



Knowledge & Library Service

Evidence Education Research

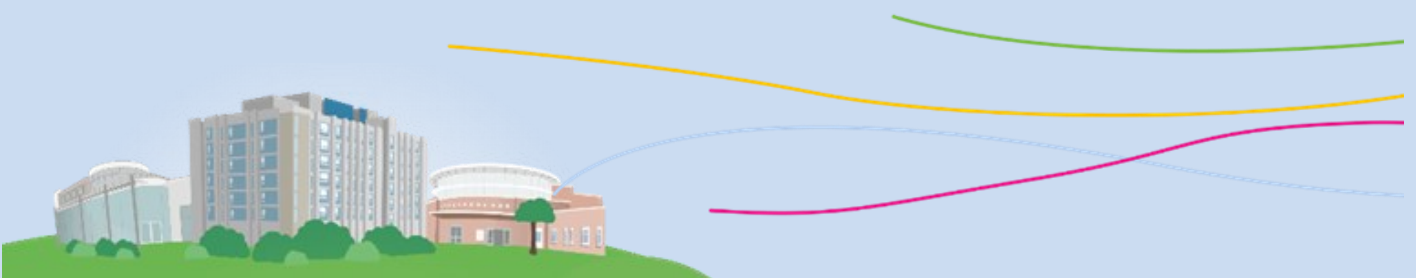
Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Knowledge & Library Service

Annual Report

2025-2026



Our vision is to deliver outstanding Knowledge & Library Services for the delivery of safe patient care. The work of the past year is guided by the Knowledge & Library Service Strategic Framework, which sets out a comprehensive roadmap to support the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) strategic priorities.



The service focuses on ensuring that our people and learners have access to the right knowledge and evidence they need, at the right time and in the right place, enabling them to make informed decisions, provide high-quality care and ultimately improve patient outcomes. We are committed to mobilising evidence and knowledge, embracing technology, fostering partnerships and responding to the needs of the healthcare workforce.

Key Achievements for 2025-26

- 94 evidence searches to support patient care, service development, research or managerial decision-making
- 135 colleagues trained on how to search or appraise the evidence
- Facilitated 27 journal club sessions across 6 different teams
- Clinical Evidence Specialist support extended to the Paediatric Guidelines Group to mobilise evidence to support the development and updating of guidelines
- Working with Rheumatology Therapy team to develop the skills to produce Critically Appraised Topics (CATs)
- Submitted Service Improvement Plan to NHS England (NHSE) as part of the Quality Improvement Outcomes Framework for NHS-Funded Knowledge & Library Services
- Launched a Research Funding bulletin to increase awareness of funding opportunities

Mobilising evidence, knowledge and know-how

The Knowledge & Library Service (KLS) team mobilise evidence, knowledge and know-how for high quality, safe and effective care and clinical and managerial decision making.

This year, the team welcomed an additional Clinical Evidence Specialist, further strengthening the provision of embedded clinical librarian services.

Clinical Evidence Specialist support remains integral to the Maternity Guidelines Group and this support has now been extended to the Paediatric Guidelines Group. This work includes delivering evidence searches, setting up alerts, commenting on draft guidelines, advising on referencing and attending monthly guidelines meetings. A project is currently underway to map local paediatric guidelines to NICE guidance and other national guidance to facilitate the updating of local guidelines when national guidance changes.

The KLS team have delivered high quality evidence searches to support decision making. We asked evidence search recipients about their experience and impact of the evidence searches:

100% of respondents would recommend the service to a colleague

79% gained new knowledge from the evidence search results

57% gained knowledge from the evidence search results to generate new ideas

“Improved confidence when consenting women re RSV vaccine for midwives and vaccinators”

“Updated information has enabled me to update the clinical guideline to improve patient care and support for staff”
Band 7 Practice Development Lead

94 Evidence Searches

Examples include:

- Improving hand hygiene compliance
- Reducing blood culture contamination
- Pregnancy and GLP-1 drugs
- Phototherapy to neonates with prolonged unconjugated jaundice

“The search allowed me to develop a plan to conduct a survey and to how our team of nurses communicate with students to give positive and negative feedback. To identify e-learning needed to support nurses to be confident in supporting student to be clinically active and to learn with competent nurses.”
Learning Environment Manager (LEM) and Charge Nurse

How was the information/knowledge used?

- **43%** used the evidence for direct patient care
- **43%** shared the evidence with colleagues
- **36%** used the evidence for research

What impact did the information/knowledge have?

- **57%** it contributed to professional or personal development
- **36%** more informed decision making
- **36%** it contributed to service development or delivery

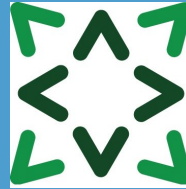
Clinical Decision Support Tools

The use of clinical decision support tools, BMJ Best Practice and DynaMed have regularly been promoted.



DynaMed®

The KLS team have attended the FY1 and FY2+ inductions and also delivered a session “Digital Evidence – tools and apps to help you on the ward and beyond” as part of the FY1 and FY2 teaching programmes. The team also delivered the session on a quarterly lunchtime learning programme to general surgery resident doctors and Advanced Clinical Practitioners (ACPs).



Sharing evidence and learning

Updates of new evidence are shared through the KnowledgeShare evidence updates and subject specific bulletins.

9.5% increase in KnowledgeShare recipients

Continued to share Big Four bulletin, QI Evidence Update, Sustainability Bulletin, Non-medical Prescribing Bulletin and the Learning from Incidents Bulletin.

Developing the skills of our people and learners

KLS specialists have continued to deliver 1-2-1 and group training sessions to embed evidence based practice into the culture of DBTH equipping our people and learners with the skills to find and appraise evidence.

We asked learners about their experience and impact of the information skills training:

125 colleagues

Trained in:

- Evidence Searching
- Discovering eResources
- Critical Appraisal
- Referencing

“ I have used the session to search hypophosphatasia which is a rare hereditary disease, for writing a chapter in a book about the topic. I am still in the process of trying to produce a publication about sports injuries in paediatric population. It also has helped me to be more efficient when presenting in journal club which I have done and due to present next month. In addition, it has enhanced my ability to gain deeper knowledge about subjects related to my practice which allows me to be more knowledgeable when counselling my patients in clinics as well as making more evidence based decisions about their treatment.”
SAS surgeon trauma and orthopaedics

“ This course has saved a lot of time and I could find many resources relevant to my topic” trainee ACP

“ Sarah was amazing at explaining things and making things more exciting/engaging. Brilliant teaching and well paced to keep everyone following and understanding.” ACP

“ Sarah is so very helpful and has so much patience, I wish I had her patience. I am very grateful for the clarity, structure and explanation” Nurse

All learners are made aware of the support knowledge & library services can provide through inductions either face to face or through the provision of tailored information.

The team promoted career opportunities in the Library sector at the “We Care into the Future” events in Doncaster and Worksop in July. We hosted a work experience student from Hall Cross Academy in March 2026.



Journal Clubs

This year has seen an increase in our support for journal clubs with our clinical evidence specialist supporting 27 journal club sessions. The service has been involved in a number of journal clubs including Rheumatology AHPs, Paediatric Physiotherapists, Paediatric Occupational Therapists, Internal Medicine resident doctors, Clinical Scientists and doctors on the Hybrid International Specialty Training (HIST) Programme.

Journal clubs are an effective way to link research and clinical practice. Health professionals read and critically appraise the study methodology in a research article, evaluate the findings and discuss how or whether the results could apply to their practice. Knowledge & library specialists often facilitate the sessions and provide expertise on critical appraisal techniques.

A “research for all” culture

The team have continued to engage with researchers in a number of ways including evidence searching, training, journal clubs and curiosity cafes.

Researchers have provided feedback that evidence searches have:

“ This search was done to support the writing of an abstract. It was really helpful and saved a lot of time. It has been really positive to have engagement with the library services and in the long term will improve quality of care”
Highly Specialist Rheumatology Physiotherapist

“ Following the results we are looking at research possibilities focused around the patient group. Plans to undertake local audit as a first step in the new year.”
Sepsis Specialist Nurse

“ The search results will be used to develop a grant application looking at improving outcomes for people who have experienced sexual trauma. So whilst the impact is not immediate, I do expect in the long term that the results will change clinical practice, reduce risk, improve quality of patient care, save money and improve informed decision making” Clinical Research Fellow, RDaSH



The KLS team continued to work with multidisciplinary research colleagues to deliver Curiosity Cafes across a number of clinical teams.

Work has begun with the Rheumatology Physiotherapy team to develop the skills to produce Critically Appraised Topics (CATs). A monthly journal club has taken place to support the development of CATs.

Following the 2024 research conference, the KLS team facilitated an after-action review with the research team, capturing lessons learned to inform planning for the DBTH Research Conference in 2026.

A monthly Research Funding bulletin has been introduced highlighting external funding opportunities available to undertake research.

A publications register of Trust research activity is maintained and reported on.

The Clinical Evidence Specialist is undertaking the US Medical Library Association (MLA) Systematic Review Services Specialization (SRSS) level 1 pathway in order to further develop the skills of the KLS team's expertise in supporting systematic reviews. The learning from this programme is being shared across the knowledge & library specialists in the team and used to develop a Systematic Review Support Service.

The Chief Nurse Intern Programme continues to be supported with evidence search skills, referencing, and critical appraisal sessions.

Delivering high performing knowledge & library services

The infrastructure, resource and skills need to develop the service continue to be reviewed.

In March 2026 a service improvement plan was submitted to NHSE as part of the Quality & Improvement Outcomes Framework for NHS-Funded Knowledge & Library Services in England. This will be followed up with a service improvement conversation in May 2026. A report from NHSE outlining best practice, challenges and recommendations for improvement is expected in June 2026.

The KLS team are participating in the Trust's Microsoft Copilot pilot, exploring how AI-driven tools can enhance and support the team's work to help inform the Trust wide business case.

The team were invited to deliver a stand at the annual members meeting to highlight the achievements and demonstrate the impact of the services provided across the organisation.

The KLS Team



In May 2025 we welcomed Michelle Bendall, Clinical Evidence Specialist to the team.

Knowledge Sharing Across the Profession

In September 2025, Sarah Gardner, Clinical Evidence Specialist presented at the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (CILIP) Information Literacy Event on Teaching Critical Appraisal.

Delivering the right resources in the right place!

The service participated in an NHSE proof-of-concept pilot for a new discovery interface for YorCat, known as *Aspen*. The final stage of the pilot included an after-action review with knowledge & library specialists across Yorkshire and the Humber, alongside evaluation by DBTH library users to inform future procurement decisions.

In July 2025, NHS England reduced the national Core Content provision which prompted a review of locally purchased content. Based on cost and usage data, five individual journal titles and one journal package were cancelled for 2026. This adjustment enabled the service to reinvest in the Health Research Premium Collection and the Oxford Handbooks, Textbooks, and Specialist Handbooks—resources discontinued nationally but shown through usage figures to deliver strong value for DBTH.

The service level agreement to deliver knowledge & library services to RDaSH has been renewed with funding received from RDaSH to support this provision. The team actively promoted the service at the RDaSH research conference in April 2025.

Our Clinical Evidence Specialist continues to work in collaboration with NHS England to provide knowledge and library specialist support for the development and delivery of the Expert Searcher and Research Skills elements of the NHS Knowledge for Healthcare Learning Academy offers.

- **269** new library members
- **560** articles supplied
- **1824** full text articles downloaded from BrowZine
- **2448** book loans

Health & Wellbeing and Patient Experience

Colleague and learner wellbeing continues to be supported through a range of initiatives including a monthly reading group, access to health & wellbeing resources and dedicated spaces for relaxation and reflection away from the ward or office environment.

The KLS team have worked collaboratively with the Health & Wellbeing Team to contribute to the Menopause Awareness days across the Trust.

At Mexborough Montagu Hospital, wellbeing provision has been further enhanced with the introduction of a dedicated box of Health & Wellbeing books and a Book Swap to support recreational reading.



Trust volunteers have continued to deliver ward library services to patients at DRI to enrich the patient experience by providing access to reading materials during their hospital stay. This year we welcomed an additional volunteer, David, to the team to further strengthen the service provided to patients.

- **3** ward trolley services each week
- **6** volunteers
- **1259** book loans to patients

Service Standards

We continually monitor, review and evaluate our service provision using the service standards outlined below:

- all searches will be completed within 10 working days, or by a date mutually agreed with the requestor

99% evidence searches completed within agreed timescales

- requests will be despatched within 2 working days of receipt
- 85% of requests will be supplied within 5 working days

100% requests were actioned in 2 working days of receipt

99% requests were supplied within 5 working days

- all general procedural and information-resource enquiries will be answered promptly
- enquiries that require more in-depth research and response will be answered initially, with a follow up response by a mutually agreed date between both parties

100% responses meet our enquiry standard

What next? 2026-27

- Continue to be proactive and responsive in our delivery of clinical and outreach services to support the mobilisation of evidence and knowledge across the organisation
- Explore further opportunities to mobilise evidence to support the development and updating of clinical guidelines
- Welcome the recommendations from the NHSE Quality Improvement Outcomes Framework Service Improvement Conversation
- Continue to strengthen our relationship with the research team to explore opportunities to align and coordinate our services in line with the Research & Innovation Strategic Plan
- Pilot Health Literacy training
- Increase awareness of knowledge & library services across the organisation and visibility of the library team as experts
- Continue to develop our digital library and utilise digital systems to widen access to resources to all colleagues and learners regardless of location
- Explore how we can support and guide library users utilising AI to access information and evidence
- Relocate the library space at Mexborough Montagu Hospital