



foundations for health

December 2023



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



'He saved me' **p10**

We will miss you Jasper **p16**

Immersive Hospital Theatre **p9**



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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.

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Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals team honoured at national awards

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has won the Estates and Facilities Team of the Year award at the Building Better Healthcare Awards. The award recognises the Trust's remarkable achievement, overseen by the Capital Planning Unit, in becoming the first acute Trust in the UK to remove all reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) from its sites.

The Building Better Healthcare Awards honour the outstanding efforts of estates and facilities teams in healthcare organisations, including both in-house and contracted services. This acknowledgment encompasses various aspects of healthcare facility management, such as cleaning, catering, infection control, and estate functions.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson-Jones, Director of Innovation and Infrastructure at DBTH, expressed her excitement about the win, saying: "I am delighted that the Capital Planning Unit have been recognised in this way. This award reflects the hard work

and innovation of our colleagues, and the monumental efforts put forward to ensure all elements of RAAC were removed from our sites as soon as possible."

RAAC panels were initially considered a modern building material and were installed as a lightweight roofing solution at DBTH. However, recent issues in different parts of the country led to a national program for their replacement. After extensive surveys, DBTH found its RAAC panels to be in excellent condition but still replaced them as part of the country-wide initiative. The Trust received £15.944 million in funding to complete the replacement project by early to mid-2023.

The comprehensive replacement project, which took place at Bassetlaw Hospital, was carried out in partnership with Integrated Health Projects (IHP) and required the relocation of theatres into three temporary modular units. Remarkably, the site maintained full operational functionality of services throughout the project, ensuring minimal disruption to patient care.



Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, commented on the team's achievement, saying: "The Estates and Facilities Team plays an incredibly important and vital role in ensuring the smooth and safe operation of our hospitals. This recognition is well-deserved, and their dedication to excellence is commendable. A huge well done to all involved."

DBTH Star Awards 2023

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On 2 November Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) hosted its annual Star Awards evening to celebrate the hard work and exceptional dedication of its hospital heroes throughout the past 12 months.

This year's highly anticipated awards evening took place at The Dome, hosted by Heart Radio DJ, David 'Dixie' Dixon. Over 500 healthcare professionals from across the Trust attended the evening, hearing the inspiring stories and contributions of all thirteen winners, as well as nominees.

Members of the Trust nominated their colleagues, recognising outstanding achievements and contributions from both individuals and teams that surpassed the call of duty in their roles.

The judging panel faced a challenging task as they reviewed over 800 commendable nominations across 13 categories – a record number of submissions for the event.



During the ceremony, accolades were announced for winners in a variety of different categories, including new honours to this year's awards evening such as Fundraising Champion, Teaching Hospital Award and Agency/Bank Star.

Speaking at the ceremony, Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "The Star Awards is a fantastic way to showcase the incredible achievements of our colleagues

and teams. This year we've been blown away by the record number of nominations and the number of colleagues who have joined us to celebrate this amazing work within our hospital community."

"I want to congratulate all our worthy winners and highly commended nominees – this evening we've seen some outstanding achievements and heard about the truly inspiring work Team DBTH does, day-in and day-out. The dedication and passion of each and every person is incredible. I hope everyone had a fantastic night, and thank you again for everything that you do."

The Star Awards is part of the Trust's Staff Awards and Recognition Scheme, offering the opportunity to recognise and congratulate all the diverse and amazing contributions of individuals and teams across DBTH. The ceremony will return next year for another memorable evening celebrating healthcare heroes.



Patient champion – Lisa Fluin!

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Lisa Fluin, our Rehab Activities Coordinator, was named as Patient Champion for 2023. Lisa was nominated by her colleagues for always taking the time to do nice things for her patients. She does their hair and nails, plans activities for them and spends her free time outside of work organising crafts to keep them busy and take their minds off their treatment. She also isn't averse to staying behind to help our on busy days on the ward.

Teaching Hospital Award – Abhishek Arora

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**University of
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Abhishek Arora, Specialist Orthopaedic Surgeon, was presented with the Teaching Hospital Award at the ceremony. Abhishek is always a driver and motivator to get colleagues involved in research studies. Thanks to his hard work over the last 12 months, DBTH has the second highest recruitment figures to the Fruiti research trial in the country.



Inclusion Champion – Jeena Joseph

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One of our Clinical Educators, Jeena Joseph, took home the Inclusion Champion award this year. Jeena has gone from strength to strength over the last year. She shows kindness and love to her peers over and above anything that is expected of her in her role. She sources places of worship and religious ceremonies in other languages for international recruits and has even got her husband on board to be a handy man in accommodation as they are settling into the UK.

DBTH Star Awards 2023

Wellbeing Champion – Scott Brock

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Scott Brock, Patient
Environment

Assistant in Estates & Facilities, was awarded the Wellbeing Champion trophy for demonstrating true compassion for his work colleagues. He has provided wellbeing trolleys, shared information on healthy lifestyles to help his colleagues stay on top of their physical and mental wellbeing and is the Trust's first ever male advocate to undergo Menopause Advocacy training!



Admin Team of the Year – Histopathology Admin Team

The Histopathology Admin Team are a small team who provide invaluable support to a busy service. Their work is vital to the smooth running of their department and they have been providing this top-quality service recently with fewer numbers. Despite the challenges and having to work extra hard to combat them, the team is always upbeat, professional and unwavering in their optimism.



Medical/Clinical Team of the Year – Stroke Team

The Acute Stroke and Ward 16 team are a large but close-knit team to provide life-saving, quality care to patients. This year, they have successfully implemented a huge improvement to the running of their service whilst adapting to change and flawlessly carrying out their day jobs at the same time. This hard work has meant that the ward has gone paperless and the storing and accessing of patient records is much more efficient and safe.



Rising Star – Liam Boyall

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Liam Boyall, Category Specialist in Procurement, is our Rising Star for 2023. Liam has developed into a new role quickly and adeptly in order to bring about great change for DBTH. Guided by his passion for the environment, this person has implemented a number of sustainability changes to help DBTH on the road to being Carbon Neutral.



Agency/Bank Star – Switchboard Bank Team

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NHS Professionals



The Switchboard Bank Team have proved themselves to be invaluable to DBTH. They are always willing to step up last minute to provide support and switchboard wouldn't be able to run a consistent service without their help. They are always supportive to callers and are greatly appreciated by their colleagues in the Switchboard team.

Fundraising Champion – Carla Spence

Our Fundraising Champion of 2023 is Carla Spence. The Founder of Ernie's Wish, Carla raised £30,000 for the serenity suite appeal which was used to help create a bereavement suite within our maternity facilities. Carla is caring, selfless and accredit to her community. She has raised thousands in memory of her baby boy Ernie – leaving a wonderful legacy for him and improved care for local women.

Change Champion – Jo McQuade and Ward 17

Sponsored by: Genesis

Ward 17, our winners of the Change Champion award for 2023, are colleagues who worked together to make a positive difference to patients at DBTH. They have been working hard to help patients get up and get moving to aid recovery and reduce muscle atrophy. As a result of the tie they have dedicated to this project, they have seen a 60% increase in patients spending their days out of bed where they can!



Unsung Hero – Wayne Chapman

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IHP Vinci



Our Digital Transformation Admin Manager, Wayne Chapman, took home the Unsung Hero award this year. Wayne, whilst not patient facing, is well known across the Trust. He can be found in all areas on site whether its to provide admin support, assigning support for others or simply just moral support. His team has describes themselves as being lucky to have him as a manager and his open-door policy helps them to feel supported at work.

DBTH Star Awards 2023

Supporting Team of the Year – Capital Planning Team

Our Supporting Team of the Year is the Capital Planning Team who have accomplished some incredible, large-scale changes this year. They work to tight timescales and limited budgets but they have pulled off some big wins for our local communities who will undoubtedly feel the benefits of their efforts as they access healthcare in state-of-the-art facilities.



Star of the Year – Sally Abbott

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Our Star of the Year for 2023 is Sally Abbott, Colposcopy Nurse! Sally was nominated by her colleagues for setting up a special staff clinic to provide smear tests on-site – saving valuable time and making it easier and convenient for colleagues to receive this potentially life-saving screening test. Sally takes the time to speak to those who are nervous about the test and has made every member of staff feel at ease in her clinic.

Nursing Legacy Honour Award – Kay Murgatroyd

During the ceremony, we also took a moment to reflect on those who couldn't be in attendance during the ceremony, with a special Nursing Legacy award presented to the family of Kay Murgatroyd, a Registered Nurse at the Trust who sadly passed away in July, aged just 24.

Within this special section of the evening, Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board, said: "We're presenting a special award this evening to the family of a determined, brave and caring young woman who, against all odds whilst battling her own health condition, qualified as a nurse here at DBTH. Kay Murgatroyd's legacy will be felt at DBTH for years to come as we remember her unwavering spirit and her desire to do good.

"She was an inspiration to us all and is missed dearly by all who were fortunate enough to know her but tonight we celebrate her, all her achievements and commend her for everything she strived for and achieved."



Chair's Award – Liam Boyall

Each year, our Trust Chair chooses one of the winners to present a special award to as a personal thank you. This year, Liam Boyall was the winner!

Suzy Brain England OBE, said: "I have chosen one of our winners whose commitment to the Trust and our community really stood out as commendable.

This person has thrown themselves into their role and has demonstrated initiative, a desire and capacity to learn, and is committed to improvements here at DBTH for the benefit of our colleagues and patients and also for our environment.

DBTH is always looking for ways to be a greener organisation so that we can protect the health of our communities for generations to come and this person has been instrumental in generating ideas to achieve this and putting them into practice to make a real difference.



Hundreds of thousands of NHS patients to be offered the chance to travel for treatment

Hundreds of thousands of NHS patients who have been waiting the longest for treatment will be offered the opportunity to travel to a different hospital, if it means they could be seen sooner.

From 31 October, any patient who has been waiting longer than 40 weeks and does not have an appointment within the next eight weeks will be contacted by their hospital via letter, text, or email, as announced by the NHS and government earlier this year.

As part of the ambitious NHS elective recovery plan, offers will be sent to up to 400,000 eligible patients who will then be able to submit their details including how far they are willing to travel – 50 miles, 100 miles or nationally. NHS teams can then identify whether any alternative hospitals have capacity to see them sooner.

In some instances, the patient's request will be uploaded to the NHS' innovative hospital matching platform – the Digital Mutual Aid System – to see if NHS or independent sector providers elsewhere in the country can take on their care.

Despite significant pressure and ongoing industrial action, the NHS has continued to recover elective services with over 87,000 more people treated in August than the same month before the pandemic.

The progress is thanks to the hard work of NHS staff and thanks to innovations including surgical hubs, community diagnostic centres, and the use of robots and AI to speed up surgery and other treatments.

Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief executive said: "Despite pressure and the huge disruption caused by strikes, NHS staff have made great progress in reducing the longest waits for patients – this new step to offer NHS patients who have been waiting the longest the opportunity to consider travelling for treatment is just another example of how we are introducing new approaches to reduce how long patients wait, while improving the choice and control they have over their own care.

"Giving this extra option to these patients also demonstrates the clear benefits of a single national health service, with staff able to share capacity right across the country.

"So, whether a patient's care moves to the next town or somewhere further away, it is absolutely right that we make the most of available capacity across the country to continue to reduce the backlogs that have inevitably built up due to the pandemic and provide the best possible service for patients."

Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said: "Empowering people to choose where

and when they receive their treatment will help tackle waiting lists and improve access to NHS care.

"From today, those waiting 40 weeks or more will be given more options to speed up treatment, including at hospitals with shorter waiting times or using capacity within the independent sector.

"This is the next step in our plan build a health service around patients and follows on from the roll out of Community Diagnostic Centres, surgical hubs and virtual wards to unlock capacity in the NHS."

It is estimated that approximately 400,000 patients (5% of the overall waiting list) meet the criteria and will be contacted by their hospital.

If no alternative hospital agreed with the patient is found within eight weeks of starting the process, the patient will remain with their current provider and keep their position on the waiting list. Some patients will not be eligible if their clinical condition is too complex, making it inappropriate to travel.

Eligible patients will be contacted directly by their NHS trust or independent sector provider and should not contact their GP practice or hospital.



DBTH and Panjango Revolutionise Learning with Immersive Hospital Theatre Virtual Tour

Earlier this year, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) partnered with Panjango, a visionary education company, to create an immersive virtual tour of the modular theatres within the women and children's hospitals at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

This collaborative effort is poised to reshape the way we approach learning, extending an exceptional opportunity to both students and patients to uncover the inner workings of a hospital environment. With Panjango leading the way and in partnership with DBTH, this initiative is further bolstered by the support of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, aligning with their campaign to spotlight local authorities across South Yorkshire.

DBTH is all about offering complete learning that goes beyond regular classrooms. The collaboration with Panjango shows this commitment by using advanced education technology alongside real-world insights. This immersive virtual tour gives an exciting and informative experience. Through the virtual tour people can understand hospital theatres deeply by exploring the environments, jobs, tools, and daily life of theatre professionals.

One of the highlights of this virtual tour is the involvement of actual members of the orthopaedic surgical team, who recreated a live theatre scenario. This immersive approach allows students and viewers an insight into the entire process – from administering anaesthesia to the actual surgery through to post-operative recovery – providing an authentic and informative learning experience.

Kelly Turkhud, Vocational Education Manager at DBTH, emphasised the significance of this collaboration, stating, "Our collaboration with Panjango truly embodies our commitment to creating extraordinary learning experiences here at DBTH. This virtual tour isn't just a glimpse into the health and care world – it's a captivating display that opens the doors to a wide array of exciting healthcare careers. We're genuinely excited about this partnership because it isn't just a win for students; it's a win for anyone intrigued by the prospect of working in theatres or even those interested in how theatres work.

This collaboration isn't just about knowledge transfer; it's about highlighting the paths of possibilities for our students and our broader community. We're able to create an educational experience that's both informative and enlightening."

Beyond its educational value, the virtual tour also serves as an invaluable resource for patients and their families. By offering an immersive view of the theatre environment, the tour can help alleviate any concerns or uncertainties patients may have before undergoing surgery.

Jon Maiden, Founder, and CEO of Panjango, shared his excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to collaborate with DBTH to bring real-world experiences into education. By merging technology with practical insights, we aim to equip students with relevant skills and knowledge that will empower them in their future endeavours. Additionally, it's a rare chance to showcase a behind-the-scenes hospital theatre, offering insight into a usually off-limits area and strengthening the bond between healthcare and the community."

This innovative collaboration between DBTH and Panjango sets a precedent for future partnerships between educational institutions and industries. By leveraging immersive experiences, both organisations strive to enhance learning outcomes, foster career exploration, and create a lasting positive impact.

You can take the tour on the following website: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=HoWhPdFjXgp>



'He saved me': Hospital worker runs 92 miles after three spinal surgeries thanks to dedicated surgeon

After receiving three spinal surgeries within six months, a hospital worker has completed 92 miles in a 24-hour running event, placing 12th out of 494 others.

Julie Wragg, who works as a Care Practitioner within Dementia and Delirium at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, commends the work of Mr Pande, the Orthopaedic Surgeon who completed her surgeries.

The 47-year-old said "We need to celebrate our amazing surgeon who against all the odds, not only made me walk again, he gave me back my life. I owe him so much."

In June 2022, Julie received emergency spinal surgery after she suffered a ruptured disc during a 34-mile ultra race.

A long-distance runner since 2017, Julie was devastated when she discovered she had

damaged a nerve. She said: "I couldn't walk properly. At the time, Mr Pande thought this could be permanent."

In August, she found herself on the operating table again, and though she returned to work in October, December saw her back in the hospital a third time for a reconstruction and fusion of her lower back.

A marathon of a different kind took place, with Mr Pande spending seven hours cutting, screwing, and reconstructing Julie's spine using special synthetic discs and smaller-than-usual screws.

Julie said: "I'm only 4'8" and the normal screws Mr Pande uses are too long for me. He even made sure my back tattoo was sewn back together perfectly."

In May 2023, Julie returned to running short



distances. Having run 100 miles in 23 hours for a hospital charity in September 2021, Julie had come to appreciate every step as a victory.

She said: "I had resigned myself to the fact that I was never going to do anything spectacular again. I was happy just to be able to put one foot in front of the other."

However, fate had a different plan. Overnight, between 15 – 16 September 2023, Julie accomplished a gruelling 92 mile run in just 24 hours, ranking 12th out of 494 participants in the Equinox24 event—a 6-mile loop race where runners aim to complete as many laps as possible.

Julie said: "I would have been ecstatic with 3 laps. I ended up doing 15! I absolutely did not set out to do that! I just wanted to take part socially."

Julie explained despite this accomplishment, she will 'never' be able to sit for long periods, lift heavy objects or bend properly. She said: "I am limited now on what clinical work I can do because my back doesn't bend in the right place. However, Mr Pande saved me. I know that sounds dramatic, but he believed in me."

Reflecting on her accomplishment, she said: "It is a minor miracle that I was able to complete such a long distance so soon after having such a major operation. Once I started, I found I just kept going."

Mr Pande, who has worked at the Trust for just under 12 years, said: "I want to congratulate Julie on her rapid recovery and I truly appreciate her zest for life. Though I enabled her surgery, it is Julie's determination which has seen her through. I wish her the very best."

DBTH awarded Menopause Friendly Accreditation

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has been recognised as a leading employer in workplace inclusivity, announcing their recent Menopause Friendly Accreditation achievement.

Led by NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), DBTH is one of only 15 organisations to be awarded this accreditation locally. In working towards this standard, the Trust has spent the last nine months transforming the way in which colleagues experiencing the menopause are supported in the workplace.

The menopause usually occurs between the ages of 45 and 55, although can begin earlier, when the ovaries run out of eggs and the hormones oestrogen, progesterone, and testosterone fall. The perimenopause is the stage before the menopause when hormone levels are beginning to decline and symptoms start.

The menopause transition can have a significant and challenging impact on many women, especially whilst at work. Symptoms are often debilitating and unpredictable, including hot flushes, anxiety, insomnia, problems with concentration and memory, fatigue, headaches, muscle and joint pains, urinary symptoms and low mood. These symptoms can last for a number of years, making it even more imperative for workplaces to support their employees during this time.

Central to this achievement has been the tireless efforts of the Trust's Health and Wellbeing Team, helping to create and deliver a robust programme of activities, schemes and support available surrounding the menopause, including a dedicated group chat for colleagues to reach out and discuss their experiences.

The team's weekly Wellbeing Wednesday sessions have been a prominent feature of this support, offering informative sessions on menopause related topics such as nutrition, sleep and diet, alongside special sessions led by expert guest speakers, including Channel 4's Dr Dawn Harper.

The DBTH Learning Resource Centre have also been working to cultivate a menopause library, offering a wide selection of books on the topic of menopause for colleagues to borrow. The Health and Wellbeing Team also offer an array of literature, including popular titles such as Davina McCall's 'Menopausal', contributing to the facilitation of informed discussions around the menopause.

Whilst the Trust maintains a largely female dominated workforce, with over 80% of all colleagues identifying as female, DBTH's



commitment has not only been to supporting colleagues experiencing the menopause but also raising awareness of the challenges and tackling stigma surrounding the menopause throughout the wider hospital community. All colleagues, regardless of role or gender, have the opportunity to join information sessions and get involved in learning about how they can support their peers, team members, partners and families during the life stage.

Last month also saw the introduction of a new Menopause Policy at the Trust, outlining information and support for colleagues and line managers, including detail on symptoms team members may experience and guidance on reasonable adjustments that are available. This new policy helps to bolster the menopause support already available at the Trust, providing a transparent framework for colleagues seeking assistance. What's more, through the policy, colleagues who are absent from work can now record menopause linked to their reason for absence, helping to ensure managers and team members are aware to offer further support and aims to de-stigmatise the experience, recognising the menopause as a legitimate life stage many colleagues will face.

A colleague who has received wellbeing support surrounding the menopause from the Trust's Health & Wellbeing Team, shared: "Thank you to the team for all of their hard work. I don't think they realise what a difference they've made to me – I was genuinely suffering before their support."

In working towards broadening support for colleagues, the Trust has introduced trained menopause advocates, creating an understanding environment where sharing

experiences is encouraged, and colleagues feel safe and comfortable to open up.

The team of 15 trained advocates have completed comprehensive training by Henpicked – leaders in menopause in the workplace training – equipping them with the tools to support colleagues and line managers on the menopause journeys of all at DBTH. The team are working hard across all three Trust sites to provide invaluable support through training sessions and facilitating drop-in sessions, thereby fostering a culture of understanding and compassion.

Zoe Lintin, Chief People Officer at DBTH, said: "We are incredibly proud to receive this accreditation for the support surrounding the menopause for our colleagues. We believe it is important to foster a workplace where every individual's needs are recognised and supported. The Menopause Friendly Accreditation reflects our continued commitment to creating an environment where everyone can thrive, regardless of their stage of life. Through understanding, guidance and inclusive policies, we are shaping a hospital community that truly values and respects the experiences of all our colleagues."

In June, DBTH was also awarded 'Gold' as part of South Yorkshire's 'Be Well @ Work Award', recognising the exceptional efforts made by the Trust to support the health and wellbeing of colleagues. Most recently, the Trust's Health and Wellbeing Team won at the Healthcare People Management Association's (HPMA) Award for Wellbeing as part of their 2023 Excellence in People Awards through their collaborative work with South Yorkshire ICB and South Yorkshire Integrated Care System.

DBTH appoint Divisional Nurse for Surgery

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has appointed Joanna Stedman as the Divisional Nurse for Urgent and Emergency Care.

Urgent and Emergency Care is a newly established Division within the Trust, overseeing over 600 dedicated health professionals across vital services such as the Emergency Department, Minor Injuries Unit, and Acute Medical Unit (AMU).

Joanna Stedman, a native of Newcastle upon Tyne, embarked on her nursing journey at the University of Bradford in 1999, obtaining her qualification in 2002 with an Advanced Diploma in Higher Education in Nursing. Subsequently, she achieved a BSc (Hons) in Nursing Practice in 2004, followed by an MSc in Management and Leadership in Health and

Social Care in 2017.

Her career trajectory encompasses diverse roles, all at Bradford Teaching Hospitals, beginning as an orthopaedic nurse in 2002 and eventually assuming leadership positions such as Sister in Care of the Elderly, Ward Manager in Stroke and Neurology, and a corporate nursing role as a Clinical Improvement Facilitator. Joanna's experience also extends to working as a Matron across Acute Surgery, Endoscopy, Gastroenterology, AED, and Stroke. She has notably served as a Deputy Associate Director of Nursing, overseeing specialist areas such as medicine, surgery, AED, Acute Medicine, Endoscopy, and Gastroenterology.

Speaking about her appointment, Joanna said: "I am truly thrilled to have joined DBTH in this crucial role. My vision for the Urgent and

Emergency Care (UEC) Division is to ensure the best and safest care for our patients while fostering a safe and supportive culture for our dedicated staff. I aspire for UEC to be a division where healthcare professionals choose to work, empowering our teams to provide top-tier care, grow into future leaders, and become clinical experts in their respective fields."

Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse at DBTH, warmly welcomed Joanna Stedman, stating, "We are happy to have Joanna on board. Her extensive experience and passion for nursing leadership make her a valuable addition to our team. With her leadership, we look forward to enhancing our Urgent and Emergency Care Division and ensuring that we continue to provide safe and high-quality care to our communities."





Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence (MEOC) nearing completion

The Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence (MEOC), a ground-breaking collaboration between Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BH), and The Rotherham Hospital Foundation Trust (TRFT), continues to gather momentum, with the facility due to be completed within the next 10 weeks, opening its doors to its first patients in the new year.

The MEOC is a dedicated orthopaedic hub with a total investment of £14.9 million, and will operate 48 weeks per year, five days a week, focusing on procedures such as hand and wrist surgeries, foot and ankle treatments, arm and shoulder procedures, carpals, knees, and hips. Its strategic location at Montagu Hospital in Mexborough, ensures that it remains insulated from the typical disruptions experienced by general hospitals, particular during periods of heightened activity in the winter.

With construction advanced and the facility water tight, senior leaders across all three participating trusts, as well as South Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS), were able to step inside the building and view the work-in-progress.

Jon Sargeant, Chief Financial Officer at

DBTH and Senior Responsible Officer for the project, expressed his excitement about the project, stating: "The MEOC is a testament to our commitment to enhancing patient care and reducing waiting times for orthopaedic procedures. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in our efforts to improve healthcare services in South Yorkshire."

With the first patient procedures expected to commence in January 2024, the MEOC is expected to reduce associated waiting times in the region significantly, with the centre to undertake approximately 2,200 orthopaedic procedures in its first year of operation, which accounts for around 40% of the current orthopaedic waiting list.

Dr Richard Jenkins, Chief Executive of both Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, added, "The MEOC represents a crucial addition to how we deliver healthcare. By offering specialised orthopaedic services in an out of hospital environment, we can undertake more operations and provide consistent, high-quality care while minimising disruptions and cancellations."

Patients from the collaborating hospitals in Rotherham, Doncaster, and Barnsley can easily access the MEOC, with it being centrally

located in Mexborough and served by regular bus and train links, and the site is no more than 11 miles away from all participating hospital trusts.

As an additional service, those waiting for an orthopaedic procedure locally will have the opportunity to opt to have it undertaken at the MEOC, or instead within their local hospital.

Gavin Boyle, Chief Executive Officer of South Yorkshire Integrated Care System, emphasised the project's impact, saying, "The MEOC is a vital step toward reducing orthopaedic waiting lists and improving access to care. We are thrilled to see this facility come to life and look forward the positive difference it will make to the lives of South Yorkshire residents."

Before opening, simulations will be conducted to ensure the facility is patient-ready. In total, the MEOC will be supported by around 70 healthcare professionals. The centre will feature two state-of-the-art theatre units, two anaesthetic rooms and a recovery suite, in addition to 12 inpatient beds.

The team overseeing the project want to understand local people's views to ensure patients have the very best experience within the new facility. You can share your thoughts here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VS3CRSH>

Local hospitals appoint Divisional Nurse for Medicine

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has appointed Lorna Ball as the Divisional Nurse for Medicine, who will lead around 40 services and wards across three hospital sites.

Originally from just outside of Bournemouth on the south coast, Lorna moved to Sheffield in 2001 for her university education.

"My move to Sheffield couldn't have taken me further away from the sea," Lorna recalls, "However, since relocating to South Yorkshire, I've been truly captivated by the people and the county itself – I've never looked back."

Lorna began her NHS journey at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield, where she completed her nurse training. Upon graduation, she embarked on her career as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Emergency Medicine. From here she transitioned to Respiratory

Medicine, advancing through junior nurse management roles within the specialty. Lorna later assumed the position of Deputy Nurse Director, overseeing various departments including Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Endoscopy, specialist nurses, Respiratory services, Diabetes and Endocrine, and Community Specialist services.

Speaking about her appointment, Lorna said: "My goal is for our Division to be the benchmark for service improvement and research at DBTH. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and reflection, I want to make Medicine the safest care provider with the best clinical outcomes. I envision the Division of Medicine as the desired workplace for all, allowing our nurses to become true experts in their respective fields. I hope to be privileged enough to achieve that status."

The largest Division within DBTH made up

of around 1,600 colleagues, Medicine is made up of a wide range of services and specialities, ranging from Dermatology to Care of the Elderly.

Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse at DBTH, commented on the appointment, "We are delighted to welcome Lorna to our team. Her experience, passion, and vision for the future align perfectly with our goals at DBTH. I am confident that under her leadership, the Division of Medicine will reach new heights."

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of Yorkshire's leading acute trusts, serving a population of more than 440,000 across South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire, and the surrounding areas. The Trust provides a wide range of hospital-based services, including emergency and critical care, maternity, cancer, surgical, and medical specialties.





Zara Jones joins the Trust as Deputy Chief Executive

Zara Jones has joined Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), taking up the post of Deputy Chief Executive.

Prior to her appointment at DBTH, Zara served as the Executive Director of Strategy and Planning at Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), where she, along with partners in the region, oversaw a diverse portfolio of work, encompassing services areas including acute care, mental health, primary and community care and includes responsibility from commissioning, performance and strategy development perspectives.

Throughout her career, Zara has developed expertise in a number of areas such as strategy, performance management, and commissioning. As an alumnus of the NHS Graduate Management Scheme, her invaluable experience, gained from senior roles at prominent NHS organisations including Sherwood Forest Hospitals, Nottingham University Hospitals and The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust will ensure that Zara is able to make a significant contribution to DBTH's future.

The position of Deputy Chief Executive at

DBTH holds great significance, as it completes the strategic realignment of the Executive Team which has taken place throughout the past 18 months. The role is mainly focused upon the development of strategy, partnerships, and corporate governance, as well as deputising for the organisation's Chief Executive when necessary.

Expressing her enthusiasm about joining DBTH, Zara said: "I am delighted to join Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals. This organisation is clearly people-focused and values-driven, with a strong commitment to delivering excellent care. On a personal level, I am excited to return to an acute hospital and to contribute to the exceptional work that is ongoing within the organisation, and what is planned in the future. This role presents a great opportunity for me to further foster external partnerships and utilise my skills to help to make a meaningful difference for the lives of patients and colleagues."

One of the largest providers in the region, DBTH is made up of Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital in addition to a number of external clinical sites. On average, the Trust cares for approximately

500,000 patients each and every year, spanning two counties which include both urban and rural communities.

Richard Parker OBE, the Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "I am delighted to welcome Zara to our Executive Team. Her wealth of experience, strategic acumen, and passion for healthcare make her an exceptional addition to Team DBTH. Zara's expertise in driving performance and forging collaborative partnerships will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our organisation's continued growth and success, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic.

"DBTH occupies a unique position as one of the few Trusts in the country to span two Integrated Care Systems. As the Deputy Chief Executive, Zara will be instrumental in ensuring purposeful partnerships, seizing opportunities, and fostering collaboration across both South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. By working collectively, DBTH aims to provide outstanding services and respond effectively to the evolving needs of the diverse communities we serve. I look forward to working together to provide outstanding care and further enhance our services."

The passing of Jasper the Cat

With incredible sadness we bring the news that Jasper, our official feline Bassetlaw greeter, has passed away following a short illness.

For many years, this three-legged boy has been a staple at Bassetlaw Hospital, often found somewhere nearby the site's maternity entrance, greeting patients and colleagues, as well as bidding a fond farewell to those departing.

So popular was Jasper that he undertook regular photo shoots, and the mantra 'don't feed Jasper' became so repeated that we considered translating it into Latin and having it mounted as the hospital's official motto.

Most of all though, he made colleagues happy. His presence could make a hard day, evening or morning just that little bit brighter. Jasper was never skinny with his affection, and enjoyed a stroke,

scratch and belly rub from everybody.

To Jasper's family, we share our condolences and we want to thank them for sharing him with us (even if it meant sometimes he didn't make it home until very late).

In every sense he was a member of our team, and we will sorely miss him greeting, and cheering us up, at the start, or end, of a busy day.

To remember our favourite ginger tom, we are raising funds to purchase a bench and plaque dedicated to his memory. This will be placed nearby to Jasper's favourite spot, just outside of Maternity at Bassetlaw Hospital.

Every donation is welcome, so please give what you can. Any surplus funds will be directly donated to DBTH Charity to support patient care and treatment.

Donate by searching [bassetlawjasper](#) on [Just Giving.com](#).



Doncaster midwife raises £6,300 for maternity bereavement services at themed ball

A Doncaster bereavement midwife has raised £6335.95 at a ball she organised to raise funds for maternity bereavement services at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Trust.

Rhian Morris, a Specialist Bereavement Midwife at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI) hosted the 'Butterfly Ball' on Saturday 14 October.

Hosted during Baby loss Awareness Week, Rhian wanted to use the event not only to fundraise but also to inform.

The award-winning midwife explained how money raised from the event will help enhance services, taking them above and beyond the limitations of the NHS budget.

She said: "I want to thank everybody that contributed to the Butterfly Ball to make the night the huge success that it was. I couldn't have done this without you all.

"It really was a night to remember."

In attendance were several representatives from baby loss charities, including 4Louis, JOEL, Lexi Dolls, Aching Arms and Sands Utd South Yorkshire.

These charities support families in a variety of ways following baby loss – from providing memory boxes and dolls to siblings, to offering a community space in which they can process their loss and heal.

Rhian said: "These charities are all amazing, and without the help and support from them we would not be able to do what we do."

The ball featured an auction which included highly valued winnings such as a beauty hamper valued at over £500, a £125

voucher for a three hour pamper package at Healing Holistic, and a £50 Ted Baker voucher, to name a few.

Guests were welcomed in with tunes from the newly formed Essentially Flutes, part of Doncaster Music Service.

The room was decorated with floral centrepieces donated by local florists.

Several businesses lent their services and support, including IKEA distribution, Ginger Fox Studios who created the invites and programmes and Funky Business who closed the evening with their collection of soul, funk and dance classics.

Speaking about Funky Business, Rhian said: "They got everyone up to finish the night on a high."

Rhian has gone above and beyond in her efforts to champion baby loss awareness within the region, including completing a 15,000 ft skydive fundraiser and hosting several awareness stands.

Rhian recently received a special recognition award from the Thorne Rural, and Tickhill & District Lions Clubs – groups who voluntarily serve their communities. This was in recognition of her spearheading of the many fundraising efforts, activities and community work conducted to successfully fund a brand new and bespoke bereavement suite for families experiencing baby loss.

Speaking at the opening of the suite, Rhian said: "The Suite will help give the families a more comfortable, private environment to stay in, and give them time to make everlasting memories with their baby. Giving them the time to say hello, whilst saying goodbye."



Hospital charity raises huge £25,500 through 'Our Shining Stars' campaign

A Doncaster hospital charity has raised a staggering £25,500 through donations to the 'Our Shining Stars' campaign.

Created by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Charity, the annual festive campaign sees large and dazzling stars placed on the exteriors of its three hospital sites: Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital.

Each star has been generously sponsored by local businesses, schools and individuals and is a symbol of the wonderful surrounding community of DBTH.

Running for a fourth year, this merry campaign has a soft underbelly. Each year, some stars will be sponsored in memory of loved ones or for special individuals.

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