

**PRESS RELEASE – 19 November, 2018**

**South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is presented with Silver Award for support of the armed forces**



South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust officially received the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award at a presentation ceremony at a military dinner night held in Newcastle.

The Trust's Chief Executive Ken Bremner and Kath Griffin, Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development and Executive Lead for the Trust's work with the Armed Forces, joined other new recipients of the award at the ceremony, which was attended by Major General Ranald Munro, CBE, TD, VR, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff.

The Trust's latest achievement demonstrating its commitment to the nation's Armed Forces comes in the same year in which it signed the Government's Armed Forces Covenant in March and then gained the Employer Recognition Scheme Bronze Award.

The swift progress was made possible due to South Tyneside's links with its partner in the South Tyneside and Sunderland Healthcare Group, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust. City Hospitals signed the Covenant early in 2017 and, later that year, was among 33 UK employers to be presented by Prince Harry with the Gold award – the Ministry of Defence's prestigious badge of honour for organisations which have demonstrated outstanding support for the armed forces community.

Kath Griffin said: "South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is very proud indeed to now be the holder of the Silver Award. It is important to us as an employer that we support defence and the Armed Forces community and inspire others to do the same. Being a forces-friendly employer enables us to benefit from the wide range of skills and experiences of reservists and veterans, coupled with the self-confidence, resourcefulness and positive attitude they gain through service in the Armed Forces."

Darren Rhodes, Ministry of Defence Regional Employer Engagement Director for the North of England, said: "Defence is keen to provide recognition to those employers that are going above and beyond the call of duty in supporting our people.

Employers can reap real rewards from employing military personnel such as Reservists and Service Leavers, acquiring a portfolio of skills and behaviours that are beneficial in a modern working environment. Being recognised as forces-friendly means being attractive to Reservists and Service Leavers who may aspire to work in your sector. These are highly skilled, well trained professionals who can add real value to your business."

## **ENDS**

*Photo caption is: Major General Ranald Munro, CBE, TD, VR, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff, pictured presenting the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award to South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development and Executive Lead for the Trust's work with the Armed Forces Kath Griffin, and Trust Chief Executive Ken Bremner*

Issued by **Kay Jordan**

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

[kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk)