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for health



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

December 2024



DBTH celebrates stars of 2024 at annual awards ceremony



£50,000 invested in sepsis care
and prevention **p4**



Additional CT scanner for
Bassetlaw Hospital **p8**



New support clinic opens at
Doncaster Royal Infirmary **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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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.



DBTH invests over £50,000 in sepsis care and prevention

Sepsis care and prevention at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) is set for significant development, thanks to over £50,000 in charitable funding dedicated to enhancing sepsis nursing roles and training.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. In the UK alone, 245,000 people are affected by sepsis with at least 48,000 people losing their lives in sepsis-related illnesses every year. Sepsis claims more lives than breast, bowel and prostate cancer put together.

Marie Hardacre, Associate Chief Nurse for Patient Safety and Quality, said: "When developing our safety improvement plans at DBTH, improving the recognition and treatment of sepsis was a priority. There's no one sign of sepsis and symptoms present differently in adults and children. Sepsis could affect any one of us. With 40% of sepsis survivors suffering permanent, life changing after-effects."

The 'Sepsis Six Care Bundle' is a set of tasks developed by the UK Sepsis Trust to be used if the sepsis screening tool identifies a person is high risk. The specific measurements and care plan to follow include the monitoring of oxygen, cultures, antibiotics, fluids, lactate measurement and urine output. These steps have been shown to reduce the relative risk of death by 46.6% when delivered to patients with severe sepsis within one hour.

Marie continued: "The more people who know and understand about the warning signs of sepsis the more deaths can be prevented. The improvement plan focuses on all the team at DBTH and includes increasing knowledge and awareness of sepsis and how essential it is that the sepsis six screening tool is used."

Following the introduction of the sepsis action group in July 2023, Marie applied for £50,000 from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity to fund two sepsis nurse specialists, one for adults and one for paediatrics.

Beth Vincent, who has now been in post as the Sepsis Nurse Specialist for Paediatrics for 11 months, said: "I chose to take up the post because I am passionate about improving patient care. I thought the role would provide a good opportunity to collaborate with the multi-disciplinary team to hear their voices and develop actions to improve sepsis care for our Trust."

The Sepsis Nurse Specialist for adults, Heather Holt, has been in her sepsis specialist role for roughly one month.

Introducing the two sepsis nurse specialists has already had a profound impact on the early identification of sepsis, as well as raising awareness to colleagues, Beth explained: "We've already made positive changes to sepsis care in paediatrics such as implementing the 'Sepsis Response Boxes', 'Paediatric Sepsis



Roadshows' and 'Sepsis Padlet'."

The Sepsis Response Boxes are a tool to support effective management of the septic child quickly. Everything required for the sepsis six pathway is available within it, Beth explained. She continued: "We have had positive feedback from doctors and nurses to say that this has been a great implementation and makes a difference when managing a septic child."

Dr Hugh Wilson, Acute Consultant in Adult Care and Trust Clinical sepsis lead, explained how the mortality rate from sepsis within the Trust has been falling. He said: "Paediatrics has made great progress with the appointment of Bethany as the specialist nurse in sepsis. Bethany's work has been extremely valuable in improving sepsis care in the Emergency Department (ED) and Paediatrics."

Dr Wilson explained how the sepsis action group produced several electronic aids to help clinicians identify and treat sepsis. This includes the sepsis 'Live Tracker' in ED, the sepsis Interdisciplinary Plan of Care (IPOC) applied on Nerve centre and Symphony systems which alert to sepsis, and the sepsis dashboard, an audit tool to read the sepsis care performance of individual departments and the whole Trust. The Acute Medical Unit (AMU) patient tracker highlights patients who have a high 'NEWS' score and are therefore the sickest, alerting the clinician to respond to them first.

Dr Wilson said: "The AMU patient tracker has changed the culture in AMU and has led to patients being seen more quickly with the sickest septic patients receiving priority."

The sepsis action group have also introduced a 'sepsis bloods requesting tab' in 'ICE' – a system for clinicians to request diagnostic tests and view pathology results.

Dr Wilson continued: "We have been very lucky to appoint Heather Holt as our sepsis specialist nurse for adult patients. Heather is leading Quality Improvement work, teaching

and training our staff on wards."

Laura Churm, Divisional Nurse for Paediatrics, said: "Introducing Bethany as our sepsis specialist nurse in Paediatrics has had a positive impact on our ability to improve sepsis care within the Trust. Bethany brings a huge amount of specialist knowledge to the role. She shares this knowledge with colleagues to make our approach to sepsis cohesive and robust. In particular, she has helped to implement Sepsis Response Boxes which enables us deliver treatment as quickly as possible."

Marie also applied for £2,500 in funding for online sepsis training for staff. Prior to this, sepsis was taught as part of other courses, making the dedicated sepsis training the first of its kind in the Trust.

Nicola Vickers, Clinical Education Manager for DBTH, said: "These dedicated sepsis e-learning modules are the first-of-their-kind in the Trust. What makes our approach unique is that every single member of DBTH, clinical or not, is required to complete them. It is important for all colleagues at all levels to understand the effect of sepsis on our communities and the impact on our workflow as an organisation. Spotting the early signs of sepsis is a useful skill for anyone working in, or linked to, health and social care."

The Health Education England programme, 'Think Sepsis', is also included in the e-learning and is aimed at improving the diagnosis and management of those with sepsis.

Dr Ken Agwuh, Director of Infection and Control, and a member of the Sepsis Action Group, said: "As a Trust we are committed to getting it right the first time with Sepsis. We know the importance of early identification, diagnosis and management of this syndrome.

"With 'Think sepsis', we encourage our healthcare workers to consider the diagnosis of sepsis for every patient that presents in our emergency units acutely unwell or with an acute deterioration while on our wards."

New partnership is set to support cancer patients in Doncaster

A partnership between Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT) and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DBTH) will see a pioneering cancer support service, Active Together, offered from Doncaster Dome.

The Active Together service offers free, personalised fitness, nutrition, and wellbeing support to help people with cancer prepare for, respond to, and recover after treatment. This innovative programme, which has already assisted over 1,000 people in Sheffield, has now expanded to serve the Doncaster and Bassetlaw area.

Developed by experts at Sheffield Hallam University's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre with funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research, Active Together aims to increase cancer treatment options, reduce side-effects, speed up recovery, and improve long-term health outcomes.

Michael Hart, chief executive of DCLT,

said: "We are thrilled to work with DBTH to offer this vital Active Together service from Doncaster Dome and we are looking forward to welcoming the cancer prehab team to the site.

"DCLT's mission is to help people across the city focus on their health, fitness, and wellbeing, and this service truly fits into our ethos."

The expansion of Active Together to Doncaster, along with Barnsley and Rotherham, is made possible by an additional £4 million funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research. The charity's long-term vision is for everyone with a cancer diagnosis in Yorkshire to benefit from these services.

Evidence suggests that exercise after a cancer diagnosis can reduce the risk of dying from cancer by as much as 47% compared to those who are less active. It can also reduce the risk of cancer coming back by as much as 66%.

Toni Peet, Lead Cancer Nurse at Doncaster Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital, commented: "We

are very happy and excited to be offering the Active Together service from a new base at Doncaster Dome. This will make it easier for our patients to access the service as a local community approach.

"Being part of Active Together means that we can expand on our existing service and help more patients diagnosed with cancer. Patients will not only be physically fitter but also mentally stronger before entering their initial treatment phase, which will have a lasting positive effect when recovering."

Active Together becomes the latest health partner DCLT is working with across the City of Doncaster, including local GP Practices and Cardiac Rehabilitation, to support access to services in the community.

The Active Together service is now available at Doncaster Dome. If you have been diagnosed with cancer and want to know if Active Together is right for you, find out more on the dedicated website <https://www.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk/active-together>





Celebrations mark completion of Bassetlaw Emergency Village construction

In early October, construction was completed on the multi-million-pound facility at Bassetlaw Hospital, which will soon provide Urgent and Emergency Care, Paediatric, and selected inpatient services.

Colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) celebrated this exciting milestone with a ceremony to mark the occasion, with Jo White, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, officially declaring the building completed with a formal ribbon cutting.

The parliamentarian, joined by Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive, and Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board of DBTH, toured the Bassetlaw Emergency Department and Children's Assessment Unit, gaining insight into the benefits the new development will offer local communities.

Other senior DBTH colleagues, including representatives from the Capital Planning Unit, key clinicians, and those involved in the construction and design, also toured the completed building. They had the opportunity to see the state-of-the-art facilities first-hand, including the new Emergency Department, Assessment and Treatment Centre, and Children's Assessment Unit.

While this marks the end of the construction phase, it signals the start of the commissioning process, with emergency and paediatric services gradually transitioning into their new facilities in a phased approach.

The opening of services is expected to be completed in the coming months. In the meantime, local people are advised to attend existing services as usual.

To ensure a seamless transition, clinicians involved in the delivery of Urgent and Emergency Care and the Children's Assessment Unit are working together with the Trust's Capital Planning Unit to ensure disruption is

kept to a minimum and patient care standards remain the highest priority.

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, said: "This milestone for the people of Worksop, Retford and surrounding areas would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many people involved in the planning, design and construction of this development.

"I want to extend my gratitude to Integrated Health Projects, Archus healthcare infrastructure specialists, P + HS Architects, Edge cost management, CAD21 and all other contractors who have helped bring this building to life.

"This building is so much more than bricks and mortar – it is an investment in the future of this community, which will have a lasting impact on those who use these services for generations to come."

The new facility will provide a better layout, making it easier for healthcare colleagues to deliver care. The updated design, it is hoped, will help reduce waiting times and create a more positive experience for patients.

Jo White, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, said: "It was my great pleasure to visit the new emergency village at Bassetlaw Hospital. This is a pivotal moment for the local area, bringing a brand-new state of the art emergency department to Bassetlaw and I am so pleased that we will also soon see the return of overnight paediatric care."

The Children's Assessment Unit will offer extended observation periods in paediatric care and reintroduces overnight stays, ensuring that children and their families can receive the necessary support closer to home, reducing stress during difficult times.

In addition, a new outdoor playground is being constructed alongside the unit, designed to provide young patients with a welcoming

and safe environment during their hospital visits. The Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity has been instrumental in funding this feature through the Bassetlaw Emergency Village Appeal, which has set a target of £100,000.

Whilst an incredible £30,000 has been raised so far, donations are still being sought to further fund the playground, along with other items that the appeal has selected to provide comfort and playtime opportunities for children, their families and other individuals receiving care.

The appeal has selected a wide range of items to be funded including new toys for waiting rooms and play areas, distraction tools in treatment rooms, TVs in patient bays and calming lightboxes to help those in distressing circumstances in resuscitation areas.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at DBTH, said: "The completion of the construction phase marks the beginning of a new era for Bassetlaw Hospital. This facility will not only offer modern, purpose-built spaces for care but also acts as a visual representation of the Trust's commitment to serving the people of Bassetlaw, ensuring we can continue to meet the growing needs of our local population."

The Bassetlaw Emergency Village represents the culmination of years of planning, public consultation, and collaboration between DBTH, construction partners, and the local community. The completion of this modern facility highlights the hospital's commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible care that will benefit patients and staff alike for generations to come.

For more information on how to support the Bassetlaw Emergency Village Appeal, visit the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity website at <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/bassetlaw-appeal>

Bassetlaw Hospital improves theatre reception to create a calmer space for patients

Bassetlaw Hospital has recently revamped its theatre reception and corridor, making it a brighter and more welcoming space for patients coming in for surgery. This change is part of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' (DBTH) ongoing efforts to make hospital visits less stressful and improve the overall patient experience.

The updated area was visited earlier this year by Sir Keir Starmer, then Leader of the Opposition, and Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, during the General Election, highlighting their manifesto pledge to increase NHS appointments and reduce waiting lists.

The refurbishment, completed in the summer, transforms a previously tired-looking area into a calm and pleasant space. Patients are now welcomed by a colourful mural and brighter

lighting, which help create a more soothing atmosphere, especially for those feeling nervous before surgery.

“THE NEW RECEPTION HAS MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE FOR PATIENTS AND STAFF ALIKE. I'D LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY COLLEAGUES FROM THE CAPITAL ESTATES TEAM WHO MADE THIS PROJECT HAPPEN.”

Marie Summerly, Theatre Services Manager at DBTH, said: “Having surgery can be worrying, so we wanted to make sure the reception area reflects the care and professionalism of our team. We're really pleased that we can

now offer a much more pleasant space for our patients.”

The project also improved the layout of the corridor and staff areas to make patient flow smoother. By using furniture from other parts of the hospital, the team kept costs down and supported sustainability.

Emma Galloway, Divisional Nurse for Clinical Specialties, added: “The new reception has made a real difference for patients and staff alike. I'd like to thank everyone involved, especially colleagues from the Capital Estates team who made this project happen.”

This improvement is part of a wider plan at Bassetlaw Hospital, which includes new facilities like the upcoming Emergency Village and a new CT Scanner and associated facilities.

To learn more about the Trust and its ongoing efforts to improve services, visit www.dbth.nhs.uk.



Medical Imaging Services set to expand with additional CT Scanner for Bassetlaw

Following investment, an additional CT scanner will soon become part of the Medical Imaging service at Bassetlaw Hospital.

Colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) have successfully secured £1.8 million in funding from NHS England to purchase the equipment, marking a major enhancement to the Trust's Medical Imaging services.

The new machine will be housed in a dedicated suite and is expected to be operational next year.

With this investment, Bassetlaw Hospital will have two fully operational CT scanners, ensuring a more consistent and resilient service for patients in Worksop and surrounding areas. Currently, when the site's single CT machine undergoes routine maintenance, patients are transferred to the Medical Imaging department at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, which involves a 30 minute shuttle ride.

To accommodate the scanner, plans have been finalised within the service to repurpose spaces within the CT suite at Bassetlaw. These

plans include creating a new scanning room, an adjacent control room, and associated utility spaces. Following works, it is anticipated that the expanded service will be available to patients early in the new year.

The Medical Imaging service at DBTH has also been strengthened by adopting a degree apprenticeship scheme to increase the number of radiographers. To-date, 11 students have joined the apprenticeship, with three successfully qualifying and employed within the service as radiographers.

Sara Elliott, Head of Radiography at DBTH, said: "We want patients attending the service to be treated as quickly as possible. Having an additional scanner will enable us to have resilience within the service, providing greater continuity of service.

"We estimate that routine maintenance and equipment failures of the current single machine costs the service around 230 hours of downtime each year. The additional capacity will allow us to offer approximately 500 extra appointments annually, significantly benefiting our patients."

Further enhancements to the Medical Imaging services is supported by a £16 million investment in the development of a new imaging suite at Montagu Hospital in Mexborough, which forms part of the Montagu Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC).

Scheduled to open next spring, this facility will be available to patients from Doncaster, Bassetlaw, Rotherham, and Barnsley, as part of a broader effort to increase diagnostic testing and treatment within community settings, reducing reliance on acute hospital services.

Additionally, Bassetlaw Hospital will soon be opening the new Bassetlaw Emergency Village building that will become home to the new Emergency Department and Children's Assessment Unit.

The much-anticipated Bassetlaw Emergency Village has completed its construction phase in late September, with colleagues now beginning the process of transferring existing services into the building before opening later this year.

To find out more about the latest news, including investments at the Trust, please visit the DBTH website: www.dbth.nhs.uk





New support clinic opens at Doncaster Royal Infirmary

Last month, a new maternity-based clinic at Doncaster Royal Infirmary opened its doors, dedicated to helping expectant mothers who have previously been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM).

FGM is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately injured for non-medical reasons and is an illegal practice in the UK.

The procedure can seriously harm the health of women and girls and can also cause long-term problems with sexual and mental health.

This new clinic is a vital service aimed at supporting women through their pregnancies and birth, offering specialist knowledge of the issues that can arise following FGM. It reflects the hospital's commitment to providing compassionate, specialised care and support for women and girls affected by this practice.

Janine Grayson, Head of Equity, Equality and Inclusivity and Specialist FGM Midwife at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said, "The opening of this clinic represents a

crucial step forward in our efforts to address the needs of FGM survivors. Our goal is to provide support and treatment for pregnant women who have experienced FGM or those planning a pregnancy."

"THE OPENING OF THIS CLINIC REPRESENTS A CRUCIAL STEP FORWARD IN OUR EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF FGM SURVIVORS. OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND TREATMENT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FGM OR THOSE PLANNING A PREGNANCY."

"The clinic will offer specialised care with expert assessment and treatment options for FGM-related complications. Educational resources

and information for survivors and their families will be available through the service to increase understanding of the issues that arise from FGM and to support prevention efforts."

This new service is just one of the ways in which Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals is tackling health inequalities, by providing specialist services that cater to the needs of communities disproportionately affected by specific health issues.

The clinic plays a key role in ensuring that those from marginalised communities receive the care they need, as part of the Trust's wider commitment to reducing health inequalities.

As part of the organisation's wider Health Inequalities Strategy, the Trust is actively working to address disparities in healthcare access and outcomes through targeted services.

These efforts include developing training frameworks to better equip teams to recognise and address health inequalities, alongside other initiatives designed to ensure that every patient receives equitable and compassionate care.

DBTH celebrates stars of 2024

In October, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) gathered at the Doncaster Dome for the 2024 Annual Star Awards, honouring the achievements and dedication of colleagues across the Trust.

Hosted by Heart Yorkshire's David 'Dixie' Dixon, over 500 health professionals came together to recognise the incredible contributions of colleagues across Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital, Montagu Hospital and a number of external clinics and services.

The evening featured live music from Randall Butler, who performed a brilliant tribute to George Michael, adding an extra touch of celebration and entertainment to the event.

This year's awards highlighted 15 categories, recognising everything from patient care and leadership to inclusivity and innovation. The top accolade, DBTH Star of the Year, was awarded to Gemma Thomas, Registered Nurse, for her outstanding commitment and dedication to patient care and treatment.

The Chair's Award went to the Kingfisher Team, who provide compassionate care to some of the Trust's most vulnerable patients. In addition to their usual dedication, their recent handling of a challenging incident with professionalism and grace made them worthy recipients of this special recognition.

Reflecting on the night, Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, said:

"Last night was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the exceptional work happening every day across our hospitals. It was inspiring to see so many colleagues recognised for their contributions, and I couldn't be prouder of what Team DBTH achieve each and every day."

"I want to say a huge thank you to every member of Team DBTH, for your dedication, as well as to our local communities across South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire for your continued support. Together, we're making a real difference for our patients and our region."

"A special thank also goes to our sponsors for the event for helping us to give our colleagues a celebration they deserve."



Star of the Year – Gemma Thomas

Gemma was nominated by her colleagues after she handled a situation on a bank shift outside of her usual working area with professionalism, expert knowledge and support.

Gemma was able to care for and monitor a young baby and support the family whilst waiting for Embrace to transfer the young patient to a more appropriate care setting. Thanks to Gemma, the patient and the family received quality, safe care in a very uncertain situation.

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difficult incident—one that would have tested the resolve of even the most experienced professionals.

Yet, they responded with bravery, professionalism, and grace.

Their actions in the face of adversity are a testament to their commitment to providing a safe, caring environment for every patient.



Inclusion Champion – Richard Woodhouse

Richard has committed himself to giving DBTH colleagues the best possible understanding of how unfair and avoidable differences can affect the way some patients access services. He has developed a training module to educate staff on how to spot health inequalities and how we can make sure some patients don't have poorer outcomes based on their demographic.



Wellbeing Champion – Hannah Wilson and Jessica Smith

Hannah and Jessica have demonstrated true compassion

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for their work colleagues. They advocate for their team at all times and arrange wellbeing sessions based on feedback from their teammates and make sure everyone is looked after and cared for.



Patient Champion – Linzi Banks

Linzi is always taking time to do things for her patients. Many of them have been in touch after a visit to her department to remark on what a wonderfully welcoming and caring individual she is. One patient said that, despite being in pain, she felt instantly better in this lady's presence.



Unsung Hero – Teresa Cox

Theresa, whilst not patient facing, is an integral part of Team DBTH. She is incredibly knowledgeable about the intricacies of her role and is always there to support patients and her colleagues. Colleagues in her team describe themselves as extremely fortunate to work alongside her.



4 at annual awards ceremony



Medical/Clinical Team of the Year – Nutrition Team

The Nutrition Support team is a dedicated, committed team of professionals who all work in unison to provide the best patient care to those receiving perenteral nutrition. They strive to ensure that patients are receiving the most appropriate route of nutrition for their needs.



Admin Team of the Year – Maternity Records Team

The Maternity Records team is a small team who provide invaluable support to a growing service. They help to keep a very large clinic running smoothly and offer an immaculate service to women entering the antenatal clinic.



Support Team of the Year – Medical Technical Service Team

The Medical Technical Services team have accomplished some incredible, large-scale improvements this year. They have introduced new tech to improve patient outcomes, streamline medical practices and collaborate with other healthcare professionals to contribute to holistic patient care.

Rising Star – Bethany Blake

Bethany has only been in her role for a short amount of time but is an indispensable member of her team. She has developed in

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the role at an impressive rate and the service simply could not run at the required standard without her.



Teaching Hospital Award – Martin Deakin

Martin is a supportive teacher and is always keen to arrange shadowing

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opportunities for people in development roles. He is encouraging and dedicated to developing future NHS workers. He is credited with being the reason one of his learners is able to feel confident and competent in their role.



Change Champions – Emergency Departments

Our Emergency Departments have all worked together to overcome pressures and achieve great success with a recent performance challenge. This team have been overcoming ever increasing attendances to their department and work together brilliantly to give the best possible care and to support each other.

Sustainability Champion – Lisa Quean

Lisa is an active member of the Sustainability Steering group and has focussed her



dissertation research on the environmental impact of surgery. Her research has led to changes in theatres to make surgery better for the planet. She has also developed a proposal to supply medical devices that would otherwise be disposed of to developing countries.

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Fundraising Champion – Daniel Wheeler

Daniel has used his ideas, passion and motivation to organise several fundraising events.

The funds they raised enabled the Trust to buy some much needed equipment to improve stroke rehabilitation care.

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Bank/Agency Star – Brenda Lister

Brenda has proved herself to be invaluable to DBTH. She is always willing to step up last minute to provide support and they bring a huge amount of clinical skill and knowledge to their team. Brenda is loved by staff and patients alike.

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DBTH Lights up pink in support of Organ Donation Week

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) shone pink in September to show the organisation's support for organ donation and encourage communities to discuss donation with their friends, family and loved ones.

During Organ Donation Week, Monday 23 September to Sunday 29 September, councils, business, hospitals and community groups around the country turned their buildings pink, symbolising the colour of the 'Yes I Donate' organ donation campaign, to inspire people to share with their families their decision to register as an organ donor.

Nationally, someone dies every day in need of an organ. With almost 7,000 people currently on the active transplant waiting list, each year it becomes more imperative to raise awareness of organ donation and encourage families to have open-hearted discussions about their donor status.

Jane Tute, Specialist Nurse in Organ Donation for NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "It was wonderful to see the pink lights shining across Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals again this year."

"NHS Blood and Transplant are urging people to add their name to the register and we hope those who have seen the hospitals illuminated this week will reflect on their decision to donate.

"Families are more likely to support donation when they know their loved one's decision, so have the 'heart to heart' with your loved ones today."

The impact of your decision to become an organ donor can be phenomenal, saving nine up to nine lives with tissue such as skin, bone and heart valves being used to save and improve people's lives every day. Your decision to be a donor can even help to restore people's sight with cornea transplants giving someone back the gift of sight.

Even though the law around organ donation has now changed to an 'opt out' system across England, Scotland and Wales, it's important to remember that family members will still always be involved before organ donation goes ahead. This means it is just as important as ever to register your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register and ensure your friends and family know what you want and will support your decision.

At present, there are currently more than 30 million people in the UK who have registered their organ donation decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register, with more than 27 million of them explicitly agreeing to be an organ donor when they die. However, this still only represents around



44% of the UK population.

The Trust encourages its patients, employees and wider community celebrate the gift of life, as every donation is precious and can make such a difference to the recipients and their loved ones.

Anthony Clarkson, Director of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant said: "It's brilliant of DBTH to show its support for Organ Donation Week in the year of the NHS Organ Donor Register's 30th birthday. The modern organ

donor card is pink, and it certainly gets conversations going."

"We need people in South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire to not only talk to their families about organ donation, but to register their decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register. This could be the difference between life and death for someone else."

Register your donation decision at www.organdonation.nhs.uk, it only takes two minutes to confirm your decision and potentially save a life.

Local hospitals recognised for pioneering support offered to nurses with national award nomination

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has been nominated for the prestigious Nursing Times Workforce Awards in the category of 'Workforce Team of the Year'.

The nomination recognises the Trust's 'Stay and Thrive' initiative, a comprehensive programme designed to support nurses and practitioners at various stages of their careers within the NHS.

Kirsty Clarke, Associate Chief Nurse – Safe Staffing, who has overseen the project, said: "The success of the 'Stay and Thrive' initiative lies in the collaborative approach we have adopted.

"By bringing together various teams and drawing on their expertise, we have been able to provide tailored support that truly meets the needs of our colleagues. This nomination is a testament to the commitment of everyone involved."

The 'Stay and Thrive' initiative is a prime example of DBTH's innovative approach to workforce support and development. Originally conceived to assist nurses and practitioners

in the early years of their NHS careers, the initiative has since expanded to offer tailored guidance to a wider range of staff at different points in their professional journeys.

The programme's collaborative approach brings together the nursing workforce, education, recruitment, and divisional teams to provide role consolidation guidance, career development opportunities, and health and wellbeing support.

This unified approach not only helps individuals to thrive in their roles but also contributes to the overall improvement of patient safety and care across the Trust.

By aligning the goals of various teams within the organisation, DBTH has been able to create a more supportive and responsive environment for its workforce, leading to reductions in staff attrition, improved retention rates, and a decrease in the reliance on agency colleagues, which can often be costly.

Karen Jessop, Chief Nurse at DBTH, commented on the nomination: "It is fantastic to see the 'Stay and Thrive' initiative being

recognised at this level. The hard work and dedication of our teams have made a real difference in supporting our colleagues, and we wish them the best of luck at the awards."

The Nursing Times Workforce Awards, which celebrate excellence in supporting the healthcare workforce, will take place in late November in London. The event will bring together healthcare professionals from across the country to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions made by individuals and teams in the sector.

DBTH is one of a select group of teaching hospitals in the UK, providing healthcare services across three sites: Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital in Worksop, and Montagu Hospital in Mexborough.

The Trust employs approximately 7,200 colleagues.

As a teaching hospital, DBTH plays a crucial role in educating and training the next generation of healthcare professionals, further underscoring its commitment to excellence in patient care and workforce development.





Hospital charity to host first ever sponsored abseil

Brave supporters of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Charity are preparing to take the pledge and go over the edge in the charity's first sponsored abseil.

Taking place at Doncaster Royal Infirmary on 14 December, the festive 115ft decent costs £35 to register with a minimum sponsorship of £200.

Funds raised are used for projects around the Trust, for example, VIP bags, to support adult patients with learning disabilities during their hospital visits, and 'Robi' the surgical robot transforming cancer surgery.

Duncan Batty, Head of DBTH Charity, said: "We're thrilled to host this exciting abseil event, which not only offers participants a unique, adrenaline-filled challenge but also an opportunity to make a real difference in our community.

"By stepping over the edge, they're not just testing their courage but also helping to raise crucial funds that will directly support the lives of patients and staff across our hospitals.

"Every person who takes part is contributing to something bigger than themselves, and we couldn't be more grateful."

Over 20 years ago, the Trust hosted several abseils through connections with other charities.

2024 marks the first year of an abseil hosted by DBTH's own charity.

Participants are encouraged to wear festive fancy dress for their daredevil decent.

We would like to thank our partners at Big Bang Promotions who have enabled us to host this event.

To find out more, or to sign-up, visit our charity website: <https://fundraise.dbthcharity.co.uk/event/the-big-festive-abseil>

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity is the official charity which supports Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Trust to go above and beyond by providing additional equipment, services and amenities for our patients, visitors and staff which cannot be funded by the NHS alone.

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



Doncaster dad raises boxing match following

A Doncaster Dad has raised over £800 in a white-collar charity boxing match on 6 July for Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity.

Adam Robinson, who tragically lost his son, Luke, in 2021, at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, won his fight within one and a half minutes of the first round.

Hosted at the Ultra White-Collar Boxing (UWCB) ring in Doncaster, Adam completed 8 weeks of gruelling training to prepare for his match.

Donna Phillips, Luke's mum, was extremely proud of Adam's achievement.

She said: "He absolutely smashed it. The crowd was crazy. Everyone was stood up cheering."

The pair decided to raise funds for Maternity Bereavement Services at the Trust, who supported them during their heartbreak.

On the Just Giving page, Donna said: "This is a cause that is very close to my heart. After losing our baby boy in 2021, me and my partner know first-hand the heart break and troubles parents go through after the loss of a child."

Donna went into preterm labour at 33 weeks and her son Luke was tragically stillborn.

Donna continued: "We will be forever grateful to all the staff for looking after us and making us as comfortable as they could during our time at Doncaster Hospital with limited resources.



Midlands-based business donates £2,100 to Bassetlaw hospital fundraiser

A Midlands-based business has donated £2,100 to a fundraising appeal at Bassetlaw Hospital.

The Bassetlaw Hospital Emergency Village appeal, run by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity, will fund several projects focusing on 'comfort' and 'play' for patients within the soon-to-open Bassetlaw Emergency Village (BEV).

Archus, a company specialising in Healthcare Infrastructure, chose to fund specific items within the appeal – specifically a light box in the Paediatric Resuscitation Area and two toy tractors for the brand-new outdoor play area.

Anna Fawcett, Associate Director of Operations at Archus, said: "We have been working with the Trust since 2021 and I'm so excited to see this project move closer to opening."

In 2020, a ground-breaking investment of £17.6 million was announced to reform emergency services at Bassetlaw Hospital.

The development includes a brand-new Emergency Department, Children's Assessment Unit and Assessment and Treatment Centre, with the vital re-introduction of 24-hour inpatient paediatric care.

Now, in 2024, as the project draws closer to completion, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity has the opportunity to enrich these services, taking them from outstanding to exceptional.

Anna continued: "Personally, I've had the privilege of working as Project Director and

it has been fantastic to be part of such a dedicated and committed team. Contributing to the appeal is one way we can go the extra mile for patients, families, and staff. We can't wait to see the final pieces of this project come together ready for opening later this year."

The appeal has a target of £100,000 to fund a vast list of projects, including a brand-new outdoor play area, sensory and distraction tools for younger patients, and TVs in all waiting rooms and paediatric areas and throughout the Assessment and Treatment Centre.

Duncan Batty, Head of Charity for DBTH Charity, said: "We are so thrilled that our partners at Archus have chosen to support children being cared for at Bassetlaw Hospital.

"Their contribution will fund three amazing additions to the Emergency Village which will directly benefit our youngest patients and their families. The light box in the Paediatric Resuscitation Area will provide crucial comfort and distraction during stressful situations, while the outdoor tractors will add a fun, engaging element to our new play area.

"We're incredibly grateful for Archus' generosity and ongoing support in helping us create a welcoming and supportive environment within the new Bassetlaw Emergency Village. If you work for a company that would like to be part of this brilliant project, please get in touch"

To find out more about the appeal, or to make a donation, please visit our charity website: <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/bassetlaw-appeal/>



over £800 in charity ing loss of son

"I want to raise as much as I possibly can to help facilitate any families in the future that need their support as a way of saying thank you."

This was the first year UWCB allowed participants to fundraise for their charity of choice.

Attending the match were friends and family from around Doncaster and Sheffield, but a much larger crowd was present.

Donna said: "Adam is a very laid-back person so he wasn't nervous before he went into the fight.

"He was calm and he's happy to have done it."

Rhian Morris, Specialist Midwife for Bereavement Services at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) Trust said: "I'm truly touched by Donna and Adam's fundraising efforts for our department. Training for two months and then performing in a match the way Adam did is absolutely brilliant.

"Every day we come to work as midwives to do our job and to help people, so to receive recognition like this is just so heartwarming. On behalf of everyone in the bereavement team, thank you!"

Adam plans to box again in November to raise funds for an Autism charity, in honour of his son who has autism.

The couple are now excitedly awaiting the arrival of a new baby with Donna currently happy and healthy at 13 weeks pregnant.





Sam Wilde Appointed as Chief Finance Officer at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has announced the appointment of Sam Wilde as the Trust's new Chief Finance Officer.

Sam joins from Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust, where he has served as Director of Finance and Business Intelligence since 2018.

As Chief Finance Officer, Sam will be a key member of the Trust's Executive Team, responsible for all aspects of financial management.

The role involves ensuring robust financial governance and supporting the Trust in achieving its strategic goals while maintaining financial sustainability. Sam will lead the finance team, manage budgets, oversee financial reporting, and ensure that resources are used effectively to support the delivery of high-quality healthcare services.

Additionally part of the role includes oversight of Estates and Facilities, Information

Technology and Digital Transformation, and the Project Management Office.

Sam brings extensive experience in financial leadership within the NHS and the private sector. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree, is a Chartered Management Accountant, and has held senior financial roles in both healthcare and industry. At Lincolnshire Community Health Services, Sam played a crucial role in maintaining financial stability, achieving cost efficiencies, and supporting the organisation's outstanding rating from the Care Quality Commission.

Speaking about the appointment, Sam said: "I am delighted to be joining Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals as the Chief Finance Officer. I look forward to working with the team to build on the Trust's successes and tackle the financial challenges ahead. My aim is to ensure that our financial resources are used effectively to support the best possible care for our patients."

DBTH, like many NHS Trusts, is currently facing

financial pressures, but remains committed to maintaining stability while providing high-quality care.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive of DBTH, said: "We are very pleased to welcome Sam to the Trust. His extensive experience and strong track record in financial management make him an excellent addition to our team."

"We believe we have made a fantastic appointment and look forward to working closely with Sam as we continue to navigate the financial challenges facing the Trust." Sam will join the Trust in November to ensure an excellent induction and handover from our current Chief Finance Officer and Director of Recovery, Innovation and Transformation, Jon Sargent."

"I would also like to thank Jon for his dedication and significant contributions since 2016. Jon has been a valued member of the team, and we wish him all the best for the future."

Governor Elections results

Following elections to some of our Governor seats at DBTH, we are pleased to welcome six new governors to our team.

The election opened in July this year and the results were published on 20 September following a member voting process.

In Doncaster, we had four new governors elected to public seats. Andrew Flynn, Colin Wallace, Patrick Bond and Deborah Benson will be joining the Council of Governors for a three year term of office.

In Bassetlaw, Phil Mettam and Eric Boocock were elected to the two public governor seats which were up for nomination and will also be joining for a three year term.

The newly elected Governors will work closely with DBTH's leadership to ensure the Trust remains responsive to the healthcare needs and priorities of the communities it serves. Their role includes representing the views of local people, providing feedback on hospital services, and holding the Non-

Executive Directors accountable for the Trust's performance. The Council of Governors also plays a vital role in supporting improvements in patient care, ensuring strong community engagement, and enhancing DBTH's role as a leading provider of education and training for future healthcare professionals.

Suzu Brain England, Chair of the Board, said: "I am thrilled to welcome our new governors to this very important role. They will be the voice of their local community, supporting us to set an ambitious strategy and deliver the highest quality of care. They will support us to work in partnership with primary and community care, our local authority, the voluntary sector and our NHS mental health colleagues."

"I am confident that this group of talented and knowledgeable individuals will be invaluable to DBTH as we continue our efforts to provide outstanding healthcare and improve the wellbeing of our communities. Each of our Governors brings a unique perspective, and we

look forward to their input and collaboration."

Each new Governor will serve a term of three years, with an option for re-election, working in collaboration with fellow Governors, the Trust Board, and other stakeholders. Their insights and guidance will be instrumental in advancing DBTH's mission to deliver the highest quality of care, reduce health inequalities, and improve outcomes for patients across all sites.

If you missed out on standing or voting in the governor elections this time round, you can apply to a member of DBTH all year round. Being a member means you can stand for election or vote to elect your local governor. You will also receive invited to dedicated members' events including the Annual Members' Meeting.

If you would like to become a member, or if you are already a member and need to update your contact information to keep receiving updates, please go to: dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/become-a-member/



Phil Mettam



Andrew Flynn



Colin Wallace



Deborah Benson



Eric Boocock



Patrick Bond



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DBTH enhances stroke care with advanced CT perfusion technology, extending critical treatment windows



You're invited: virtual Annual Members' Meeting p4

State-of-the-art Orthopaedic surgery service celebrates its 100th hip replacement patient p5

Charity-funded 'H.O.P.E.' boxes support separated families p14

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

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Can't go to Specsavers? They'll come to you

We caught up with Kejal Shah who has been an Optometrist with Specsavers Home Visits for 8 years. She explains to us how this much-needed service works.



So, tell me more about the Home Visits service...

Our at-home eye test is very similar to what you would have experienced in-store, just with a few adjustments and specialist equipment to make it home-friendly.

Optometrists, like myself, carry out the eye test, adjusting it to your individual needs. If glasses are needed, experienced colleagues will help with frame selection and then return to fit them. And, it goes without saying, all customers are supported with ongoing aftercare.

In response to demand, we've also now launched a new audiology home visits service. So far, we have home hearing services in 16 locations in the UK, including in the Chester area, with plans to expand this over the coming months.

Who is able to benefit from a home eye test?

Put simply, it's about bringing the service to your door, if you can't get to one of our stores.

So if you, a friend, or loved one, are unable to leave your home or care home unaccompanied, due to a physical or mental illness or disability, we can come to you.

There are a wide range of conditions and reasons why someone might not be able to leave their home. You can speak to us about your situation and we can help you understand if you or your loved one qualifies.

What if someone is bedbound, or struggling with communication? Can you still help them?

The Home Visits service is designed to provide eyecare which is as individual as our customers are.

Some customers might be clinically vulnerable or they might be non-verbal or living with dementia. Depending on the situation, we might use pictures instead of letters for example. Even with a customer who is bedbound, we can change the position of the chart so we're still getting completely accurate results. All the tests are adapted to fit the customer's environment and comfort level. We can also speak to the customer or their loved one ahead of the visit, to address any questions or talk through the process.



Given that you provide such a personal and tailored service, does your care go beyond just an eye test?

Every colleague I know sees our services as something beyond just a job. Whether it's sharing stories over a cuppa, popping something in the post for them, or passing them something out of reach, going that extra mile is such a rewarding part of our role. I only need to see a customer's smile to know I've made a difference.

That's a big part of what we do. Provide a personal service, tailored care and expertise, right to people's homes, no matter what their situation – in homes, care homes or sheltered housing.

How do I find out whether someone is eligible?

You can head to our website at www.specsavers.co.uk/home-visits which features a simple step-by-step guide to eligibility and a wealth of information. Alternatively, you can call **0800 0890144**.

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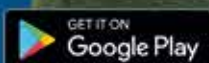
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Elizabeth, social worker

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