



# foundations for health

**NHS**  
Doncaster and Bassetlaw  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

June 2024



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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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## Subscribe to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' WhatsApp channel

**We are trialling a new platform with a DBTH WhatsApp channel.**

The channel works similar to a notification feed, where, once subscribed, you will receive updates from the Trust (updates, news and developments, but only one item or so a day). You can react to these items, however, it does not have a chat function and nobody will be able to see your phone number – the service is completely anonymous.

It's just another handy way to keep up with Team DBTH and your local hospitals.

If you're interested in joining, please subscribe here: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaFg57dFXUuiVhzug42y>

Note: To be clear, this is not a WhatsApp group – you cannot see other users' phone numbers, or contact anyone directly.



# Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals receive significant improvements in survey scores

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has registered significantly improved results in the latest NHS Staff Survey, highlighting the organisation's continued commitment to providing high-quality patient care and a positive work environment.

The survey, which was conducted in late 2023, was completed by over 4,700 colleagues, which equates to 67% of the Trust's workforce and is one of the highest response rates in the country. Comparatively, the national average for acute hospital trusts was 45%.

The survey is designed to assess the experiences of NHS employees to give an indication of how they feel about working at their organisations and how they would feel if someone they knew were to work there or need treatment there.

The Trust, which runs Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Mexborough Montagu Hospital, scored higher on 71% of questions when compared with the national average.

Colleagues also indicated improvements on 94% of questions compared to last

year's results. Most notably, the Trust scored significantly better on questions that asked colleagues about their work-life balance, flexible working opportunities and how DBTH supports them to look after their health and wellbeing.

Zoe Lintin, Chief People Officer at DBTH, said: "I am really pleased that our colleagues believe that the Trust genuinely cares about their health and wellbeing, and that they feel that they have a good work-life balance. We want our colleagues to stay and thrive at DBTH and our survey results this year reflect that we are in a great position to retain our talented workforce, with more of our employees stating that they don't intend to leave the organisation in the coming year."

Each year, the survey results are broken down into seven categories which reflect the key themes within the national NHS People Promise. The results for this year reveal that DBTH has made significant improvements in all of the related themes, including 'we are compassionate and inclusive', 'we are a team' and 'we each have a voice that counts'.

Most notably, for the 'we are always learning theme', DBTH achieved one of the highest

scores in the country.

The NHS Staff survey is an important tool for assessing the quality of care and the work environment within NHS trusts. It provides valuable feedback to help NHS organisations identify areas in which improvements could be made.

Zoe continued: "Whilst these are undoubtedly amongst the best results we've ever seen here at DBTH, we do recognise that improvement is a constant journey and we are keen to strive for further improvements and build on our progress so far. It is our intention to ensure we have a year-round cycle of engagement with colleagues, using what they tell us to make improvements across the organisation by working together."

"I would like to thank each and every member of Team DBTH who took the time to respond to the survey and to provide the invaluable feedback which will continue to drive positive change in the near future."

Following receipt of the full and anonymised survey results, teams throughout the organisation will look to discuss their results, address any concerns raised, as well as build on positives.





# Montagu Hospital marks expansion of Community Diagnostic Centre services with ground breaking ceremony

On Wednesday 28 February, senior colleagues from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) joined construction specialists, IHP Vinci, to officially commence the next phase of development for the Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at Montagu Hospital.

The ground breaking ceremony marked the commencement of a 13-month programme to expand CDC services within the Mexborough site. This includes the construction of a purpose-built unit equipped with a CT and MRI scanner.

It is anticipated that works will be complete by March 2025, with the service opening to patients at that time.

In attendance were clinicians from the Medical Imaging service, the project delivery team from DBTH, ProCure 23 Partners Integrated Health Projects (IHP), and P+HS Architects. This development represents the third and final phase of the CDC project, aiming to extend diagnostic services at Montagu Hospital for the benefit of the Dearne Valley area.

The initial phase of the CDC began in 2021, commissioning the first of two CDCs in the South Yorkshire area. It initially offered patient screening via a mobile MRI unit and an on-site CT scanner. Further funding enhanced the CDC, incorporating an endoscopy suite within the 'Rotunda' area, a prominent feature in Montagu Hospital.

Opened to the public in November of the previous year, this second phase included training facilities and multifunctional clinic rooms, featuring ultrasound.

This project marks the final phase of the CDC, introducing a purpose-built unit housing a Static CT, MRI, and ultrasound scanning facilities, with potential for additional diagnostic services at the Montagu site. The



medical imaging service will retain mobile scanner units on-site during the new facility's completion next Spring.

Accompanying this building will be a new substation supporting the energy requirements for the scanners and accommodating potential expansion or additional services, ensuring the future-proofing of the Montagu site.

In the past year, the CDC service has experienced significant growth, completing over 30,000 tests, including endoscopy, CT and MRI, ultrasound, and cardiorespiratory testing. This figure is projected to double in the coming year, with 68,000 procedures. This expansion brings crucial diagnostics to a location that offers patients increased choice, convenience, and accessibility.

In recent years, Montagu Hospital has received £40 million in investment to redevelop the site. This has also included the introduction

of Montagu Elective Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence (MEOC), providing those awaiting surgery better access to treatment and reducing waiting times regionally.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at DBTH, said: "The ground breaking ceremony marks an important step for our Trust to ensure it brings services closer to our community.

"Patients benefit from services delivered locally in healthcare settings away from traditional hospitals, whilst freeing up acute hospital facilities for urgent treatment. The increased range of healthcare provision at Montagu, including the CDC and MEOC services, offers our patients more options and provides much needed additional capacity in our efforts to reduce the time patients wait for diagnosis and treatment."

For more information about the CDC at Montagu, visit [www.dbth.nhs.uk/community-diagnostic-centre-at-montagu-hospital/](http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/community-diagnostic-centre-at-montagu-hospital/)



# Endoscopy training academy set to bring down waiting lists in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw

A new endoscopy training academy which will school entire endoscopy workforces, including nurses endoscopists and support staff, has officially opened in Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Endoscopy Training Academy (YETA) has one of its three hubs in Sheffield (the others are in Wakefield and Hull).

The academy, which is part of the North East and Yorkshire Endoscopy Training Academy, will coordinate training for all endoscopy trainees, endoscopy assistants and endoscopy admin staff in a streamlined and consistent manner, making training quicker and more robust for those in the profession.

When a trainee starts, they will complete a basic skills course early on in preparation for the next stage of the training programme where they will sit-in on and assist with a number of procedures. Having a central training academy means that this training is standardised across the region and all trainees from Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield will follow the same pathway.

To be able to complete a colonoscopy unsupervised, trainees must perform at least 280 procedures to become JAG certified, 250 procedures for Gastroscopy. Historically, trainees have had to rely on their host organisations to make these procedures available, but with the new academy, they will be able to complete this part of their training much quicker – with equitable access to procedures for all trainees of every professional group.

Although the academy is only officially opening this week, it has already guided five trainees through their journeys to becoming independent endoscopists as part of a pilot programme.

Ryan Jennings, has recently completed an intensive block of procedures through the academy and has qualified as an independent endoscopist, 20 weeks ahead of his original schedule. He said: "My experience with the Yorkshire Endoscopy Training Academy has been fantastic. I was able to perform a large number of procedures under close one-to-one supervision in one immersive training block which not only meant that I could achieve competency earlier, but that the training felt more effective as I was able to focus in, keep up the practice without gaps and really cement the learning."



"During immersive training there is opportunity to work with several different endoscopists and consultants who have different specialities and interests and as such can cover a large range of learning points for different diseases and pathology opportunities that may not be available without the immersive programme."

Mark Donnelly, Academy Director, said: "It's wonderful to see the planning of the academy come to fruition. Diagnostic waiting lists in the region were heavily impacted by Covid-19 and this is just one of the ways we are creating clinic spaces and appointments for people to access the services they need. Having more independent endoscopists means we can see

a greater number of people on top of the activity we already have planned – ultimately aiming at shortening the waiting times for the communities we serve."

Going forward, the academy hopes to offer its graduates the chance to return and help to train future endoscopists, creating an established channel to pass down knowledge to future generations of healthcare workers.

Dr Mo Thoufee, - Clinical Lead for SYB Acute Federation Endoscopy Network, said: "We are committed to work together with the academy in helping the region to meet the training targets and to have excellent endoscopists in the future."



# Medical students trial Virtual Reality Healthcare Training at DBTH

Last month, medical students at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) were involved in an innovative pilot scheme to test virtual reality medical training simulations. The Using Meta's Oculus Quest 2 virtual reality headset as well as Oxford Medical Simulation software, the students were able to see and interact with a computer-generated bedside hospital scenario of a patient, as part of a training simulation.

During the scenario, the headsets tracked participant's physical movements, allowing them to interact with the medical equipment and patient within the scenario. By doing so, they were able to administer tests, ask the patients questions, give medicines based on their results and diagnose.

The scenarios also allowed the students to interact with other medical professionals, such as radiologists and nurses, just as they would in a practical bedside examination. The session then concluded with the clinician calling a consultant for confirmation of diagnosis.

Two final year medical students attended the pilot session, each undertaking a 15-minute scenario followed by a debrief with a fully qualified doctor lasting around 15 to 20 minutes.

The VR headset was connected to a television, meaning that what was seen in the headset could be seen by all those in attendance. The simulation software also gave a percentage score at the end of the scenario allowing the students a better understanding of how well they did.

One of the students reported after the session that "The VR session was excellent and worthwhile as a supplement to traditional simulation. I particularly enjoyed



the variety of patients and scenarios that were available to assess."

There are over 200 scenarios that the medical students can explore using the Oxford Medical Simulation including, paediatrics, emergency scenarios and bedside procedures.

Professor Sam Debbage, Director of Education and Research at DBTH said about the pilot: "Virtual reality is such an exciting prospect that we are exploring here at DBTH, being able to allow our learners to explore real-life scenarios without risk to patients allowing them to build confidence in approaching a range of scenarios.

The Trust has a long way to go when it comes to perfecting this type of training, but the opportunity of continuing to expand our learning environments is

critical to give our learners a well-rounded approach to patient care."

This session was just a pilot but DBTH is looking at how the Trust can carry this training forward to help advance technology-enhanced learning.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of Yorkshire's leading acute trusts, serving a population of more than 420,000 across South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire and the surrounding areas.

Hosting three main hospital sites and several additional services, the Trust is one of only a small number of Teaching Hospitals in Yorkshire and trains 25% of all medical students and 30% of all other healthcare professional students.



# Hospital School celebrates 'Good' Ofsted result

The Hospital School, based within the Women's and Children's Hospital at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI), has been awarded a 'Good' rating in their latest Ofsted assessment.

The report, received in March this year, encompasses the education provision delivered by the Hospital School and as a part of Maple Medical – a local authority maintained pupil referral unit based in Doncaster. Educators are permanently based within the hospital school and are available on site during regular school hours.

The inspection praised the service for nurturing good relationships with children and their families, ensuring they are comfortable and receptive to learning. All children, if well enough, are encouraged to take advantage of the school, either within the classroom or at their bedside.

The school caters to children from reception age up to and including GCSE level. For young people who are in hospital during SAT and

GCSE examination dates, their exams can be taken within the hospital school.

Equipped with its own classroom and a small library, the school is staffed by qualified teachers and available to any child on the Children's ward, whether they are an inpatient for one day or are receiving long term care.

The report highlighted that the school provides patients with a sense of routine and normality whilst being treated for their illness. Further to this, the report emphasised access to books and story time as a significant aspect of the service, actively promoting reading through a book trolley and access to a Children's library within the Hospital library.

The Children's ward features many displays that promote curriculum learning, from science-based topics to information on reading resources. The walls also are decorated by art produced by the patients whilst attending the hospital school.

Claire Riley, Hospital School teacher at DBTH, said: "We are proud to receive a 'Good' rating

for our services, and that our work has been recognised for the positive difference we make to children in our care.

"We strive to ensure that children do not miss out on their education whilst in hospital, we have a focus on promoting reading and ensure that our patients have access to learning resources to enrich their education and patient experience whilst in our care."

Jane Morgan, Assistant Head Teacher for the Hospital School, said: "I am very proud of the achievement of the team. The past few years have thrown us significant challenges and the team has risen above them each time to ensure the children at DRI receive the best quality of education that we can offer."

For any local companies that are interested in supporting our hospital school with donations or other activity based items for the children's ward, please contact Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity.

You can contact the DBTH Charity team on: 01302 644244 or email: [dbth.charity@nhs.net](mailto:dbth.charity@nhs.net)





# NHS Strategy Chief Tours New Service Developments

Earlier this month, senior colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) invited Chris Hopson, NHS England's Chief Strategy Officer, to tour some of the exciting new capital projects within the Trust.

The visit follows DBTH's recent success in securing several multi-million pound investments to redevelop and introduce new services at both its Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital sites.

Led by Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at DBTH, the tour commenced by visiting the newly opened Endoscopy Unit within the Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence (MEOC), both located within Montagu Hospital. These facilities provide specialist healthcare services to residents within Bassetlaw, Barnsley, Doncaster, and Rotherham, previously only accessible within busy acute hospital settings.

Construction on the new endoscopy suite began in March 2023 and was completed in November 2023, and is located within the prominent 'rotunda' section of Montagu Hospital – a rounded area of the building above the Minor Injuries Unit. In total, the Trust has received funding of just under £25 million to develop the CDC, of which £9 million was used to create the new endoscopy suite, with an imaging suite to follow in the coming months.



Simon Rowe, Theatre Manager at the MEOC, meets with Chris Hopson to show him the state-of-the-art equipment in theatres.

At present, the service is available to patients in Doncaster and Bassetlaw, however from mid-2024, the team will also care for individuals from Rotherham and Barnsley. In all, the Trust anticipates that by September 2024, around 1,600 procedures will have been carried out within the state-of-the-art facility.

The tour then proceeded to the MEOC, a collaborative effort between DBTH, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and The Rotherham Foundation Trust. Specialising in orthopaedic procedures, this centre offers reliable surgical appointments for local

residents, safeguarded from the impact of seasonal pressures.

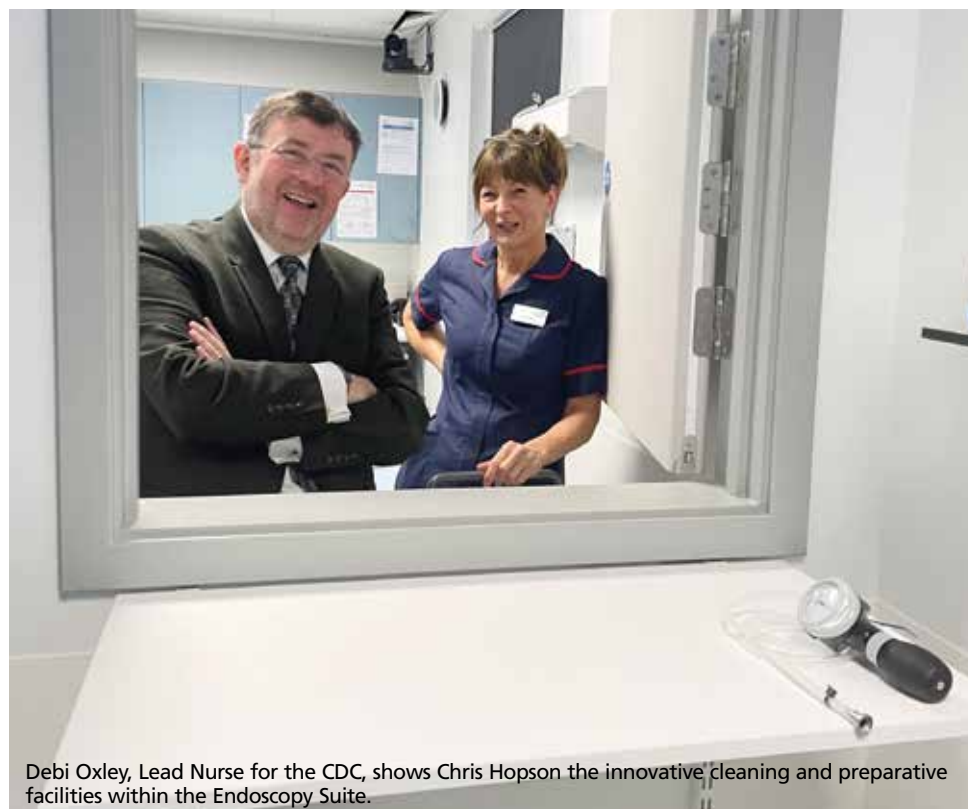
The MEOC is part of a national initiative to reduce waiting lists and will be one of two orthopaedic surgical hubs sponsored by the South Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS). The project was delivered following investment of just under £15 million, with construction beginning in July and completed in December 2023.

The service will operate 50 weeks a year, starting as a five day a week service, increasing to six days once running to full capacity, expected by mid-2024. It is anticipated that knee and hip replacement patients will be able to go home the same day as their surgery, in line with national best practices.

Continuing the tour, the group visited Bassetlaw Hospital to see the ongoing developments aimed at providing a new emergency department. Chris Hopson was given a tour of the purpose-built unit being constructed, funded by a £17.6 million pledge from the UK government. The project aims to enhance emergency care services for the Bassetlaw community, alongside enabling 24/7 inpatient paediatric care.

Speaking about the visit, Chris Hopson said: "I want to thank colleagues for taking the time to showcase the various developments at Montagu Hospital and Bassetlaw. It was fantastic to see the impressive new capital projects they have undertaken. These investments represent a commitment to providing high-quality healthcare services for the community, and it's encouraging to see such innovative approaches to improving patient care."

For more information about new capital projects at DBTH, please visit: [www.dbth.nhs.uk/news](http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/news)



Debi Oxley, Lead Nurse for the CDC, shows Chris Hopson the innovative cleaning and preparative facilities within the Endoscopy Suite.

# DBTH receives new Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report

Following an inspection last year, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' (DBTH) Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating has been adjusted from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement'.

Despite the change in rating, the CQC report published today, Thursday 28 March, recognised a number of areas of quality care and practice at the Trust, which continues to be rated 'Good' for caring. Additionally, none of the services at Bassetlaw Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital have been rated as 'Inadequate'.

As part of the process, inspectors from the CQC visited the Trust in August and October 2023 during a period of industrial action, and assessed whether services were safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led across core services of Urgent and Emergency Care, Surgery, Medicine, Diagnostics and Maternity Services.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive of DBTH, said: "Whilst this change of rating is disappointing, it is not surprising given the immense challenges we've faced in recent years. From the onset of the pandemic to our subsequent and ongoing efforts to recover and address our backlog, we are clear as to our current position, and the steps we need to take to get back to, and beyond, the level we were at just a few short years ago."

Since the unannounced inspection more than six months ago, the Trust has made significant

progress, and the organisation's most recent Staff Survey results have shown positive changes, with 94% of responses indicating improvements in staff experiences compared to last year.

Additionally, in the past 12 months, the Trust has made numerous appointments to senior roles, including a Deputy Chief Executive, with a new organisational strategy in development to outline plans for the next five years. The Trust has also invested heavily in capital projects, such as the Community Diagnostic Centre, Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre and Bassetlaw Emergency Village, and last year delivered a record-breaking £48 million in infrastructure developments.

Richard continued: "Now that we are able to return to business as usual, an enormous amount of work is taking place, and has been delivered. Initiatives such as the DBTH Way, Just Culture, as well as the introduction of a number of supporting strategies specifically for People, Nursing, Midwifery, Research and Innovation, Speaking Up and Health Inequalities, will help to guide the organisation as we strive to deliver the highest quality of care for local people.

"Unfortunately some of the challenges raised by inspectors relate to the condition and infrastructure of the buildings we currently use, particularly at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Whilst in the short-term this issue is harder to overcome, we continue to make the case for a new hospital in Doncaster, or, as an alternative, significant refurbishment which would address

these issues."

The Trust, which operates Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital, cares for an average of 500,000 outpatients, 125,000 inpatients and 175,000 emergency admissions every single year. It is one of only a small number of teaching hospitals in Yorkshire and Humber and trains about one third of all medical and clinical professionals within the region.

Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse, added: "An aspect of the report we are particularly proud of, and that stands out amidst the findings, is the consistent acknowledgment of the caring nature of colleagues. Patients have expressed feeling safe and well-cared for by our teams, which is a testament to the compassion and professionalism evidenced by Team DBTH each and every day.

"Whilst we understand that there is work ahead to improve, we are incredibly excited for the future, and the improvements we are confident that we will be able to implement.

"I want to express our sincere gratitude to our colleagues throughout the Trust, for their dedication and hard work. It's through your unwavering commitment that we can overcome challenges and continue to improve the quality of care we provide. Together, we can address areas for improvement, celebrate successes, and reaffirm our commitment to delivering exceptional care for all."

The reports are published on the CQC website at <https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RP5>







# Local hospitals host special graduation ceremony for international recruits

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has hosted a special graduation ceremony for 46 newly-appointed Registered Nurses and four midwives 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 more than 200 trained professionals 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 across the organisation's three hospitals.

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-March, each of the successful candidates were presented with a certificate detailing their accreditation, with the Trust's Chief Nurse, Karen Jessop, and Non-Executive Director, Jo Gander, also in attendance and on hand to share their thanks and congratulations.

Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse at the Trust, said: "On behalf of everyone at the Trust, I want to congratulate everyone who has successfully

passed the OSCE. We deeply appreciate the decision of these individuals to build their careers in Doncaster and Worksop. Many have already demonstrated their immense value in aiding us to provide top-notch care for our patients.

"I hope colleagues have a long, fruitful and happy career with Team DBTH."

With over 7,000 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, with the money saved reinvested into patient care and facilities.



## Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) receives Veteran Aware reaccreditation

We are pleased to announce that Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has been accredited as a 'Veteran Aware' organisation.

This distinction means that patients who have served in the British Armed Forces are cared for by frontline staff who have received training and education on their specific needs, such as around mental health, and who can signpost them to local support services.

The Trust initially gained the accreditation in November 2018, when DBTH joined just 24 NHS bodies across the UK as Veteran Aware.

The accreditation is overseen by the Veterans Covenant Hospital Alliance – a group made up of national bodies, including NHS Improvement, NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, the Ministry of Defence, and the Confederation of Service Charities.

Patients and visitors at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital can expect to see posters that services are 'Veteran Aware', such as in clinics and public waiting areas, encouraging them to

notify staff that they have served in the armed forces. This is to ensure that the armed forces community is never disadvantaged compared to other patients.

**"THIS REACCREDITATION RECOGNISES YOUR WORK IN DEMONSTRATING THE NHS'S COMMITMENT TO THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT IN IDENTIFYING AND SHARING BEST PRACTICE ACROSS THE NHS AS AN EXEMPLAR OF THE BEST STANDARDS OF CARE FOR THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY."**

Suzy Brain England OBE, Trust Chair, said: "I am extremely pleased that we have been able to maintain this accreditation. This achievement is a positive reflection of the hard work and dedication of those involved to ensure we are an equitable and accessible care provider.

"Veterans, throughout their lifetime, make huge sacrifices in service of their country and I believe this is just one way in which we, as an organisation, can share our collective thanks and ensure their visit or stay within our hospitals is as comfortable as possible."

In a formal letter to the Trust, General Lord Dannatt and Professor Tim Briggs, said: "It is our pleasure to congratulate and re-affirm Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on your successful reaccreditation as a Veteran Aware Trust.

"This reaccreditation recognises your work in demonstrating the NHS's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant in identifying and sharing best practice across the NHS as an exemplar of the best standards of care for the Armed Forces community.

"Thank you for your work to date, and for your continuing support to drive these improvements across the NHS."

There are around 2.16 million veterans in England, making up between three and nine percent of the population.



# Student Nursing Times awards

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals have been shortlisted for this year's prestigious Student Nursing Times Awards, for the category of 'Student Placement of the Year: Hospital.'

The Trust, which operates three hospitals across two regions, offers several learner opportunities for a range of pathways. In the 2022/23 academic year alone, DBTH hosted an impressive 1180 pre-registration students, including nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, and medical and administrative staff.

DBTH supports learners from both entry-level to PhD study. A significant amount of our learners are on traditional pre-registration placements, but DBTH also supports alternative career pathways, for example, we offer nursing from entry level (care certificate) to Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeships.

Speaking about the nomination, Professor Sam Debbage, Director of Education and Research at DBTH, said: "Being shortlisted for this prestigious award is not only an extreme honour but is also a reflection and celebration

of the fantastic work that all our colleagues, and specifically those in educational roles achieve daily."

At DBTH, we understand the importance of supporting our learners through every step of their journey and are committed to providing the highest quality learning experience for them here at DBTH."

**WITH 24 CATEGORIES, THE STUDENT NURSING TIMES AWARDS RECOGNISE A WIDE RANGE OF ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE WORLD OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY LEARNERS, WITH THE WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY, 26 APRIL.**

The Trust has a dedicated Education multidisciplinary directorate consisting of colleagues from diverse backgrounds, bringing a wealth of clinical expertise,

research experience, and teaching knowledge to the table. This team includes the placement team, with colleagues who are dedicated and passionate about supporting learners throughout their time with us at DBTH. Complementing the corporate education team, colleagues throughout DBTH continually strike to deliver education excellence, reflecting the prominence of education within DBTH.

Collaboration is a key aspect of DBTH's placement approach. Through joint training programs and research initiatives with external healthcare organisations, universities, and professional associations, the Trust brings diverse perspectives and expertise to its educational offerings. The Trust's partners include institutions such as Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Sheffield, Doncaster College, and the University of Lincoln.

With 24 categories, the Student Nursing Times Awards recognise a wide range of achievements within the world of nursing and midwifery learners, with the winners announced on Friday, 26 April.



# Hospital charity seeks community support to raise £100,000 for vital enhancements to support Bassetlaw's new 'Emergency Village' project

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Charity has today, 11 March, launched a £100,000 fundraising appeal to support environmental enhancements within the new Emergency Department (ED), as well as the Children's Assessment Unit (CAU) and Assessment Treatment Centre (ATC) at Bassetlaw Hospital in Worksop.

The appeal, once funded, will support holistic improvements in patient comfort and stress relief, including an outdoor play area for children, a bereavement room and specialist sensory toys, amongst much else.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson Jones, Director of Innovation and Infrastructure at DBTH, said: "We are delighted to launch the Emergency Village Appeal with our colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity.

"We are currently working hard to redevelop the Emergency Department, CAU and ATC at Bassetlaw Hospital, which, once complete, we hope will provide a fantastic service for local people.

"This appeal, with the kind support of our communities, will help to provide those nice-to-have and holistic improvements not covered by usual NHS funding, something that we hope will move an experience within our



service from good to outstanding."

In July 2023, colleagues at DBTH commenced a project, known as the Bassetlaw Emergency Village, to redevelop and enhance the Emergency Department, Assessment Treatment Centre, as well as relocate Children's Assessment Unit and return 24/7 paediatric inpatient care to the site.

In tandem with the ongoing construction project, the charitable appeal aims deliver funds which will be used to improve accessibility for the neurodiverse, as well as individuals who experience learning difficulties. This includes specialist sensory equipment for treatment rooms and a brand new play area, amongst other items.

Rebecca Burns, Learning Disability (LD) Ambassador at the Trust, and whose son is

autistic, explained how sensory equipment can make the world of difference for individuals who may seek stimulation to help regulate themselves in a stressful environment.

She said: "It is vital we get things right for patients from the get-go.

"My son is very sensory so shoes and socks are off all the time. He likes to feel the ground. The sensory need for him to do this is off the scale, so having an outdoor area would be amazing so they can run around and feel the ground.

"We need to keep patients distracted but they also need a safe, calming, quiet space to avoid overstimulation. Somewhere away from the hospital environment and smell.

"Each person is individual and their needs are too so we must try to accommodate them and allow them to be themselves. Appeals like this are important, as it shows we are caring for individuals as a whole, not just as a set of immediate symptoms."

Alongside funding various projects for children and young people, the charity will also be funding a number of projects to support adults such as televisions across all waiting rooms and side rooms, helping to bring the normal comforts from home.

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) said: "We are calling upon our communities and businesses to rally behind this appeal. The enhancements we aim to add will benefit patients and improve facilities for our hardworking colleagues.

"This appeal will enable us to go beyond the standard approach to add a touch of excellence to the Emergency Department, the Children's Assessment Unit, and the Assessment Treatment Centre.

"Together, we can make a meaningful difference for all who rely on Bassetlaw Hospital for their care. I urge our friends and supporters to get behind fundraising for this worthwhile cause and help us create a more comfortable and supportive environment in Worksop."

To find out more about the appeal, what items are intended to be funded, as well as the Emergency Village project, please visit: <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/bassetlaw-appeal/>







## Hospital charity named winner at national awards

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity has won a national award in recognition of its delivery of the Serenity Appeal, which was successfully funded in 2023.

Launched in Mid-2022, the Serenity Appeal exceeded its £150,000 goal in just over a year, funding the Serenity Suite, a specialised bereavement area for the use of parents who have experienced the loss of an infant, as well as providing a mobile ultrasound scanner for Bassetlaw Hospital, amongst other improvements.

Following a rigorous selection process, the charity, which supports Bassetlaw Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital, was chosen as the winner of the NHS Communicate Award's 'Best NHS Charity Campaign'.

The Serenity Suite, which was officially opened by Her Royal Highness, Anne, Princess Royal,

in September 2023, provides a private, dignified and comforting environment where families can find solace, process their grief, and create cherished memories with their little one. This facility has been meticulously designed to meet the unique needs of families experiencing baby loss, offering privacy, empathy, and specialised care.

Additional funds generated by the appeal were used to purchase a mobile ultrasound scanner, located at Bassetlaw Hospital, providing a better and more accessible experience for patients with pregnancy complications in Worksop.

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board, said: "The success of the Serenity Appeal not only underscored the unwavering support from our local community, families, and businesses but also exemplified our commitment to providing compassionate care in times of need. The opening of the Serenity Suite marked a

significant milestone in our journey towards ensuring that families experiencing baby loss receive the support and comfort they deserve.

"We are immensely grateful to all who contributed to this worthwhile project, particularly our supporters at Tickhill and Rural Lions, Albemarle Homes, and Sands United, as well as our skilled and dedicated Capital Projects and Estates and Facilities teams who delivered the suite in such short order, and I am delighted to see our charity recognised in this way.

"Most of all, I want to thank our communities, who took this appeal to heart and helped us make this dream a reality in little over 12 months."

The NHS Communicate Awards took place on 7 March virtually.

To find out more about the incredible work of DBTH Charity, visit their website: [www.dbthcharity.co.uk](http://www.dbthcharity.co.uk)

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# New library facilities open at Doncaster Royal Infirmary

Last month, new library facilities were unveiled at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, improving learning opportunities for colleagues and students based at the site.

The on-site library now boasts some additional features for learners at the hospital to progress their studies and for colleagues wishing to spend their break times with a good book.

Three 'pods' have been created, which can be used as 'hot desk' areas which offer quiet workspaces with ambient lighting and power points for laptops and mobile phones. These are open during the library's opening hours, and have mainly been used by students who need a quiet spot for studying or for colleagues who may need a temporary workspace, often working across one of the Trust's many sites.

In addition to the pods, the library has also been kitted out with a new IT suite where the team are able to deliver training to colleagues on things like finding and appraising clinical and medical evidence.

Rounding out the improvements, the facility has been fitted with a cosy and comfortable reading area which features a dedicated corner of self-help and other mindfulness and wellbeing books, as well as comfortable seating ideal for break-time reading. This forms part of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) health and wellbeing offer for colleagues, which aims to provide support for mental, financial and physical wellbeing.

The library has also begun to host social activities for colleagues including a book club which is proving to be exceedingly popular, and colleagues can also take up the offer of a 'blind date with a book' project where individuals are able to pick up a wrapped-up piece of literature to take home and keep.

Patients are able to also benefit from the facility, which has a variety of reading books which are provided by Doncaster City Council and a team of fabulous Trust volunteers who deliver a library trolley service on to the wards.

The new facilities were officially opened by Suzy Brain England, Trust Chair, who said: "Our library facilities are one of the many things about DBTH which attract students and learners to completing their qualifications with us. We are exceptionally lucky to already have such high-quality services. These new facilities and the new information technology will give our library colleagues the infrastructure to bolster these already fantastic services.

"The new IT facilities are particularly important as it will allow for further training for our people, enhancing our commitment to development – something that is exceptionally important as we work towards our goal of becoming a university teaching hospital trust in the future.

"Thank you to our library team for their efforts in making these new facilities possible and to our estates team who have facilitated their ideas and finished the area beautifully."





# COVID memorial leaves lasting legacy for Doncaster Community

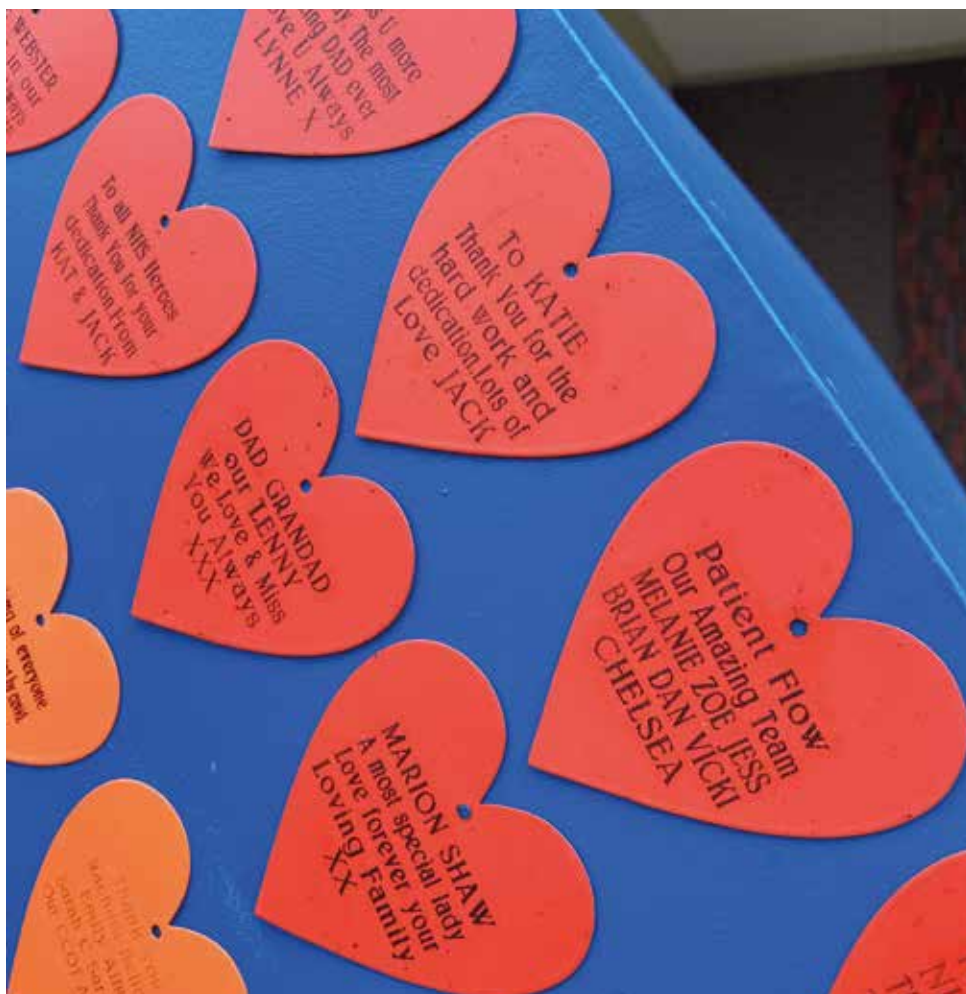
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals announces that a new Macmillan 'Space Oasis' area has opened at Doncaster Royal Infirmary to support those affected by cancer.

The dedicated area which provides support, information and advice, has been funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity which helps people affected by cancer through their journeys. The facility has an open area with information available to collect and a private consultation room for those more personal conversations with loved ones.

Previously, the onsite Macmillan cancer information service was situated in the outpatients seating/reception area of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, this area was converted into a COVID-restricted zone, prompting the removal of the pod due to its size and lack of use.

Since then, the on-site Macmillan information and support service, tucked away in a side room within the outpatients 2 area, was lacking valuable visibility for patients seeking support and a quiet space. The newly refurbished space is recognisable in the Macmillan's green branding with open-access walk-in area, making it a welcoming and comfortable environment for all.

Space Oasis will now offer a friendly, private environment for patients, carers and family members affected by cancer, to access appropriate information and support, from managing symptoms to advice on benefits and financial support. The dedicated support space can provide expert help and has a wide-range of Macmillan booklets to take away, aiming to increase support referrals and improve the experiences of patients diagnosed with cancer.



Lesley Barnett, Deputy Director of Nursing for Cancer Services, said: "We are so pleased to be opening this refurbished space at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Space Oasis will not only bridge the gap left by the removal of the

previous Macmillan cancer information pod but will also enhance the way we deliver cancer information services, making further help more accessible, visible, and supportive for patients and their families."



## Refurbishments







# Sheffield Children's Hospital

## Refurbishment

**Client:** Sheffield Children's Hospital

**Sector:** Healthcare

**Type:** Refurbishment

**Procurement Method:** Tender

**Location:** Sheffield

**Project Value:** £3.5 million

### Project Description:

A 12-month refurbishment project of Ward 6 at the Sheffield Children's Hospital creating a newly transformed Cancer and Leukaemia ward. This involved a complete strip out taking the building back to a concrete shell. We also built an extension at the back of the ward to form new doctor office with kitchens and places for the staff to relax on their breaks. In the new ward area we created ensuite bespoke bedrooms, interactive playrooms, school rooms and more for the children, to make the stay as comfortable as possible. Around the back of the hospital in between 3 building we manufactured and installed a steel mezzanine plant deck at roof level, on this 2 new AHU and 2 new chillers were built servicing all ward 6 and the ED department sending fresh filtered air in the ensuites.

Our works included new mechanical and electrical installations, new partitioning and ceilings, replacement of all external windows on the entire hospital and roof coverings, all the joinery in the bedrooms was bespoke making the new rooms bright and welcoming, it is now a more comfortable place to stay.

### The Solution:

Working a tricky shaped building can sometimes cause problems, luckily our teams knew how to solve problems quickly so as not to cause any hold ups. Biggest issue was the size of the void above the ceiling and fitting the vast ducts up there whilst also getting electrics and pipe work underneath, all the teams working hand in hand, so they all had enough space.

The design and build steel plant deck at roof level connects to three different building on four different elevations. The steel had to be crane lifted over the roof of the main hospital building and assembled from a crash deck in the void between all four buildings. This deck had to be designed and installed in phases this was subject to road closure restrictions to the main road in front of the hospital and the installation was completed while operations continued in all four of the adjacent hospital buildings.

### Testimonial:

Project was very successful, work was done to the scheduled program and completed with respect to the hospital's requirements. A safe and welcoming safe space was created for the children, along with quiet and calming space for the parents and staff.



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