



# foundations

## for health

Summer 2022



Doncaster and Bassetlaw  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

Join our Annual  
Member's Meeting  
on 29 September

Local students attend unique health and social care careers event to inspire the workforce of the future



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New research study launched **p11**



Fall prevention aids at the Trust **p12**

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If you have comments or want further information about any of the articles in *Foundations for Health* please contact the Communications & Engagement team on 01302 644244.

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](mailto:dbth.foundation.office@nhs.net) or contact the Foundation Trust Office on 01302 644158.

## Changes to health provision in Bassetlaw

**Positive changes are coming to the way in which health and wellbeing services are provided for people in Bassetlaw.**

From July 1, NHS Bassetlaw CCG – which currently commissions and funds hospital and community NHS services in the district – will cease to exist. Responsibility for commissioning those services will now be transferred to the new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The ICB will sit within the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS) which brings together providers and commissioners of NHS and care services across the county, including Bassetlaw.

Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership, a collaborative of organisations from across the district, will become the local driving force ensuring people in Bassetlaw receive appropriate health and wellbeing support to meet their needs.

Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership Director, Victoria McGregor-Riley said: "This positive change for Bassetlaw is about shaping the health and wellbeing agenda to tackle some of the most pressing issues people are facing right here where we live.

"Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership involves



community service providers, local authorities, primary care, local hospital providers and the voluntary and community sector, all working together more closely to address key issues which impact on health inequalities. By working in a more integrated way we can better address key priorities such as supporting people in our community with mental health problems, helping the most vulnerable members of our community to access services and enabling everyone in Bassetlaw to be healthier for longer."

Amanda Sullivan, Chief Executive of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, said: "Following the boundary changes announced by the government in 2021, we formally welcome Bassetlaw into the Nottingham and

Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System from 1 July 2022.

"We have worked with our partners in Bassetlaw for many years and this change will enable us to build on those solid foundations and focus on what is working well to make real positive changes to enable each and every citizen to enjoy their best possible health and wellbeing."

Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership brings together Bassetlaw District Council, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw Community Voluntary Service (BCVS), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the district's three main GP groups (called Primary Care Networks).

Victoria McGregor-Riley added: "It is important to note there will be no change for patients in Bassetlaw who require hospital treatment at Bassetlaw or Doncaster Hospitals, or for those who need to receive specialist care elsewhere, for example in Sheffield. What we will be aiming to do is work more collaboratively to support patients to receive effective, seamless care whenever they need health and care services."



# Local students attend unique health and social care careers event to inspire the workforce of the future

On Friday 1 July, a unique health and social care careers event was held in Doncaster, where students were introduced to a wide range of job opportunities within health and social care.

Organised in partnership between Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Hall Cross Academy and other health, social care and educational organisations in the area, 'We Care – Into the Future' allowed our young people to understand what the NHS and care sector has to offer local students upon completing school. Attending on the day were clinical teams specialised in training and delivering care, who provided attendees with an insight into the real world of health and social care work.

The event was designed as a highly interactive experience. Firstly, the students were guided through a simulation corridor that demonstrated a patient's journey from the community through to the emergency department, operating theatres, a hospital ward and back to the community. From there, our young people were able to speak to specialists from approximately 350 different careers who held stands that displayed their career pathways, examples of their practice and a hands-on approach through games, quizzes and interactive models and displays.

The stands were facilitated by health and social care staff from across Doncaster, who helped to challenge the perceptions of available roles within health care and raise the aspirations of our young people. The students interacted with a range of education providers who were able to advise and guide the students on the range of vocational and

academic pathways available to them after leaving comprehensive school.

The event organisers approached all secondary schools within the Doncaster area to invite their year eight students to the day. This year, the event saw many more schools sign up to take part, with attendance up from 700 attendees in 2019 to 1,000 students this year.

Dr Alasdair Strachan, Director of Education and Research at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), said: "We were so pleased to be able to host the We Care into the Future careers event at the Doncaster Dome this year. It benefits our local students being able to meet in-person specialists in health and social care and be inspired to follow them in their careers towards these crucial roles. It encourages our young people to attain higher aspirations in their working lives so that they can go on to have a fulfilling and rewarding career both to benefit themselves and to support our local communities for future generations to come."

**"WE WERE SO PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO HOST THE WE CARE INTO THE FUTURE CAREERS EVENT AT THE DONCASTER DOME THIS YEAR."**

Simon Swain, Principle for Hall Cross Academy – A Foundation School in Health, said: "This event gave the students of Doncaster a fantastic opportunity to see what options they have open to them when considering their GCSE choices and when looking at the next steps in their education. Many children are not aware of the breadth of roles on offer, so this was a crucial opportunity for our young

people, to be informed about their future and ensure that we are creating a workforce capable of supporting healthcare services into the future. Hall Cross Academy has been working in partnership with DBTH as a Foundation School in Health, and is proud of our Healthcare Ambassadors, who were actively involved on the day supporting the organisers by helping navigate the students around the exhibition hall as well as using their photography skills to document the day's events."

At Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals alone there are over 250 different career pathways, from patient-facing roles to those in non-patient facing roles, all working together to deliver high quality patient care and treatment.

At the event, there were representatives from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Doncaster Council, Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group, Sheffield Hallam University, The University of Sheffield, Doncaster College, BPP Universities, Age UK, and Opportunities Doncaster.

This event is part of the award-winning work between Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals and Hall Cross Academy, the former becoming the UK's first Foundation School in Health. The event has also generated interest from organisations across the country who wish to hold similar career events for their locality, with the Education team at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals offering their support to help make this a nationally recognised Health and Social Care careers event.



# 'Straight to test' way of working within local hospitals improves gastrointestinal cancer wait times

Health professionals at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) have implemented a 'Straight to Test' care pathway for patients, with a view to speeding up diagnostic tests for certain cancers.

Screening for gastrointestinal cancer can often involve procedures to directly inspect the gut with a flexible telescope (colonoscopy or gastroscopy). Not all patients are suitable for such invasive tests, which do carry a small risk of harm, therefore, patients are traditionally reviewed as part of a face-to-face clinical appointment prior to requesting such tests. At DBTH, patients could wait for up to two weeks before they could be seen for this first step, a knock-on of which could mean that individuals could wait for around four to five weeks before gaining a diagnosis of, or excluding, cancer.

With carefully and recently designed pathways of care, it is now possible for the majority of these patients to be triaged and assessed by a dedicated Advanced Nurse Practitioner within three days of referral by telephone. In this manner, the waiting times for diagnostic tests has been brought down to around two weeks, roughly half of what it was for many patients, with around 300 patients benefiting from this way of working each month.

The pathway was first developed in 2019 for patients with suspected cancer of the lower bowel (colon and rectum) and proved instrumental in maintaining these cancer services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although waiting times remained challenged due to the disruption created by coronavirus, colleagues at the Trust are starting to see things return to normal and have recently observed a 20% increase in performance against monitored monthly standards.

Due to this success, in September 2021 the Trust expanded the pathway to introduce the 'Straight To Test' pathway to Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers of the stomach, gullet, pancreas and liver.

The pathway is triggered by an urgent referral made by a GP, with a telephone consultation from the hospital taking place between one and three days after. Patients, if appropriate, are then sent straight for an appropriate diagnostic test (including one or more of a colonoscopy, gastroscopy or CT scan), which may take place between three and 14 days, depending on current demand. Most patients will have cancer excluded at this test and will



be informed on the same day, having their all-clear diagnosis by the recommended 28 days from referral. Those patients who are diagnosed with cancer, can move onto further staging tests more quickly, with the aim to discussing a potential treatment plan in the relevant multi-disciplinary team meeting within four weeks of referral.

Speaking about the new way of working, Mr Tim Wilson, Consultant Surgeon, said: "Throughout the past few years, we have worked extremely hard to speed up the cancer diagnostic pathway, whilst ensuring that it remains safe and effective. This work has only been possible with the hard work and collaboration of individuals working across many different departments. It has been particularly challenging to introduce innovations such as this throughout the pandemic, which has forced us to think and work in different ways. However, as a Trust, we are absolutely committed to delivering the very best service for our patients and I am hopeful that the valuable lessons we have learnt throughout this process can be applied elsewhere."

Lesley Barnett, Deputy Director of Nursing for Cancer at the Trust, said: "Illnesses such as a

cancer can create an understandable amount of anxiety within our patients, therefore it is incredibly important that we continue to improve and innovate wherever we can. The Rapid Diagnostic Service is all about tightening up our process, enhancing services wherever possible and ensuring that our residents have access to testing within appropriate timeframes. We are making fantastic strides locally, and I hope this will continue long into the future."

Similarly, the Trust has recently received £230,000 from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System to establish a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at Montagu Hospital. One of only two such facilities in the region, the CDC which is currently in phase one of its development seeks to improve patient service by creating a one-stop-clinic for a variety of tests and consultations for illnesses such as suspected cancers, as well as the diagnostics outlined above. In early January and February, a CT Suite and MRI Scanner were placed at Montagu Hospital. Together it is envisaged around 2,600 patients will be seen within the Mexborough site, significantly reducing the local backlog of people awaiting further tests.



# Digitalised X-ray room opens at Doncaster Royal Infirmary

The installation of a new general X-ray room marks a now fully-digitalised service at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Up until recently, most X-Rays have been undertaken using cassettes to capture images, which are then used to aid in the diagnosis of a patient. With the installation of new equipment, individuals can be x-rayed, with the image coming straight through onto a computer screen significantly increasing the speed at which radiographer can work within the hospital.

The equipment used to achieve this way of working is a Siemens Ysio Max with the project cost being just over £250,000, and all types of patients can be imaged in the newly refurbished general X-Ray room. The table also goes super low to allow patients to get on easily which means it's perfect for children and those with complex needs.

Bespoke and colourful graphics touch the ceiling and floor of the wall behind the x-ray table; a purposeful choice to help distract nervous patients said Sara Elliott, Head of Radiology at DRI.

Graphics were commissioned by the trust from Keane Creative (local company in Doncaster) and are unique to this room. They have been printed and installed by SPJ Marketing Limited.

"The design is bright and cheerful to help distract patients and alleviate fears of being



in a hospital, undergoing tests for diagnosis. We also wanted to create an environment that staff enjoyed working in too." Sara explained.

Sara went on: "This newly refurbished space, which is large enough to accommodate beds as and when they are wheeled in, will

significantly improve the way in which we work – both speeding up the process as well as providing a wonderful working environment."

Throughout the Trust, a total of over 440,000 radiology examinations are carried out each year.

## £2.5 million refurbishment of maternity services

The Central Delivery Suite at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI) is set to undergo a £2.5 million refurbishment in the coming weeks as the area is updated and modernised.

The works, which will begin shortly, will include a full refurbishment of the site's birthing rooms, as well as the creation of a new reception, waiting area and Birth Centre. The delivery suite will include a fully-equipped Obstetric Observation Area to support patients who need additional observation and a triage area.

The overall budget for the project comes in at £2.5 million which also includes fire precaution upgrades.

Lois Mellor, Director of Midwifery at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "This is an incredibly exciting development, and one which will only enhance the care received by the families of Doncaster.

"With this investment, we will be able to create a 'Birth Centre' at DRI, which will allow us to offer the option of Midwifery-led care to our patients, alongside the current Obstetric-led unit. Essentially this will give parents more choice, accessing a service which is like a home-from-home, with a birthing pool, whilst we will still also have the



Obstetric service for those mums who need a little more support and monitoring, should they run into any difficulties.

"As the work gets started, we will be temporarily relocating the currently Central Delivery Suite to the ground floor of the Women's and Children's Hospital."

Whilst Midwifery-led Maternity services have been around for a little while, this will mark the first time this has been possible at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. If mums-to-be are fit and healthy and are expected to deliver without complication, the new area provides a more comfortable and home-like environment, with the option of a birthing pool. If mum and baby encounter any issues, they can be swiftly transferred to the Obstetric service, which is just in a neighbouring area.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson Jones, Director of Strategic Estates and Facilities, said: "This latest project underlines the ambitious Capital Projects Programme we have at the Trust, and our desire to deliver the very best care and treatment, within the best setting, for our patients.

"In early 2021 the Women's and Children's Hospital experienced a flood, and ever since we have been undertaking repair works. It is fantastic to see our progress, and we are now able to not only recover where we were, but move forward and enhance the services we offer."

To help prepare for the refurbishment, the current location of the Central Delivery Suite will move from level six to the ground floor within the Women's and Children's Hospital.

The works will get under way in June and are expected to take 26 weeks.

In addition to the upcoming refurbishments, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity is currently fundraising to create a specialist bereavement suite, also to be sited within the Women's and Children's Hospital at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Known as the 'Serenity Appeal', individuals can find out more, and how to donate, by heading to <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/serenity-appeal>

# Over 2,500 scans completed at Montagu



Following the installation of MRI and CT suites at Montagu Hospital, over 1,000 and 1,600 respective scans have been completed, significantly reducing Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) backlog of patients waiting for important diagnostic tests.

Late last year, Montagu Hospital was selected to host one of a pair of 'Community Diagnostic Centres' (CDC) within South Yorkshire, following a £3 million investment from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (ICS), of which Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has received around £230,000 of capital funding so far.

Managed as part of five year project, the first step was completed in January, as mobile MRI and CT units were placed on site, following the construction of suitable foundation pads by the Trust's Estates and Facilities teams. Since that time, the scanners were working throughout the latter parts of winter and into spring, providing a suitable alternative for local residents, and particularly those that reside within the Dearne Valley, to receive crucial hospital care within a community setting that is convenient for them.

Unfortunately, there are around 367,000 new cancer cases in Britain each year, which works out at around 1,000 detected daily.

With restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer waiting lists have increased, as has the backlog of individuals awaiting diagnostic tests, a crucial component to the fight against the illness, as early detection often leads to better outcomes. As such, colleagues at DBTH, along with partners, are doing all they can reduce any delays locally.

Sara Elliott, Head of Radiology at DBTH, said: "The creation of the Community Diagnostic Centre at Montagu Hospital has been a monumental task, but one that the project

team have really stepped up to, and I'm so proud that we have one of the first CDCs in the country, and the first in region, to mobilise and start seeing patients.

"Of particular note, with the additional capacity provided at Montagu Hospital, by the end of March we will have completely eradicated our MRI backlog, with very few waiting within the next few weeks – an incredible achievement.

"From our patient booking teams to the staff





# Hospital's Community Diagnostic Centre

who operate the scanners we currently have on site at Mexborough, they have all done a fantastic job. We still have some way to go with our backlog, and returning to levels seen prior to the pandemic, but the CDC will be a crucial component in our recovery journey."

The first part of the CDC is now complete, plans have been developed by the Trust's Strategy and Improvement team with clinical leads from relevant services and with the support from local NHS Commissioners, the region's Integrated Care System and Cancer Alliance to take the project forward. The 'Phase 2 Business Case' will be submitted in the coming months, and colleagues are hopeful that it will receive the approval necessary from the regional and national team for further funding.

The Trust intends to communicate further about upcoming plans as and when it is able to, and in the meantime is looking for local people to get involved with future projects and developments such as the Community Diagnostic Centre, sharing their views and helping to shape healthcare in the area. If you wish to be involved, please email [dbth.comms@nhs.net](mailto:dbth.comms@nhs.net)

David Purdue, Chief Nurse at DBTH, said: "I want to thank everybody for their hard work so far in taking the Community Diagnostic Centre from a series of plans and intentions on paper into a functioning service which has already made a difference to thousands of local people. Ensuring we have services in a place which is convenient to those we serve is incredibly important, and we see Montagu Hospital as an extremely important site, not just for the people of Mexborough, but also all of those that live within the Dearne Valley, so as a Trust we are pleased to see it utilised in such a positive manner.

"We also need to be realistic about the work ahead of us. Services such as the CDC, as well as our supporting Rapid Diagnostic Service, which underpins much of our cancer diagnostic and subsequent care, are incredible important as we seek to reduce the backlog of activity which has accumulated throughout the past two years. This challenge will take time to resolve, but I can assure local people that we are doing all we can, and going as fast as possible, to ensure patients get access to the care and treatment they need."

Funding for the CDC has been secured as part of a national programme to help the NHS further accelerate diagnostic activity and recover services from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as quickly as possible. It is a share of a £350m national pot to create 40 new centres and was announced by the Government and NHS on Friday 1 October 2021. These new one-stop-shops for checks, scans and tests will provide a combined 2.8 million scans in their first full year of operation, of which the Montagu service will play its part.



# Speech and Language Therapists complete mountain challenge to help local youngsters

Doncaster and Bassetlaw's Children's Speech and Language Therapy team climbed the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales in one weekend to help youngsters in the region get vital equipment to support them with language and communication difficulties.

Five staff, all based in Doncaster and Worksop, plus a family member driving, took on Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowden in May – sleeping in their minibus as they drove between the peaks, which have a combined height of nearly 10,000ft (3,000m).

This challenge follows their 2018 conquering of the Yorkshire Three Peaks, which raised £1,825 and enabled them to buy four iPads, protective cases and multiple Apps to support communication.

As a mobile team who travel frequently around the locality, the Speech and Language Therapists have found that the smart devices allow them access to more resources on the move and allow them to make the information they provide more accessible to parents. The apps contained on the devices help the team to provide more effective therapy for children with severe speech sound difficulties which are challenging and time consuming to address without the new equipment.

Cheryl Orr, Speech and Language Therapist, said: "Since having the iPads, our team of

25 therapists and assistants have seen how smart apps can significantly help children with speech, language and communication needs. Clinicians, children and parents have found the iPads to be an invaluable tool to engage children and help them to achieve their targets, making the therapy fun and engaging."

However, having to share a small number of iPads throughout a big team who cover a wide geographical area is challenging so the team have embarked on another mammoth climb in order to raise funds to add some additional devices to their inventory.

**"SINCE HAVING THE IPADS, OUR TEAM OF 25 THERAPISTS AND ASSISTANTS HAVE SEEN HOW SMART APPS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY HELP CHILDREN WITH SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS."**

Cheryl said: "After completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks in 2018 – 25 miles and 5,200ft of ascent completed in 12 hours – we were ready for a bigger challenge for an even greater cause.

"The National three peaks was a huge physical feat for all the walkers and drivers. We spent the whole weekend either walking, driving,

trying to sleep in the minibus or filling the minibus with fuel and making cups of tea. We all discovered that sleeping in a minibus is very uncomfortable, especially when it is moving. Our fantastic drivers Nicky and Daz Guttridge drove us from Ben Nevis to Scafell Pike from 10 pm – 4 a.m. along many country roads, not an easy drive. It was the hardest thing most of us have ever done but we were positive and worked well together.

"We'd also like to extend our thanks to Enterprise for giving us a very good deal on the minibus."

As of 6 June, the team have raised £1,630 of their £2,000 target needed to purchase the additional resources for children with speech, language and communication difficulties. Even though the team completed their challenge on 15 May, you can still donate to support them here: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/speechandlanguage?utm\\_term=Dv7PBW6RQ](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/speechandlanguage?utm_term=Dv7PBW6RQ)

Cheryl said: "We can't thank everyone who has donated so far enough. In the post Covid climate we need to think about new ways of working to give patients the best possible care in the most effective and efficient way and these donations are helping us to realise those goals. They are also helping the Trust with its mission to deliver greener care. More environmentally-friendly care by reducing our reliance on paper-based resources."







## New hospital garden planted for cancer patients

A new garden has been unveiled today at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, which will provide a tranquil space for patients undergoing treatment for cancer in the Chatsfield Suite. The newly designed space will be known as the 'Butterfield Suite' and dedicated to the memory of Lorraine Butterfield, an extraordinary Registered Nurse who worked for many years at DRI and who sadly passed away during the pandemic.

The garden has been specifically designed to provide a serene backdrop visible from the treatment rooms within the Chatsfield Suite and some patients will even be able to receive treatment in the newly converted garden, which includes a pavilion seating area to protect them from the sun.

The garden will also be used by relatives and visitors to the suite if they need to step out for some air during a longer visit.

Lara Cunnane-Reay, Chatsfield Suite Ward Manager, said: "This new garden will make such a positive difference for our patients and their loved ones. Treatments for cancer

can sometimes be lengthy and are often delivered over long appointments so having an outdoor space that's suitable for patients and their visitors will really help to break up the monotony of a clinical environment and offer a calm space for a bit of respite during what can be an emotional and stressful time."

The garden, which is situated directly adjacent to the suite's conservatory, was officially opened today by members of staff and Trust Chair, Suzy Brain England OBE.

Suzy said: "I am delighted to announce this beautiful, serene space, open. It has been made possible by generous donations from our local communities and we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has donated to the Chatsfield Suite over the years to help us improve the clinical environment for our patients. Their fundraising efforts have meant that we can afford little extras such as this wonderful garden to make our patient experience that little more comfortable.

"Lastly, my colleagues here in the Chatsfield Suite have done an incredible job of organising this project and created something really

beautiful that we can all be proud of."

Lara and her team on the Chatsfield suite organised a charity ball to help raise the required funds to complete the garden. The Shining Star Ball, which was held at the Eco-Power Stadium in Doncaster (formerly Keepmoat), was attended by patients, staff and relatives alike and raised over £6,000 towards the cause.

Hearing of the ambitious plans to create a tranquil space for those receiving cancer care, a number of local businesses also donated funds to the project including Togel contractors, who raised £6,000 at a charity golf day and Retford Rotary Club who generously gave almost £4,000 to the cause.

Another portion of the funds for the garden project were raised during a special charity event organised by Paula Emery, Respiratory Medicine Clinical Admin Secretary, at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, following her husband David received care in the Chatsfield Suite. The 1970's themed disco, which was held at Parklands Sport and Social Club, raised over £2,500 for the garden project.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital's Charity support a number of projects similar to these which help to improve hospital experiences for local people. If you have a fundraising idea and you would like to support one of our projects, you can head to our website for more information at [dbthcharity.co.uk](http://dbthcharity.co.uk).



# Doncaster Royal Infirmary officially opens the Jeannette Fish MBE CT Imaging Suite

After a delay due to the difficulties posed by the pandemic, the Jeannette Fish CT Suite has officially been opened at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI).

The Chief Executive of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Richard Parker OBE was joined by representatives from the Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust (DCDT) and Dame Rosie Winterton, MP for Doncaster Central, to officially cut the ribbon on the service at long last.

Building works initially began in February 2019, following an investment of more than £4.9 million from the Department of Health and Social Care. This money was awarded thanks to a bid put forward by the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care Board (of which DBTH is a key member), to build the brand new facility DRI, and the project was completed in March 2020.

Integral to the scheme was the support of the DCDT, a local charity which has supported DBTH since the early 1970s, raising more than £10 million to aid in the care and treatment of local people. In all, and with support from communities in Doncaster, the team managed to raise around £500,000 to purchase a new CT scanner, which enabled the development of the new suite with the aid of additional funding from the Government.

To honour these efforts, and particularly the memory of the one of the charity's co-founders, the facility has been named the Jeannette Fish MBE CT Imaging Suite, with a suitable plaque to be placed at the entry of the service, and all signage soon to be updated to reflect this change.

A former nurse, Jeannette was a co-founder of the DCDT, and sadly passed away in May 2018. Amongst her many achievements, including the procurement of an MRI scanner at DRI, Jeannette helped to raise millions of pounds for cancer diagnosis, care and treatment, aiding in the purchasing of equipment which helped to bring cancer services to Doncaster, hugely benefitting local



patients. For these efforts, she was awarded a Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2012.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "I was delighted to be joined by our friends at the Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust, as well as Dame Rosie Winterton, to finally, and at long last, open the Jeannette Fish CT Suite. As a Trust, we owe a debt of gratitude to our patrons at the DCDT. Their support throughout the past 40 years has been unwavering and together they have helped to improve, and in many cases prolong, the life of so many local people.

"Sadly, we could not be joined today by Jeannette Fish, an extraordinary lady who worked tirelessly to improve cancer care throughout her extraordinary life. As the plaque reads upon entry to the suite, Jeannette devoted her life to the people of Doncaster, and the town (now a city) is a better place because of her life. We will be eternally grateful, and we can think of no better tribute than to honour Jeannette in this way, and ensure that people remember her efforts for generations to come."

Although the Jeannette Fish CT Suite

officially opened on Friday 24 June, it became operational in March 2020, and since that time has increased the Trust's scanning capacity by around 50% – a particularly timely improvement as the organisation seeks to catch up on the backlog created as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Venerable Bob Fitzharris, recently retired Chair of DCDT, said: "Doncaster is a poorer place since the death of Jeanette Fish MBE but a richer place thanks to Jeanette's half a century of devoted service in leading the work of Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust. It is a fitting tribute to such a dedicated lady that her name will live on in the Jeanette Fish CT imaging Suite.

Increasing CT capacity with this investment and development at Doncaster Royal Infirmary is also key to fulfilling the Trust's Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) commitments. Work which took place across all partners within the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System (ICS) in 2018 concluded that the number of HASU in the region should reduce from five to three, with DBTH maintaining and expanding its service. This change, now in effect, means that the number of stroke patients seen within Doncaster has increased, and as such CT capacity is paramount in ensuring patients receive effective thrombolysis treatment.

Dame Rosie Winterton, MP for Doncaster Central, said: "'As Patron of Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust, it was an honour to attend the opening of this wonderful facility, as well as honour the life of Jeannette Fish who did so much for Doncaster. The benefit the new CT suite and scanner will have for patients is tremendous and this will go a long way in diagnosing cancer, as well as its use in urgent and emergency patients."

You can find out more about the Doncaster Detection Trust, as well as their fundraising projects and how you can get involved, by heading to: <https://dcdt.co.uk/>







## Doncaster launches new research study to improve health outcomes for local children and families

**An exciting new research study launches in Doncaster today (6 July), called 'Born and Bred in Doncaster' (BaBi-D).**

The study will invite pregnant women to consent to their baby's routinely collected health data to be included in research studies. The aim of the project is to help improve the health and wellbeing of children and families across Doncaster. Data collected will provide important insights into health inequalities within the area and inform ways that future health services can address these issues.

The project is conducted using a partnership approach with Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), who host the Principal Investigator role and are the Data Controller for the project. Alongside are Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH), Doncaster Council, Primary Care Doncaster, supported by The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.



Taking part in BaBi-D is voluntary and participants are free to withdraw at any time. This research, like every research project undertaken, is checked to make sure it meets the highest scientific and ethical standards.

As part of the study, DBTH has appointed a dedicated research midwife to the study, Kerry Dooley. Speaking about the project, she said: "Following babies from birth through to childhood and onwards is a really powerful way of understanding the many influences that go on to shape our lives."

"This research will carry on the successful work by the Born in Bradford team, who have conducted many research studies involving data provided by local families. There have been some really important findings through their studies, for example, the effects that maternal obesity has on the weight of

newborn babies, the importance of providing green spaces for reducing maternal depression and the associated benefit this brings to their young children.

"We want to use the data to understand what the needs and challenges are especially those caused by inequalities, and bridge those gaps with local services that offer improved outcomes and greater inclusivity for our communities."

"We are keen to find out what matters to our local people and welcome your thoughts on research topics you would like the programme to explore. Do not hesitate to get in touch to give your suggestions."

For families keen to get involved, more information will be shared on the Trust's website and on social media in the coming months. You can find out more about the study, or provide the team with your research ideas, on the dedicated Born and Bred in Doncaster website: [www.dbth.nhs.uk/babi-d](http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/babi-d). If you would like to read more about the findings from the research studies conducted by the Born in Bradford project, please go to: <https://borninbradford.nhs.uk/our-findings/>





# Bright yellow blankets and slippers aid in fall prevention at the Trust

Health professionals at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) have begun a pilot scheme to pair vulnerable patients with yellow blankets and slipper socks, visually signifying to staff that the individual may be at a heightened risk of falling.

Esther Lockwood, Falls Lead Practitioner and Holistic Care Team Lead at the Trust said, "Evidence from similar projects in hospitals across the country has shown that this way of working reduces the incidence of falls.

"The slipper socks and blankets are bright yellow so that if someone sees a patient walking around the ward area they are aware that they are at a high risk of falling and support accordingly.

While clinical systems are in place to highlight individuals who are more vulnerable or have complex needs, the organisation's Holistic Care Team wanted to implement something which stood out, allowing busy staff to pick on these visual cues quickly and easily.

The process starts at admission, with colleagues within the Emergency Department supplied with 'falls kits' which contain the yellow garments, and those assessing patients as they arrive are provided with an additional

set of questions to identify those who may be at risk.

Esther Lockwood continues: "We heard about the 'falls kits' through partners and thought this may help to communicate to all staff, in a simple way, our patients with an increased risk of falls.

"So far, we've found that it has worked really well – taking a really simple idea and using it to keep those with us safe."

Naturally, a patient having a fall can have a huge impact on their health. The potential consequences extend not only to physical injury and limitations in mobility but also have a psychological impact – such as fear of further falls which can then limit their independence.



The kits are supplied by Medline who have supported the trial with both the education and training of staff, collection of feedback, and provision of posters and pull up banners to aid communication of the project to ensure staff get involved.

Esther concludes: "As a team we have been really encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by colleagues to implement this way of working and, ultimately, reduce falls within our hospitals. I want to share my thanks with everyone who has gotten involved and helped us to make our wards and services that little bit safer."

The Holistic Care Team was launched within the Trust in March 2021. The team consists of specialist nurses as well as allied health professionals with significant expertise of preventing falls and deconditioning.

Abigail Trainer, Director of Nursing at DBTH, said: "I want to thank Esther and the wider Holistic Care team for their hard work in implementing 'See Yellow, Think Falls'. The best ideas and innovations are often incredibly simple, and anything that increases vigilance amongst colleagues and reduces potential harm for our patients is an excellent development, and one that the Trust wholeheartedly wants to champion."



# We've appointed our first-ever Research Midwife

At the end of 2021, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) appointed its first ever Research Midwife.

Kerry Dooley, who initially joined the Trust in 2013, has worked across all areas of the Maternity Department between the Trust's Doncaster and Bassetlaw sites in her almost decade with DBTH.

The University of York graduate, who is also the Clinical Lead for new study 'Born and Bred in Doncaster' (known in the shortened form of 'BaBi-D'), is passionate about increasing the research portfolio across the Children and Families directorate within the hospitals.

Kerry said: "Ultimately by doing this role I would like to help improve the care women and their families receive locally and nationally through research."

Kerry wasted no time getting stuck in and alongside leading Babi-D she is supporting studies exploring hypertension in pregnancy, fertility and the care given to women with rheumatoid diseases whilst pregnant.

It is vital to have speciality nurses and midwives who raise the profile of research and increase research engagement, Kerry explained.

She said: "Evidence shows that hospitals active in clinical research have better patient care outcomes not only for patients involved in trials but also by driving improvement across our services."

For Kerry, one of the main draws to the role as Research Midwife was the opportunity to get involved with Babi-D, one branch of a larger national cohort study.

Inspired by 'Born in Bradford', a study that initially tracked the health and wellbeing of over 13,500 children and their parents for nearly four years, BaBi-D focuses primarily on the data collection of pregnant women in Doncaster.

The aim is to use and analyse this data to better understand the health of our local population with long-term benefits such as improved and tailored health services and a reduction in health inequalities.

Kerry said: "Studying babies from before birth is a really powerful way of understanding the many influences that shape our life."

Some of the key findings, and outcomes, for the Born in Bradford study included:

- Childhood obesity could be reduced by intervention with pregnant mums in the first 1001 days of life.
- Up to 40% of childhood obesity could be explained by being overweight or obese in pregnancy.
- Greater availability of green spaces is associated with healthier birth weight amongst babies.
- Green spaces also reduced the risk of depression in pregnancy and improved the mental wellbeing amongst young children.
- Data from the study encouraged Bradford council to reroute buses to improve childhood asthma.

For upcoming information on this study, follow this link: <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/research-and-development/babi-d/>

**"STUDYING BABIES FROM BEFORE BIRTH IS A REALLY POWERFUL WAY OF UNDERSTANDING THE MANY INFLUENCES THAT SHAPE OUR LIFE."**





# Fluoroscopy room opens at Doncaster Royal Infirmary

**A brand new fluoroscopy room has been opened at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, following investment of more than £410,000.**

Fluoroscopy is a medical procedure that makes a real-time video of the movements inside a part of the body by passing x-rays through it over a period of time. Fluoroscopy is commonly used to check how a patient's stomach and intestines are working for example if food is being properly swallowed, amongst many other investigations and examinations.

The new suite at DRI features a Siemens Luminos Lotus Max, a two-in-one fluoroscopy and radiography machine, which will enable the Trust's radiology team to undertake digital film imaging, as well as the aforementioned procedure.

Now in operation, the service supports crucial diagnostics within endoscopy, speech and language therapy, as well as barium studies and urology and Gynaecology dynamic studies, to name a few.

The hybrid nature of the Fluoroscopy room allows staff to use it for all plain film imaging

from any source, improving waiting times and accessibility for all. The room is particularly useful for those with complex needs, disabled as well as paediatric patients due to the extra adjustability of the equipment to accommodate individual requirements. For example, the table goes low enough for children to get on unassisted, the table can go vertically with the patient on it, so helping moving and handling. For patients who cannot lie flat, the team can X-ray spines and knees standing whilst they are fully and safely supported from behind.

Jennifer Tilley, Lead General Radiographer at Doncaster and

Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with our fluoroscopy room and I want to thank everybody involved in its creation. This vital new facility brings the general x-ray department at DRI further into the modern era of technology and capabilities. It is the first deployment of this specification in the country and I know it will have a significant impact on the work we do here, ensuring patients get the very best care."

While much of the budget of the project was assigned to the procurement of the specific technology required, the team were also keen to ensure that

the clinical environment was calming for those undergoing examinations, and featured warm colours and mood lighting.

Jennifer concludes: "As we move forward and recover from the pandemic, medical imaging and our overall diagnostic capacity will be absolutely key to tackling the backlog of activity which has accumulated over the past two years. With this in mind, our final Computerized Radiology room on this site is also being refurbished in the next month which will mean we have a fully digital general X-ray department at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, and will enable us to further develop our capacity on our other sites 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.





# Local hospitals host special graduation ceremony for international recruits

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has hosted a special graduation ceremony for 38 newly-appointed Registered Nurses, primarily recruited from India following the successful completion of the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), allowing them to clinically practice in the United Kingdom.

Since 2020, the Trust has recruited around 50 individuals from overseas, supporting them to gain official accreditations as well as settle within the country. All of them are fully trained and registered within their country of origin, and have been appointed to take up roles across a variety of specialities including renal medicine, diabetes and endocrinology and general nursing.

In total, 10 cohorts of nurses have helped to bolster the ranks at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital. In order to fully practice without supervision, each recruit has had to complete the OSCE. This is a practical accreditation overseen by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) which enables international candidates to gain practice clinically within the UK.

The graduation ceremony was organised as an alternative to similar events organised by universities when students graduate from their respective studies. Acknowledging the hard work, dedication and commitment of the newly appointed staff, particularly as they have contended with the additional challenges of settling into a new country and working environment and all in the midst of a pandemic.



Taking place in Doncaster Royal Infirmary's Lecture Theatre in mid-February, each of the successful nurses was presented with a certificate detailing their accreditation, with the Trust's Chief Nurse, David Purdue, and Non-Executive Directors, Pat Drake and Mark Bailey, also in attendance and on hand to share their thanks and congratulations.

Of the 50 or so recruits, 38 successful passed the OSCE and will now join the full-time establishment of the relevant wards and services as Registered Nurses. A further 12 will take their exam shortly and are currently being supported by colleagues at the Trust.

David Purdue, Chief Nurse at the Trust, said: "On behalf of everyone at the Trust I want to congratulate everyone who passed the OSCE, and also to those who I am sure will pass in the not too distant future. We are so grateful that these individuals have chosen Doncaster and Worksop as a towns to come to and develop their careers and in many cases they have already proven themselves invaluable in supporting us to deliver the best possible care for our patients.

"From the very bottom of my heart I hope that you have a long, fruitful and happy career with Team DBTH."

With over 6,600 members of staff, of which around 2,000 are nurses, midwives and allied health professionals, long-term recruitment is a focus for the Trust. Overseas recruitment is one of the Trust's approaches to providing a stable workforce to ensure quality services and care for its patients. Recruiting and retaining substantive employees also reduces the amount the Trust spends on agency cover. The money saved can be reinvested into patient care and facilities.

The Recruitment Team at the Trust are currently supporting employment of an additional 50 newly qualified nurses within the next few months with further information here: <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/news/newly-qualified-nurse-posts-dbth/>, whilst further efforts are currently ongoing to place more overseas candidates into roles within paediatric nursing and midwifery at Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Bassetlaw.

## We've launched our Green Plan

As a Trust, we acknowledge the significant challenges posed by the impact of climate change, as well as the repercussions that this could have on our patients throughout Doncaster and Worksop.

As a Trust, we believe it is truly important that we operate as environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable as possible. Implementing the actions presented within this Green Plan will help ensure that the Trust is creating the best environment for our staff and patients, all of which, we believe, will help us in our overall vision of being the 'Safest Trust in England, outstanding in all that we do.'

As one of the largest employers within the two towns we serve, operating across three major sites, a result of this is that we have a significant environmental footprint through our carbon emissions, contribution to air pollution and production of waste materials. Within this plan, we have detailed a

proactive and positive approach that our Trust can take to do our part to reduce and negate the impact of the above and that climate change may have on local people.

This comprehensive strategy will enable us to reduce our contribution to these factors and will help to mitigate potential impacts of climate change. Something we believe strongly is our social responsibility.

We need to embed sustainability within our organisations and must work together with our partners and the NHS to improve our sustainability and collaborate further in to advance our green agenda.

For the Trust to be a truly sustainable organisation, we need all our staff to play their part in delivering this Green Plan and we strongly encourage all of our colleagues to work together to achieve the aims which are set out in this plan.

The full plan can be read here: [www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/green-plan/](http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/green-plan/)

## You're invited to join our Annual Member's Meeting

Each year we invite our members to a meeting, giving an update on the Trust's performance and progress within the year.

The next members meeting is on 29 September 2022 at 6pm (held virtually).

Please head to the link below on the day where you be able to join the virtual meeting

[www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/become-a-member/annual-members-meeting/](http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/become-a-member/annual-members-meeting/)

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News for staff, volunteers and members of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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