



foundations for health

December 2022



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Celebrating health heroes at our annual awards night



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This magazine is produced four times a year, with three digital copies and one paper copy in August. To receive an electronic version of this magazine and invites to member events, please send us your name and email address to dbth.foundation.office@nhs.net or contact the Foundation Trust Office on 01302 644158.

Tell us what matters to you about your health and wellbeing

The Integrated Care Partnership in South Yorkshire, which is your local councils, your local NHS organisations, community and voluntary organisations and other partners met for the first time in September 2022 and agreed that its initial focus will be on developing an Integrated Care Strategy for South Yorkshire.

We want to make sure our work is informed by the views of patients and the public about what our ambitions and priorities should be for health and care in South Yorkshire so we

are asking you to tell us 'what matters to you about your health and wellbeing'.

You can submit your thoughts at: <https://tinyurl.com/3p897bz5>

Your answer can be as long or short as you like, it can be in words or pictures, it can cover all of the things that contribute to your health and wellbeing, even things that you might think are outside of health, like employment or housing, or be very specific. It's up to you. We just want to hear about what's important to the population we serve.

If you would like to find out more about the development of our strategy please visit the website at syics.co.uk/get-involved/

If you work with a group of citizens we would welcome a discussion about how they can contribute, please email helloworkingtogether@nhs.net

We are working with the South Yorkshire Community Foundation who may be able to offer an incentive to groups facilitating the sessions, depending on numbers, of between £50 & £100.



Shining Star lights to illuminate hospitals

For the last two years, DBTH Charity has put LED star lights of different shapes and sizes across Bassetlaw Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital. Each are sponsored by local businesses, schools and individuals and have raised over £60,000 for the hospital services.

Due to current cost of living pressures, the Charity has received feedback from local people who would have loved to sponsor a star this year but are unable to. As such the team have been exploring different ways, they can provide everyone the opportunity to be part of the appeal.

With the help of partners PA Entertainments, for the first time, alongside the main LED lights, additional stars will be projected on to the hospital buildings for one night. This special event will be in memory of those who are no longer with us, as well as to recognise an NHS staff member or department who has gone above and beyond during their work.

Families across Doncaster, Worksop and the surrounding areas are invited to dedicate one of the stars, which will be projected on Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Bassetlaw Hospital, during a special switch-on event in return for a donation of your choosing to the hospital charity.

Katy Cross is a proud supporter of this year's campaign, she said, "My family has sponsored one of the physical star lights for the last two years in memory of my wonderful mum, but this year we we're unable to commit to sponsoring a physical star so I'm delighted the charity has been able to find another way we can still be part of the Our Shining Appeal."

"My mum was in hospital in 2020 when the charity first launched the appeal and we decided to sponsor a star as a family to say thank you to the amazing Doctors and Nurses at Bassetlaw Hospital who were caring for my Mum and to put a smile on her face. Every time we visited, the stars were shining away, making visiting during her final days that little bit easier.

"Having lost my Mum at Christmas, the Our Shining Stars appeal gives me a special way to remember her and it's just amazing

that although my donation may be small, it contributes towards a bigger total, making a big difference to Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity, whilst hopefully bringing comfort to the patients, their families and staff who find themselves in similar positions like we did back in 2020."

For a donation of any sum to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity, families can dedicate one of the stars in memory of their loved ones or in recognition of their NHS heroes through the charity's 'Virtual Star Sky'.

This also provides the opportunity to leave a message of dedication, accompanied by a photo which will be displayed online throughout the festive period.

All of the messages that have been dedicated using the virtual star sky page by Friday 2 December, will be displayed on a board at the charities special switch on events on Thursday 8 December at Bassetlaw Hospital or Friday 9 December at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Throughout the last two years, 'Our Shining Stars' has raised over £60,000 for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity

which has been reinvested into a range of projects across Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital, including a bereavement suite for our emergency department at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, our wonderful therapy huskies to support staff wellbeing and aid our patient's recovery, improvements to our ward environments and equipment to help us enhance patient experience such as TV's and radios to provide a few examples.

These additional extras would not be possible without the support of our community and with your help we can continue to work hard with our Trust to fund innovative and exciting projects that really do make a difference to our patients, their families and our colleagues who care for them.

To dedicate a shining star and make a donation to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity, please visit <https://visufund.com/our-shining-stars-2022/>

Limited numbers of physical star lights are also available to be sponsored, for more information please visit <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/our-shining-stars/>



Stroke patients across South Yorkshire benefit from new Stroke Video Triage Pilot

South Yorkshire has been successful in securing funding along with seven other regions to pilot Stroke Video Triage. The pilot has been commissioned by NHSE and primarily involves Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, and Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Supported by the South Yorkshire Integrated Stroke Delivery Network (SY ISDN) the pilot will run for six months from mid-August 2022 and has the aim of improving stroke patient outcomes across the region.

The South Yorkshire Stroke Survivor and Carer Panel supported the funding bid from the SY ISDN. The Panel was developed to allow those who are living with stroke or caring for someone with stroke to share their views and help shape stroke services in the region.

Mandy Rylance, Stroke Survivor and Deputy Chair of the Panel, said: "I strongly believe that after having lived experience of a stroke, the contribution panel members can give to any future projects is significant.

"The video triage trial means the correct assessment for a patient having a stroke can literally make a big difference to the patient's future quality of life. What more could a patient want than a specialist stroke doctor being involved in the diagnosis from the minute you enter the ambulance. Exciting news for everyone."

"THIS IS A REALLY EXCITING TIME AND INITIATIVE, WHICH ALLOWS OUR PATIENTS TO RECEIVE SPECIALIST INVOLVEMENT FROM THE VERY EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, SUPPORTING OUR AIM IN BECOMING THE BEST EMERGENCY AND URGENT CARE PROVIDER BY 2023."

Those who are experiencing symptoms of a suspected stroke will have a video triage assessment with a stroke specialist at one of

the Hyper Acute Stroke Units (HASU) across the region. An app, provided by GoodSAM, will support a video triage between the patient and the Stroke Team at either Doncaster Royal Infirmary Hospital or Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

The video call will help ensure that patients can be taken directly for treatment, increasing the speed in which the patient receives stroke intervention treatment and reducing handover times for staff on scene. It will also help in the identification of stroke mimics who may then be taken to the nearest Emergency Department.

Jono Milnes, Yorkshire Ambulance Service Area Clinical Lead, South, said: "This is a really exciting time and initiative, which allows our patients to receive specialist involvement from the very earliest opportunity, supporting our aim in becoming the best emergency and urgent care provider by 2023."

Data will be gathered throughout the pilot period to help measure the impact of the video triage and gather learning.



Modular theatre units installed at Bassetlaw Hospital

Three modular theatre units have been placed at Bassetlaw Hospital as work gets underway to replace roofing panels as well as enable an expansion and development of the site's Emergency Department.

In October, a project began to replace reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) roofing panels within Bassetlaw Hospital's mental health and theatre blocks.

Considered a revolutionary new building material at the time, RAAC panels were installed as a lightweight roofing solution but recent issues have arisen in parts of the country leading to a national programme of replacement. Following extensive surveys, it was found that the panels installed at Bassetlaw were in very good condition, however these are to be replaced as part of a national initiative. Consequently, the Trust have received funding of £15.944 million to replace the affected roofs by 31 March 2023.

To ensure disruption is kept to a minimum and planned and emergency procedures can continue to go ahead unimpeded, last week the Trust took the delivery of three modular operating theatres, provided by Vanguard Health Solutions.

Enabling the team to carry out safe and effective work whilst construction is under way, the Vanguard units are compliant with all appropriate health and safety standards to enable healthcare patients to operate, as well as all relevant air flow and filtering requirements.

Simon Brown, Deputy Chief Nurse, who was present as the units were delivered, said: "As we undertake significant works at Bassetlaw Hospital, these modular units are a fantastic substitute for the areas which are currently



out of commission. Built and installed to all appropriate standards, these temporary accommodations are connected securely to our hospital, meaning that patients will receive a seamless and safe experience.

"As replacement of the affected roofs will take a few months, these units will be in place until April next year. This is an incredibly exciting time for Bassetlaw Hospital as these works represent the initial stages of our project to enhance the Emergency Department – with one of our ultimate aims to bring back 24/7 urgent and emergency paediatric care. Watch this space!"

The Vanguard units will be in place until the spring of next year, and are located within the former car park just outside of

Clinical Therapies, with a secure link corridor adjoining the modular buildings to the rest of the hospital.

In addition to this work, in early 2020, following a visit to Bassetlaw Hospital from the then Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, £17.6m was announced in support of a proposal by from the Trust to further develop the Emergency Department at Bassetlaw Hospital.

The development will increase the size of the Emergency Department (ED) and provide more accessible same day services, including the provision of 24/7 emergency paediatric services. Works are due to begin directly following the RAAC replacement project, and anticipated to take around 12 months, completing in spring 2024.



Celebrating our Health Heroes



On 20 October Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals hosted its annual Star Awards evening to celebrate the hard work and commendable dedication of hospital heroes throughout the past 12 months.

Staff within the Trust nominated their colleagues, highlighting notable achievements and exceptional contributions from individuals and teams which have gone above and beyond throughout the course of their work. As in previous years, hundreds of worthy nominations were submitted across the award categories, creating a challenge for the judging panel to decide.

Over the course of the evening, prizes were announced for winners in a variety of categories including Rising Star and Champions in Wellbeing, Development and Inclusion. Alongside their wider colleagues, these incredible individuals, including the fellow commendable nominees, have worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that patients receive high quality care each and every day – either by directly supporting care and treatment, or by enabling this work.

The 10 hospital heroes this year are:

- Rising Star: Bethany Trout (Physio Apprentice)
- Lifetime Achievement: Alasdair Strachan

- Development Champion: Mr Auos Al-Dujaily (Obs and Gynae)
- Inclusion Champions: International Nurse Recruitment and Education team
- Patient Champion: Maria Massey (Staff Nurse, Day Surgery)
- Wellbeing Champion: Kerry Turner (Adult Speech and Language Manager)
- Change Champions: St Leger Ward team (St Leger Ward)
- Behind the scenes champion: Ronald Stretton (Information Analyst)
- Medical/Clinical Team of the Year: Skin Integrity



Thank you to our sponsors



es at our annual awards night



- Star of the Year: Lawrence Millsom, Service Assistant
- Non-clinical team of the year: Bassetlaw Bereavement Counsellors

This year's highly anticipated ceremony took place at The Dome, hosted by Heart Radio DJ, David 'Dixie' Dixon. Around 350 healthcare professionals from across the Trust attended the evening, hearing the inspiring stories of all ten winners, as well as nominees.

All individuals who attended were asked to undertake a lateral flow test before arrival (wherever possible), as well as to consider their attendance if they believed they could

be symptomatic of COVID-19, or had been in close proximity of someone with the illness.

Speaking at the ceremony, Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said "The Star Awards are a fantastic way to showcase the incredible achievements of our colleagues and teams. This is the first time we have been able to come together in one room for such an event since 2019, and as such it made tonight's proceedings that little bit more special.

"This year we received a record number of nominations and throughout the past two years particularly, colleagues really have given there

all as we navigated the turbulent waters of the pandemic and onwards towards recovery.

"I want to congratulate our worthy winners and nominees – I hope everyone had a fantastic night, and thank you for everything that you do, day-in and day-out."

Each year the Star Awards is sponsored generously by various organisations and companies who offer their support in celebrating the local healthcare champions. In holding the Star Awards the Trust takes pride in congratulating all the diverse and amazing contributions of individuals and teams across DBTH.



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Our Hearts for Doncaster Sculpture

In early 2021, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity launched the Hearts for Doncaster appeal in honour of those who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, as well remembering those we have lost, by creating a special and lasting monument in Doncaster.

To date, the charity has sold around 800 hearts. Once complete, the rainbow sculpture will hold 5,000 hearts each which will bear a special message to the person or people it is dedicated too.

Throughout the last year, we have worked in partnership with Doncaster Council to find a forever home for the Hearts for Doncaster sculpture. Whilst this took longer than originally anticipated, we are delighted that the sculpture is now situated in its new home within the gardens of the Doncaster Archive Centre on Chequer Road, just below the Civic Office.

Behind the scenes there has been a great deal of time, effort and thought put into the Hearts for Doncaster memorial and where stands. We discussed a number of locations within the city centre and other areas across Doncaster, however, we had to consider a number of factors including the suitability of the foundations for the sculpture, the possibility of vandalism and need for protection, ongoing maintenance as well as ensuring the environment was suitable for people to visit, and, if they wish, sit and spend time safely with the memorial.

During this exploration, we were approached by the team working on the new former Doncaster Museum on Chequer Road who informed us that they were transforming it into the new Doncaster Archive Centre. After hearing their plans with the space and our initial visit, we felt this would be the perfect place for the sculpture to be placed.

As the project was in the early stages they were able to support with a number of things which included covering the costs of a number of things required for the sculpture which included the cost of the planning permission application which the team also supported us with writing, the foundations required for the sculpture. As a result of the Council kindly supporting with these costs, it meant that more of the money raised could be used to support Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity and subsequently reinvested in patient services and facilities.

The team working on the development of the new Archive Centre have cleared and transformed the gardens in this space - putting new grass, plants and installing other works of art, as well as a number of benches.

It was important to us that the sculpture was placed somewhere where we felt it would be safe and the archive centre has the bonus of secured gates which will be locked each night. It also has parking and is roughly a 12-minute walk from the Frenchgate shopping centre. For those who are interested

in exploring the history of Doncaster, after visiting the new archive centre it's a three-minute walk to the new Danum Gallery, Library and Museum.

The majority of the hearts on the sculpture are dedicated in memory of a loved one, we felt that the sculpture needed to be in a location where supporters could sit and reflect, in a peaceful environment and many of the other locations we were offered would not have provided this. The gardens of the Archive Centre is filled with benches where supporters can sit for as long as they would like, enjoying the new space surrounding them.

Throughout the last few weeks, our Charity team have been visiting to fix on the hearts which have been purchased so far and have really enjoyed visiting the space and seeing how much it is being transformed with the help of the sculpture.

There are still a number of hearts which need fixing onto the sculpture and we are working with our engravers at Happs to get these on as quick as we can. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported the appeal and for your patience.

COVID-19 will, hopefully, one day be consigned to historical record, and we are proud that Hearts for Doncaster is situated in a place where we can proudly celebrate everything our community did to tackle the pandemic whilst also remembering those we sadly lost.

Doncaster endometriosis patients given hope by specialist instrument donation

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has embarked upon a transformative way to treat local early-stage endometriosis patients, thanks for the donation of a unique treatment for the chronic condition which affects 1.25 million women in the UK.

Donated by the Friends of the Hospital charity, the Helica Thermal Coagulator (TC), which has so far carried out 65,000 operations in the UK, is unique in that it provides a solution for new sufferers of the condition, mitigating the requirement for years of unnecessary hormone therapy, painkilling treatment and a range of associated conditions.

With approximately 55,000 new cases of endometriosis diagnosed each year in the UK, the treatment provided by the Helica TC has the potential to effectively put an end to the condition's impact within 15 years – but only if it is diagnosed and treated sufficiently early.

Maurice Howieson, Managing Director of Helica Instruments, explains the difference early diagnosis and subsequent referral



could make to thousands of women: "Right now, it takes an average of eight years for a woman to be diagnosed with endometriosis in the UK. During this time, she is typically put on a cycle of birth control and painkillers which simply masks the pain."

Endometriosis is so frequently allowed to progress to the point that no course of treatment – whether that be drugs, surgery or hysterectomy – can alleviate the pain. We are delighted that the Friends of the Hospital's donation of Helica TC not only heralds a new chapter in Doncaster's early treatment of the disease, but also highlights the importance of a wider

understanding of its symptoms amongst the local GP community.

Endometriosis can only be effectively diagnosed via minimally-invasive laparoscopic examination, at which stage there is surgical possibility of removing the diseased cells and alleviating the problem long-term. GP training to help identify early-stage endometriosis plays a critical role in the potential eradication of the condition.

Miss Manju Singh, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "The Thermal Coagulator is very useful, with colleagues finding it effective and easy to use for the treatment of mild to moderate endometriosis. It has made our treatment for endometriosis near bladder and ureteric region safer – and as a result is leading to better patient outcomes.

On behalf of the Trust I want to thank the Bassetlaw League of Friends who donated this piece of equipment. This will positively impact quality of life of women suffering from endometriosis equally in both the Doncaster and Bassetlaw regions.

Drop-in whooping cough vaccinations for pregnant women

Local pregnant women are now able to drop-in to the Antenatal Clinics at both Bassetlaw Hospital and Doncaster Royal Infirmary to get the whooping cough vaccine.

Whooping cough (pertussis) rates have risen sharply in recent years and babies who are too young to start their vaccinations are at greatest risk.

Young babies with whooping cough are often very unwell and most will be admitted to hospital because of their illness. When whooping cough is particularly severe, it can lead to complications, and in some of the most severe cases, death.

Pregnant women can help protect their babies by getting vaccinated – ideally from 16 weeks up to 32 weeks pregnant. If for any reason you miss having the vaccine, you can still have it up until you go into labour.

Local ladies are able to get the vaccination by heading to the Antenatal Clinics on the following days:

- Doncaster Royal Infirmary, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. This can also be accessed when attending for scans.
- Bassetlaw Hospital, 9am to 5pm, Tuesday and Thursday.

Lois Mellor, Director of Midwifery, said:



“Getting vaccinated while you’re pregnant is highly effective in protecting your baby from developing whooping cough in the first few weeks of their life.

“The immunity you get from the vaccine will pass to your baby through the placenta and provide passive protection for them until they are old enough to be routinely vaccinated

against whooping cough at eight weeks old. We recommend our mums to access this vaccination sooner rather than later, so please attend at your earliest convenience.”

At present, the Antenatal Clinics at both hospitals are also offering flu vaccinations to mums-to-be, and will shortly offer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Chief Nurse appointed at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

After an extensive and robust recruitment process, Karen Jessop will soon join Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) as the organisation’s new Chief Nurse.

Karen is currently the Deputy Chief Nurse at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals (STH), a position she has held since October 2017.

Qualifying as a Registered Nurse over 25 years ago, Karen joined Hull University Hospitals in 1995 where she spent the next two decades, holding a variety of roles within critical care and surgery. Karen eventually progressed to become a Matron and a Divisional Nurse Manager, also qualifying as a Registered Midwife and completing a Master’s Degree in Health Care Leadership with the University of Birmingham.

In 2016, Karen joined STH as Nurse Director for Operating Services, Critical Care and Anaesthesia, before moving on to become Deputy Chief Nurse 18 months later.

Speaking about her appointment as Chief Nurse, Karen said: “I am absolutely delighted to be joining Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals. I am passionate about getting things right for staff so that they, in turn, can deliver the very best care for

patients. The NHS has gone through some challenging times throughout the past few years, but I believe there’s a real opportunity to improve, refresh ourselves on the fundamentals, and refocus on our mission to deliver safe, effective and individualised patient care.

“As Chief Nurse I will be an advocate for both patients and our healthcare professionals, hopefully helping the organisation in its vision to become the safest in England, outstanding in all that it does.”

An integral role at the Trust, the Chief Nurse, provides clear leadership to around 3,000 clinical staff, overseeing the development and delivery of outstanding patient care, while driving the organisation’s strategies for ‘Quality’, ‘Patient Experience’, ‘Patient Safety’ and ‘Infection Prevention and Control’.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at DBTH, said: “On behalf of everyone at the Trust, I am delighted to welcome Karen to Team DBTH. In our new Chief Nurse, I believe we have someone with a wealth of experience, and someone who has a track record of delivery throughout her career – always ensuring the patient comes first.



“It is no secret that the pandemic has had a significant impact on our teams and the services we provide, however, with Karen’s support, insight and leadership, I am confident of our recovery and renewal post pandemic, and I look forward to working closely with her as part of the Executive Team.”

Karen will join the team in the coming months and will take the opportunity to meet colleagues in the not too distant future.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals is made up of Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital in addition to a number of external clinical sites. One of the largest providers within the region, the Trust cares for approximately 500,000 patients each and every year, spanning two counties which include both urban and rural communities.

Off-duty nurse saves life of runner

An off-duty nurse stepped in to save the life of maths teacher, Stewart McGough, who had a cardiac arrest after completing a Doncaster parkrun.

Fifty-seven-year-old Stewart didn't feel great after the 5km run and collapsed while speaking to a friend just before he was due to head home.

Former intensive care nurse at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Nickie Wilkinson, was nearby after also just completing the parkrun, and quickly realised he was in cardiac arrest, so she started CPR while another witness went for the public access defibrillator at Sandall Park.

"Within five minutes they had managed to restart my heart which is just incredible, everything just fitted into place, from Nickie, the passing off-duty intensive care nurse who started CPR and the defibrillator which was not far away to the ambulance crew who were close by, and I am so grateful," said Stewart.

Nickie, who now works as a research education leader for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "I wasn't going to go to the parkrun, a friend persuaded me at the last minute but I'm so glad I did. I saw Stewart on the floor and unresponsive and went into autopilot. I knew how vital it was to start CPR



straight away and I was thankful that there was a defibrillator nearby."

Yorkshire Ambulance Service clinicians arrived to provide advanced care and transported Stewart to Doncaster Royal Infirmary. He was later transferred to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield where he had surgery to fit two stents and an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, which sends electrical pulses to

regulate abnormal heart rhythms.

Nickie added: "I work at Doncaster Royal Infirmary so popped in to see him on the coronary care unit the next day and it was amazing to see him looking so well. I'm just so grateful I was able to make a difference."

Stewart, who works at The McAuley Catholic High School in Doncaster, said: "There were no warning signs. I felt well before, I've always been fairly fit and have run 40-50kms every week for the last five years so I can't believe what has happened. But I have changed my diet, I have lost a stone, I never drank a lot of alcohol but now I drink less, and I feel healthier than I have ever felt."

"I started running again about two months after my cardiac arrest in January 2022, I'm slower than I was but I still get out two or three times a week and I feel fantastic."

The father-of-one, who is keen to promote the importance of CPR and community public access defibrillators, added: "I have had CPR training as part of basic first aid courses through work but I have never seen it done on anyone for real. Together they undoubtedly saved my life; it's incredible. I would like to think I would be able to give someone the same chance if the situation ever arose."

Spiderman and Iron Man spotted at part-time window-cleaning job

Popular children's super heroes Spiderman and Iron Man have been spotted by inpatients of Doncaster Royal Infirmary's Children's ward, taking on a most unpredictable job.

The pair were seen scaling the side of the Women's and Children's Hospital shortly after 11am as they prepared to clean the many windows on the building's façade.

They stopped momentarily to wave for their young supporters, all children receiving treatment on the ward, who were very excited to catch a glimpse of their heroes.

The plucky two-some who descended from the roof of the seven-storey building, were rope access specialists Lewis and Matthew, from Opal Access. Contracted to clean the thousands of windows at Doncaster



Royal Infirmary over the last few weeks, they saved the children's building until last to put on a special show for the hospital's youngest patients.

Lauren Jacobs, of the Play and Activity Team on the Children's Ward, said: "It was such an exciting morning for the children on the ward today. They had their Marvel pyjamas on and waited eagerly to see their heroes abseil past the windows."

"Spending any amount of time in hospital can be a tough period for children, especially being away from their friends and extended family in an unfamiliar environment. Cameos, such as the one organised by Opal Access today, help us to make children's memories of their time in hospital exciting and positive and help to distract them from the clinical setting."

"Thank you to Opal Access, and especially to

Lewis and Matthew, for pulling this together and for playing their parts so well – they really are superheroes!"

Lewis and Matthew spent some time putting on a bit of a show for the children, swinging across the entire floor of the children's ward to make sure the occupants of each room got a glimpse of their heroes.

Lewis and Matthew said: "We had a great time today seeing how excited all the kids were from our viewpoint on the ropes. We spotted a couple of them wearing Spiderman merchandise and they all waved to us – seeing their smiles made the drop worth it. We hope we brought a little bit of joy to them during their stay in hospital."



DBTH enter landmark partnership with second 'Foundation School in Health' in UK

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has entered a formal partnership with Retford Oaks Academy, the newest Foundation School in Health (FSiH), marking a bolstered relationship between education and healthcare in the region.

The launch event on 12 October was marked by the students of Retford Oaks Academy displaying their many talents – from pencil sketches to sculptures of the solar system, live piano playing, and a tasty spread of appetisers made by pupils completing their Hospitality and Catering GCSE.

Jane West, Assistant Principal at Retford Oaks Academy, said: "We are so excited to have been asked to play such a pivotal role in this initiative.

"Not only will our students benefit, but so will other students across Bassetlaw and the wider community.

"We are also excited to plan and execute the We Care into the Future event that will reach so many."

The partnership intends to develop opportunities and widen participation for pupils from the Bassetlaw area wishing to pursue a career in the health service.

This will see an increased involvement from health professionals at the school, work experience and internship opportunities for pupils with a tailored approach to the Bassetlaw youngsters.

Luke Dickinson, Acting Principal at Retford Oaks Academy, said: "We are privileged to become the second school in the country to gain NHS Foundation School in Health status.

"We thank Doncaster and Bassetlaw



Teaching Hospitals for making this initiative available to our students, which will increase their awareness and progression routes into the vast range of careers available to them with the country's largest employer."

In October 2018, the UK's first FSiH was introduced in partnership with Hall Cross Academy and DBTH. The first of its kind, the partnership achieved many of its objectives set about prior to the pandemic.

The introduction of a work experience framework, and the 'We Care into the Future' Health and Social Care careers event for all Year 8s across the borough, are just some of the successful outcomes of the first Foundation School in Health partnership with Hall Cross.

Professor Alasdair Strachan, Director of

Education and Research at DBTH, said: "The launch of Retford Oaks Academy as the second Foundation School in Health was a great success.

"In partnering with the school, we are providing pupils with ample opportunity to explore their interests across our 250 professions. This helps develop our partnership with other local schools, develop innovative ways of enthusing students about health and care which will also help develop a pipeline into this important workforce.

"Building on our model with the first Foundation School in Health, Hall Cross Academy, we are excited and ready to begin this new chapter with the students of Retford Oaks Academy."

Start-up funding for the FSiH project has been supported by The Health Foundation and NHS England and NHS Improvement. One of only six NHS anchor institutions chosen, the Trust were awarded an incredible £25,000 for the initiative.

As part of the Health Anchor Learning Network (HALN), the Trust hopes to share the framework, prompting other NHS Trusts nationally to initiate similar partnerships with their local education providers.

Heather Widdup, Executive Principal at Retford Oaks Academy, said: "This partnership will create a wealth of experiences and opportunities for the students.

"We hope that by working together we can develop the skills and aspirations of the students so that they, and the wider community, can benefit from this exciting initiative. This partnership has been a long time in the making and I am delighted to see it formally come to fruition."



DBTH Charity receives huge £25,000 donation for baby loss campaign

A mental health nurse, who founded the bereavement charity Ernie's Wish, has donated an incredible £25,577.79 to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Charity.

Carla Spence, whose second baby, Ernie, was stillborn at 39 weeks in 2016, founded Ernie's Wish to fundraise, improve bereavement services and give back to the charities who had supported them through their own loss.

The funds raised will go directly to the Serenity Appeal, a charity campaign to raise funds for a specialist bereavement suite called 'The Serenity Suite' at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, as well as a mobile ultrasound scanner.

Speaking of her loss, Carla said: "Our world was obviously shattered. We found the support shocking to say the least."

Currently, people who suffer baby loss at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI) give birth to their sleeping babies on a busy labour ward where they can hear other families celebrating and the cries of infants being born.

Introducing the Serenity Suite (plans for which are pictured below) would create a space for families to spend time together in a safe, secure, and serene space where they can grieve the loss of their baby with the support of specialist Bereavement Midwives.

The mobile ultrasound scanner (below)



Edith Ernie's big sister with a child bereavement pack



Shelley Bacon Carla Spence Natalie Harwood Claire Brown completing the Yorkshire Peaks Challenge

would enable similar treatment, meaning those suffering a miscarriage could remain in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) for an ultrasound diagnosis, instead of moving to the busy scan department and sitting amongst those awaiting standard scans.

However, it isn't just parents who suffer during this time, it is also children, Carla explained: "Naturally we wanted to help siblings as well. As parents, we found it so difficult to help our daughter deal with her grief and explain something which there is no explanation for."

To this end, Ernie's Wish creates sibling packs, individual to the child based on their age, ability to understand what is happening to them and circumstances. The packs also contain useful tools to support

parents/teachers/carers to support the child during the grieving process.

After hearing of the Serenity Appeal and speaking with one of the Bereavement Midwives, Carla, alongside her committee of 'Ernie's Angels', decided this was the perfect initiative to donate the funds to.

She said: "We've always said we wanted to do something significant with the money. It is so important to me that it goes to the right place. I had a call with Matt Procter, the Bereavement Midwife and I knew right then this was going to make a difference."

The mum-of-four hosted a Bonfire Night event on Friday 4 November to raise further funds for the appeal, taking the total raised from £20,000 to £25,577.79.

Sister and best friends Amy, Natalie, Shelley and Claire, alongside Mum Tracey and the staff at Manton Sports have all provided huge support over the years, said Carla.

She went on: "They have been there every step of the way. Lastly, I want to mention our community. We are so thankful for the ongoing support and more importantly, remembering Ernie."

To make a donation, set up a fundraiser or join in on one of our fundraising events for the Serenity Appeal, please visit the charity website at this address:

<https://dbthcharity.co.uk/serenity-appeal/>

Resources and support on baby loss can also be found on the above web page.



An example of a mobile ultrasound Scanner



Carla Spence (left) at the bonfire event

Doncaster rail worker runs marathon fundraiser for bereaved families

A Doncaster Dad, who sadly lost his son in 2020, ran a marathon on Sunday 16 October to raise funds for a charity appeal by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Charity.

James Cole, who works as a Supervisor at Network Rail, was determined to run the marathon to challenge himself as well as fundraise for the Serenity Appeal: a charity campaign to fund a specialist bereavement suite within the maternity services at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

He completed the Yorkshire Marathon in 4 hours 48 minutes, placing 2,000 out of 5,300 runners.

"My first thought after finishing was 'I am

never doing that again'!" explained James, who has now raised just short of £2,000 for the appeal.

His own personal cheerleaders, partner Bethan Morse and 5-month-old son Charlie followed James around all day on spectator buses.

Bethan, who owns and runs a clothes shop, said: "We chose to fundraise for the Serenity Appeal as we lost our son George in 2020.

"If the bereavement suite had existed when we had a stillbirth, we would have been able to cherish that time that we had with him without being aware of our surroundings on the labour ward and feeling rushed as we were taking up a delivery bed. We would have been able to have the peace and time we



James preparing before the marathon



James with his five-month-old son Charlie after the marathon

needed, whilst trying to cope with what had just happened.

"This suite will be a saviour for so many future families."

Some of the biggest challenges he faced during his preparation for the race was finding the time, James explained. He said: "Working full-time and caring for a newborn baby has made it almost impossible for me to train, but with the help of family and friends, I've managed it."

Sporting a matching 'daddy & me' t-shirt post-marathon with son Charlie, James said he found the race enjoyable, until he hit 21 miles.

He said: "I thought I wouldn't be able to finish it. But I met lots of people along the way that told me I could do it and I just needed to push that bit further."

Upon reaching the finish line, James was greeted by wife Bethan and son Charlie, and the smile on his face was priceless, said Bethan.

Have your own idea for fundraising? Head to our DBTH Charity website and register your activity / event with us: <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/fundraise-for-us/>



James and Bethan



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