services for local people in South Tyneside and improving the working environment for our staff.

“Despite the very difficult financial challenges we are currently facing, we have been able to secure capital funding for this vital investment in our infrastructure, which will allow us to continue to improve the quality of our services and experience for both staff and patients. It shows that people should be in absolutely no doubt about our future ambitions for South Tyneside District Hospital.”

CHP is a highly efficient process that makes use of the heat that is a by-product of the electricity generation process which would otherwise be wasted, thereby reducing energy consumption and costs and improving environmental performance. By generating heat and power simultaneously, CHP can reduce carbon emissions by up to 30% compared to the separate means of conventional generation via a boiler and power station, and heat requirements can be met that otherwise would require additional fuel to be burnt. The waste heat from the CHP unit at South Tyneside Hospital will be in the form of low-grade hot water which will be used in heating.

The new energy centre will be situated on the McAnany Avenue side of the hospital site in South Shields.

Steve Jamieson, the Trust’s Director of Estates and Facilities, said: “Some of our existing boilers are almost 40 years old and one is over 50. The need to replace them offered us a significant opportunity to introduce an ultra-modern system that would provide numerous benefits environmentally, economically, and in reliability. Whilst we will, of course, do all we can to keep disruption to an absolute minimum, we apologise to the public for any inconvenience caused during the construction work.”

The development is the latest example of investment in the South Tyneside District Hospital site. In Radiology, in 2017, a new £1.5 million MRI scanner - the first of its

kind in the UK – became operational and the Trust became one of the first in the country to introduce the very latest ultrasound machines. In the past two years, the Trust has also opened Haven Court, a £9 million centre of excellence for integrated health and social care for older people, and a new £1.4 million Surgical Centre, which has improved patient experience and access to surgical services.

ENDS

The photo shows: South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Chief Executive Ken Bremner cutting the first sod to mark the start of work on the new energy centre at South Tyneside District Hospital, with, from left to right, Metnor Construction contract manager John Bewick and project manager John McIntrye, and the Trust's Director of Estates and Facilities Steve Jamieson

Issued by **Kay Jordan**

For press enquiries on this release, contact **0191 404 1128** or email

kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk