

PRESS RELEASE – 17 OCTOBER, 2018

Find out about exciting nursing opportunities with South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts

Newly-qualified and existing registered nurses and midwives are being encouraged to find out more about the career opportunities available to them at South Tyneside and City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trusts.

There has never been a more exciting time to join the Trusts, which are currently progressing the 'Path to Excellence' programme of transformation of hospital services in South Tyneside and Sunderland to meet the future needs of patients and offer the best possible care for local people. They are also exploring a formal merger for long-term operational and financial sustainability. As a result, it is anticipated that there will be many more development opportunities available to staff.

The Trusts will be holding nurse recruitment events next month as follows:

- **Thursday November 8th in Alexander's restaurant at South Tyneside District Hospital, 11am-2pm**
- **Friday November 9th in the Education Centre at Sunderland Royal Hospital, 2pm-5pm.**

Nurses and midwives will talk about their own experiences and the support and development available, such as the preceptorship programme which matches the newly-qualified with experienced colleagues who can guide and mentor them through their initial months. Representatives from The University of Sunderland will provide information for those interested in embarking on nursing careers and people will also be able to find out about apprenticeship opportunities with the Trusts.

The Trusts have already had two joint successful recruitment drives in the Philippines this year. About 50 job offers were made on the first trip and some of these new recruits will start arriving between November and May next year. The most recent trip this month (*October*) resulted in a total of about 95 more job offers being made and those selected are expected to arrive later in 2019.

Melanie Johnson, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals for South Tyneside and City Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts, said; “We are absolutely clear that investment in more nursing posts is essential to enable us to continue delivering the highest possible quality of safe patient care.

“We are very passionate about growing our workforce here in the North East, hence our regular, local nursing recruitment events, but we explore all routes to expand our nursing and midwifery workforce and our overseas recruitment drives are part of this. Our aim is always the same: to recruit the very best.

“I am so proud of our existing workforce who do such a wonderful job providing compassionate care of the highest quality and who are always looking at innovative ways of improving patient care and experience. The great news is that, as our two Trusts work ever more closely together, the opportunities to develop varied and interesting nursing careers with us at South Tyneside District Hospital, Sunderland Royal Hospital, Sunderland Eye Infirmary and in the community in South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead will only grow.”

ENDS

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