Consultants attend joint conference

OVER 200 senior doctors from York and Scarborough Hospitals attended the Trust’s first joint consultant conference at York Racecourse on 9 October. The event presented the first opportunity for consultant colleagues from both Scarborough and York to meet as a whole since the completion of the acquisition.

The conference offered a valuable opportunity for strengthening these relationships and further shaping plans for the organisation’s future. It also offered dedicated time away from the hospital for consultants to look at current issues affecting both them as professionals and the wider health service, embracing the values of the organisation and, as clinical leaders, the way we approach these issues.

In addition to integration, other topics covered on the day included revalidation, commissioning, patient safety, finance and efficiency and clinical leadership.

Trust’s ‘excellent’ cancer care

The majority of patients receiving cancer care at York and Scarborough Hospitals have rated their care as excellent or very good in a recent National Cancer Patient Experience survey.

A total of 160 hospital trusts took part in the national survey taken from the beginning of September until the end of November 2011. Both York and Scarborough’s response rates were higher than the national average at 74 percent and 73 percent respectively, compared to 67 percent nationally.

Libby McManus, Chief Nurse, said: “The national cancer patient experience survey provides a valuable insight into the care experienced by cancer patients accessing our care. Patient feedback is central to our services and the survey provides a credible snapshot of our Trust’s performance and enables us to benchmark our performance against our peers. Most importantly, the survey helps us understand what matters to our patients and respond accordingly. We are committed to listening, involving and responding to patients and their families and we want everyone who accesses our services to have a high quality, positive experience."

Continued on page 2

Have you got a story?

If you have a story for a future edition of Staff Matters, we would love to hear from you! Contact the communications team:

Lucy Brown, Head of Communications: lucy.k.brown@york.nhs.uk

Rebecca Aspin, Media and Communications Officer: rebecca.aspin@acute.sney.nhs.uk

Elaine Vinter, Media and Communications Officer: elaine.vinter@york.nhs.uk

Heather Millard, Communications Assistant: heather.millard@york.nhs.uk
Roof replaced

A £131,000 project has been completed to replace the roof at Bridlington Hospital.

The work, which took four months to complete was completed last month and is being followed-up with redecoration work to the areas that were most badly affected by the leaks.

Andrew Bennett, Head of Capital Projects, said: “A flat roof above one of the main corridors and the Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Units was leaking badly. This was not only a health and safety issue but was damaging the hospital’s building fabric and creating a negative impression of the hospital’s facilities and services to patients, visitors and staff.

“We are delighted that this work has now been completed and would like to thank our staff and patients for bearing with us whilst the work took place.

“We hope that this investment and improvement work will restore the confidence of staff, patients and visitors in the long term maintenance and clinical services of Bridlington Hospital.”

Ian is September Star Award winner

CONGRATULATIONS to our Star Award winner for September, Ian Harding, from York’s Domestic Services.

Ian was nominated for his dedication and hard work in maintaining the main entrance and concourse at York Hospital helping to create a wonderful ‘first impression’ of the hospital. Ian has been described as an ambassador for the organisation, setting excellent standards in his behaviour. He has been praised for his patience and the care he takes in his work particularly around visitors and staff.

Well done Ian!

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)

The survey was taken before the two trusts were integrated but one area where both trusts scored a very high rate of satisfaction with patients was for the care given by the Clinical Nurse Specialists.

The CNS use their skills and expertise in cancer care to provide technical and emotional support, coordinate care services and to inform and advise patients on clinical as well as practical issues, leading to positive patient outcomes.

Christine Norris, Cancer Manager for York and Scarborough, said: “The Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialists have a unique role to play in supporting patients, using their skills and expertise to ensure that patients experience the best possible care and support. We are delighted to see that patients really appreciate the dedication, care and compassion of the CNS.”

Trust offers ‘excellent’ cancer care

“Whilst there are different practices on both major Trust sites, we can use this as an opportunity to take the best from both.

“Last year’s action plan, and the work carried out by staff, has resulted in patients experiencing better care which has translated into the survey. This is credit to all staff and we expect to build on our joint experience for next year and show even more improvements.”

Continued from page 1

Bench in memory of Maple Ward patient Alice

STAFF on Maple Ward at Scarborough Hospital were delighted to find out they had won May’s ABCD award – the hospital’s monthly staff recognition award – after being nominated by the relative of a patient for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr Skilbeck, from Scarborough, had nominated the team for caring for his wife Alice who sadly passed away on the ward in May.

The team decided to spend their prize money on a bench so that they could sit outside on their breaks during the summer months and in memory of Alice they arranged for it to feature a plaque in her name.

Mr Skilbeck returned to the ward to thank staff and to see the bench and plaque.

He said: “It was such a lovely surprise to find out the team had won the award, everyone who works on the ward from the domestics through to the nurses were caring, considerate and provided both my wife, myself and my family with a great deal of comfort during a difficult period.”

Sister, Debra Mears, said: “We were very touched by the kind words in Mr Skilbeck’s nomination, Alice was such a lovely lady and it felt only fitting to dedicate the bench in her memory.”

Mr Skilbeck with the team from Maple Ward at Scarborough Hospital.

The Scarborough Cancer CNS team
Linen Project

A fresh start for laundry

Improvements to the way bed linen is laundered and managed at York Hospital has dramatically reduced costs and is expected to save the Trust thousands of pounds a year.

The current system of distributing the clean linen within the hospital was outdated, inadequate and in dire need of modernising. As a consequence Head of Environment and Logistics, Andy Sanderson, decided to form a new dedicated linen team to tackle these issues.

Andy explained: “The new team were initially tasked to completely redesign the system with a view to improving the delivery service of clean linen to all wards and departments in the hospital. We wanted to provide a modern service that was both efficient and effective and to identify potential savings wherever possible. Needless to say the team achieved their objectives and more!”

The facilities team identified an initial saving of £60,000 by removing the need for off site storage, including heating, light, power and rates. In addition, a further saving of £35,000 was achieved by the linen team through reduced linen usage and wastage.

The facilities team and the improvement team are now working together to realise even more savings through the introduction of fitted sheets throughout the hospital.

Steve Dodsworth, Improvement Manager, said: “We’re delighted by the savings so far. A new move towards changing sheets every other day where appropriate instead of every day, together with the future implementation of fitted sheets could save in the region of £120,000. We’ve been trialling fitted sheets on wards 33 and the Short Stay ward which will improve patient comfort, will save time for staff and, in turn, release more time for caring for patients. As soon as the new linen contract is signed off, fitted sheets will be rolled out across the whole organisation starting in York.

“The changes don’t stop there – we are assessing whether we can save more by introducing fire retardant bed blankets and reducing the use of counterpanes on the beds. This has the potential to save another estimated £20,000. Each ward now has a named member of staff responsible for linen and the wards now feel they have a responsive service. What makes all the difference though is that staff really appreciate the new systems and it has made their lives easier.”

Comments from staff

- Medical Elective Suite - “The delivery system has changed out of all recognition, for the better. The service is always cheerful, prompt and regular.”
- Dermatology – “The lady/man who deals with our area is very efficient, polite and gives 100 percent to us - a credit to the service.”
- Oncology – “The service has improved massively since Ann took over, she is very efficient and we always have laundry at hand, which is essential to us.”
- Neurology – “It’s so nice to get something when you request it.”
- Ward 32 – “The service is much improved as we do not run out of linen now.”

Friends donation pays for new standing aid

THE FRIENDS of York Hospital have donated £8,670 to the Neurosciences Physiotherapy Department at York Hospital for a new Balance Trainer standing aid.

In the Neurosciences Physiotherapy Department adult patients with a variety of neurological conditions (including multiple sclerosis, head injury and spinal cord injury) are treated to help them maximise their functional abilities. A goal for some patients is to be able to stand again. For the safety of the patients and staff, this needs to be with the assistance of equipment when patients have excessive weakness in their lower limbs.

The new Balance Trainer provides safe support, but allows patients to use the muscles they do have to work towards more independent standing. This also has software to allow patients to practice their standing balance by attempting tasks on a computer screen.

Caroline Brown, Physiotherapist said, “The physiotherapists in the Neurosciences Department were delighted when the Friends of York Hospital agreed to fund this fantastic piece of equipment which will help patients for years to come to reach their standing potential.”

Derek De Vere, Chairman of the Friends said, “Once again, the Friends of York Hospitals has purchased another vital piece of equipment, in this case a standing aid. We are always pleased to help the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as we have demonstrated again, as of course the patients are our top priority.”
Fundraising

More information
For more charity information or to support an appeal, please contact Lucy Watson on 01904 721737 or email lucy.watson@york.nhs.uk

Christmas fundraising

IT’S NEVER too early to start looking forward to Christmas which is why we’ve organised a Christmas Fair on the 24 November at the Hilton Hotel in York. Come and get some great Christmas presents from a range of stalls including hand crafted bears, hand made cards and gifts, jewellery, paintings and prints, glass art and many more. There will also be a tombola, cake stall, face painting and reflexology treatment to pamper yourself a little too!

Christmas cards
Christmas cards designed by local School children are now for sale from the Volunteer and Fundraising Office at York Hospital. £4 for 8 unique cards in 4 different designs. Support the YTHC and spread the Christmas cheer. We can also post the cards to you. Please contact David Ferguson on 01904 724521 or email david.ferguson@york.nhs.uk

Gilbert and Sullivan concert
Tickets are now on sale for a Gilbert and Sullivan Concert which will take place at Selby Abbey on Saturday 10 November at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and can be bought at Selby Abbey or at the Volunteering and Fundraising office in York Hospital. A third of funds raised will go to the charity.

NHS staff survey

The annual national NHS staff survey has been launched. 850 staff from across the organisation will receive a paper survey to complete and the remainder of staff have been invited to complete an electronic survey which will be sent via e-mail. The Trust has appointed Capita to act as their survey contractor and they will:

- Randomly select the staff who will be sent a paper questionnaire
- Print all survey stationery and deliver all questionnaires and reminders to us
- Send out e-mails inviting staff to complete the electronic survey
- Take receipt of completed questionnaires (electronic and paper) and process responses

The Trust will not be given the names of staff who have or have not responded. Responses to the survey remain anonymous and the reports received by the Trust will not include any person identifiable information relating to respondents.

The staff survey is your opportunity to feed back your views and experiences of working for both the organisation and the wider NHS and covers themes including; your personal development, job satisfaction and your health and wellbeing. This year the survey will include some additional questions which have been specifically asked to help us better understand your views about the major organisational changes which have taken place in the last year. Staff will receive their questionnaires over the next few days. Please take the time to complete and return your survey - it should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. All staff who participate in the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win a one night stay with afternoon tea for two guests at the Royal York Hotel.

The survey will be live until the beginning of December and the results will be made available in early Spring 2013, these will be shared in due course and will be used to inform both organisation and directorate level action plans to improve working conditions and practices and to make progress in involving and engaging staff.

Lucy to make skydive for St Monica’s

HEALTH CARE Assistant Lucy Duffield is taking a leap of faith for St Monica’s Hospital on Saturday 24 November with a skydive to raise funds for the hospital.

Lucy first became aware of how important the hospital was to the community of Easingwold when her grandfather became seriously ill and was admitted to St Monica’s in March 2010.

Lucy explained: “The staff were wonderful and were supportive to both him and us as a family. Sadly my wonderful Grandpa passed away three weeks later. After personally seeing how a high standard of care and support can make these difficult times more bearable I was inspired to leave my office job of ten years and became a Health Care Assistant.”

“I am very proud to now be part of the team at St Monica’s, I have been working at the hospital for a year now and have cared for some truly wonderful people. As a special thank you in memory of my Grandpa I decided on a tandem skydive with my husband and brother and any money we raise will go directly towards making our patients’ experience even better at St. Monica’s Hospital.”

The cost of the skydive has been met by the family so all money raised will go to the fund.

Anyone wishing to show their support can email dugdale.lucy@googlemail.com or donate on her just-giving page http://www.justgiving.com/Lucy-Duffield or text LDSD50 and the amount e.g. £2, £5 etc to 70070 or pick up a sponsorship form from St Monica’s.
University celebrates NHS mentors’ work

The University of York has celebrated the outstanding contribution of NHS mentors to student nursing and midwifery education with the presentation of its annual mentor awards.

The 2012 Midwife Mentor Prize was awarded to Jacqui Mortimer, an East Coast community midwife, while Christine Hopkins, a nurse in the Community Recovery Team at York Hospital, won the annual Nurse Mentor Prize.

Both award winners were nominated by students and were presented with their awards at the Annual Professional Education Conference held at the University’s Law and Management Building.

Justine Marshall, the midwifery student who nominated Jacqui Mortimer, said: “Jacqui is a community midwife, Infant Feeding Co-ordinator for the East Coast area which incorporates Scarborough, Whitby and Malton, and a supervisor of midwives. She also uses her spare time to teach aqua-natal midwives. She also uses her time to teach aquanatal midwives. She is still passionate about every aspect of her work including mentoring me, as a first year student, which she has done for a full year. She works late most nights and starts early most mornings but still finds the time to fill in any necessary paperwork for my portfolio. She is patient whenever I ask questions and is always happy to find research to back up her answers.

“It has been a privilege to call her my mentor throughout the past year and any student who is allocated to Jacqui in the future is very lucky.”

Rebekah Argent, the nursing student who nominated Christine Hopkins, describes Christine as an ‘inspiring’ mentor.

Rebekah said: “Chrissie evidently spends much time preparing for her students. I received a detailed account of what to expect on arrival and during my placement and felt reassured, despite my first placement nerves, when speaking to her before my first day.

“She was always available, making time for my learning and established who I would work with in her absence or if other skill opportunities were available with other staff members. She also encouraged working as part of a health professional team, such as working with Occupational Therapists and doctors. She gave me specific clients to focus on from admission to discharge, discussing evidence-based and person-centred nursing for each client.

“She gave me guidance and support with organising placements, but encouraged me to be proactive with my learning. Overall she made every effort to make me feel part of the team, gave me encouraging and constructive feedback and prepared me to deal with both my placement there and my next step in nursing. I am very thankful to her for her inspiring work as a nurse.”

The Annual Professional Education Conference is aimed at all those involved in undergraduate nursing and midwifery education in North Yorkshire and provides opportunities to showcase successful and promising best practices.

Rewarded: Rebekah Argent, Chrissie Hopkins, Jacqui Mortimer and Justine Marshall
Long serving staff from across the organisation gathered at two events over the summer to recognise long service and retirement.

The Royal York Hotel was the venue for the trust’s Long Service event in York in July where over 220 staff members and their guests gathered to celebrate their years of hard work and commitment to the NHS.

In a surprise twist to the evening everyone was offered a free pre-dinner ride on the York Wheel where they enjoyed a bird’s eye view of York and the surrounding countryside.

Of the people able to attend on the evening 54 staff were celebrating 25 years service with 12 more achieving a remarkable 40 years. Marking their retirement from the NHS were 39 members of staff.

Sixty three members of staff from Scarborough and Bridlington Hospitals and their guests were invited to the Spa Ocean Room on 20 September. This was Scarborough’s first Long Service recognition event and was hosted by Alan Rose, Chairman of the Trust.

Guests enjoyed a three course meal with entertainment followed by the presentation of awards and bonds. The presentations were made by Mike Proctor, Deputy Chief Executive and Sir Michael Carlisle who himself received a retirement award.

In his opening remarks Mike Proctor said: “Between them these staff members have given Scarborough and the NHS over 1,000 years of service. “This event had given us the opportunity to personally thank each of them for their dedication and hard work over the years and to wish staff all the best for their retirement.”

Recognising long service

Continues on next page
Recognising long service

Scarborough

“This event had given us the opportunity to personally thank each of them for their dedication and hard work over the years and to wish staff all the best for their retirement”
New Governors elected

The Trust’s newly-elected members of the Council of Governors met for an informal introduction at Malton Hospital earlier this month.

The meeting was an opportunity for them to meet existing governors and other Trust staff involved in the work of the Governors, and to find out more about the role.

As a Foundation Trust, we have a Council of Governors to ensure that the interests of the community served by the Trust are appropriately represented. Governors are elected by Foundation Trust members to represent specific constituencies, or are appointed by partner organisations such as the primary care trust or local authority. Individual governors are expected to seek out and represent the views of Foundation Trust members in their constituencies and to take an active role in engaging members in the work of the Trust.

All staff are automatically members of the Foundation Trust, unless they choose to opt out. Those newly elected include three new staff governors, Helen Noble and Andrew Volans (representing Scarborough and Bridlington Hospital staff) and Les North (representing community-based staff). They will take their seats on the Council of Governors alongside the two existing staff governors, Alison MacDonald and Martin Skelton, who continue to represent York Hospital-based staff.

Further information about the Council of Governors and the newly-elected members will be published in a future edition of Staff Matters.

Two weddings and a ball... raising funds for Breast Unit

AFTER being treated for breast cancer at York Hospital Angie Grinham was so grateful of the treatment she received that she vowed as soon as she was well enough she would do something in return.

What struck Angie during her appointments was that, while the middle waiting area for clinics was clean and functional, it did not match the welcoming atmosphere of other areas of the Breast Unit. When she learned that this was purely down to lack of funds Angie made up her mind to raise money to give it a lick of paint.

What began as an idea to raffle a wedding cake ended up with the auction of two full wedding packages and a ball raising a grand total of £11,000 over two years.

Angie explained: “It really snowballed after the first wedding cake when other wedding suppliers offered their services for free. The support has been fantastic and as a bonus we’ve enjoyed seeing two lucky couples walk down the aisle as well as raising money for the unit.

“Staff at the Breast Unit have also been brilliant, they encouraged me to use my own suggestions and those of other women who use the area to make a really friendly and comfortable environment.”

The makeover includes decorating, new furniture and flooring, tea and coffee making facilities, flat screen TV and music.

Carol Lintott, Macmillan specialist breast care nurse, said: “It can be nerve-wracking for patients just sitting and waiting for an appointment or for results and this room now goes a long way to putting people more at ease. What Angie has achieved is phenomenal, the waiting area has been completely transformed. It is something patients can appreciate for years to come.”

Angie Grinham with daughter Emma and Carol Lintott, Macmillan Specialist Breast Care Nurse
1,2,3...new scanner eased into position

Over the past few months staff and visitors to York Hospital may have noticed the extensive building works that were carried out on the MRI unit at the hospital. As well as an extension to the building, the scheme also included the installation of a brand new state-of-the-art scanner.

The task was huge and staff from the hospital’s MRI Unit have been praised for their commitment to keeping services running and disruption to a minimum.

Caroline Mulholland, Capital Planning Manager, explained: “This was a particularly challenging project because of the very nature of MRI services. To start with we had to ensure that every contractor was screened and fit to work in the vicinity of a live magnet and that they fully understood the risks associated with that. This meant only specific named, screened, contractors could work in the building. There was also the problem of noisy construction works immediately outside a live department.

“Without impacting on the ambulance blue light route we had to create a temporary reception area in the Emergency Department car park for inpatients and outpatients and provide storage, hand washing facilities and patient transfer space in the temporary waiting area. It meant that staff had to work hard to reduce the waiting list prior to closing the unit and ensure that Infection Prevention standards were maintained during the works.”

While the work was going on the MRI team had to be split up by moving the admin function to another location within the directorate. This proved an extra challenge when having to rearrange large numbers of appointments (including calming disgruntled patients) at short notice when new problems were thrown up by the building work.

Caroline continued: “Connecting services from the main hospital into the new MRI extension such as steam supply and electrics along South Corridor meant diverting services through different ceiling heights and through complicated roof trusses. The final challenge was when we had to close the main hospital road to enable the delivery and installation of the new magnet – weighing a mere 4 tonnes!”

Up to 50 patients a day can now be scanned including those requiring more complex examinations. A brand new reporting suite where doctors can study and write up results in a special quiet area has also been created in the Radiology Department and the patient reception area has been given a facelift.

Consultant radiologist, David King, said: “The whole team of radiographers, patient support assistants and admin staff, all led by superintendent radiographer Julie C addick, have done an absolutely magnificent job in continuing to run the service in the face of many difficulties over the prolonged period of building and installation work.

“They have maintained a high through-put of patients and coped with many other demands while builders worked around them and facilities were suboptimal. They have also put in many extra days of work to keep Trust waiting time targets on track and provide a high quality MRI service for our patients in the face of these difficulties.”

Forget-me-nots

STAFF are reminded that ‘forget-me-nots’ are being given to dementia patients at Scarborough and Bridlington Hospitals as part of a campaign to improve awareness of dementia.

Stickers, featuring the distinctive blue flower, are placed on the front of a patient’s notes and nursing care plan if they have been identified or are known to have dementia.

Helen Noble, Patient Safety Manager, explained: “We want to ensure that high-quality care and support is given to patients with dementia and that early diagnosis is made to allow for early intervention.

“The Forget-Me-Not campaign is a simple idea which aims to improve awareness of dementia amongst our staff.

“By sensitively placing a recognisable symbol on the patient’s notes the forget-me-not will alert all staff to the patient’s individual needs, ensuring that they can be given the right care and support that they need.”

Pressure ulcer awareness day

ON FRIDAY 16 November, the Trust will be getting onboard and promoting ‘Stop Pressure Ulcer Day’.

Organised by the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Board (EUPAU) the aim of the day is to raise awareness of pressure ulcers to the public and how they can be avoided.
Picture in Outpatients in memory of Julie

A picture of the Scarborough seafront has been put up in the Outpatients Department at Scarborough Hospital in memory of a much-loved staff member, Julie McLean, who sadly passed away in April.

Julie had worked at Scarborough Hospital for 25 years. She began her hospital career in Domestics and then Medical Records before joining the Outpatients Department as a Receptionist. Her role over the past two years had focussed on Ophthalmology Administration.

After Julie’s death, Sister Suzanne Meek and staff from nursing and administration in Outpatients decided to buy a picture in Julie’s memory to be displayed in the department along with a plaque. The picture, which shows a jogger running along Spa Bridge, was taken by Suzanne’s husband and had been chosen by Julie’s family from a selection.

Julie’s management team explained: “Julie was reliable and hardworking and was the font of all knowledge in Outpatients. Nothing fazed her; she was someone who just got on with the job. She was brilliant at training new starters as she was so patient and efficient. Julie had a cheeky sense of humour and an infectious laugh. She also had quite a glamorous side; her hair and make-up was always immaculate for work and she always looked very stylish on our work nights out.

“In the months during Julie’s illness, she still attended our nights out including several theatre show trips. She was a real family woman and was very proud of both her daughters, Angela and Carole. “All of Julie’s colleagues have very fond memories of her and we all miss her presence in the department. Eight of us did the Race for Life in her memory this year and plan to do other events to raise money for cancer research.

“We have felt a big hole in the department since Julie passed away, she was an invaluable member of the team who is sadly missed.”

Celebrating 10 years of medical school

THE Hull York Medical School (HYMS) is celebrating its 10th anniversary next year and has organised a number of events to celebrate its success locally, nationally and internationally.

The main event will be a HYMS@10 Gala Day on Saturday 8 June 2013 at Bishop Burton College to which all HYMS staff and their families will be invited. The anniversary will also be used as a catalyst for change and refreshment and will include the launch of a community engagement policy. Keep an eye on Boomerang Online (http://boomerang.hyms.ac.uk/) or log on to www.hyms.ac.uk for more information or details about planned events. During the year any money raised will go towards supporting Hospices across the HYMS region and HYMS bursaries or scholarships.

If you would like to get involved, or have a great idea for raising money you are invited to join the fundraising group. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Kirstie Skelton Clarke: Kirstie.skeltonclarke@hyms.ac.uk / telephone: 01482 463327.
Flood challenge for community staff

IT WAS business as usual for community staff in the recent floods that caused havoc across the region. The entire area around Tadcaster Health Centre and GP Surgery was flooded and could not be accessed, leading to staff needing to work from different bases and having to cancel some clinics.

The bridge in Tadcaster was closed causing significant disruption to community staff when trying to visit patients in the area as the town was split in two.

The flooding across York also caused some considerable disruption for all community staff, however all staff worked hard to overcome these difficulties and coped with the challenges to maintain continuity.

Foster carers appeal launched

NORTH Yorkshire County Council is launching a campaign to highlight the shortage of foster carers in the area, particularly for older children and teenagers coming into care.

Fostering is a way of providing a safe and caring environment for children who, for lots of different reasons, cannot live with their own families. This might be for a short time, part time, or for the rest of their childhood. Many have been neglected or abused, some have physical or learning disabilities, others have brothers and sisters they don’t want to be separated from. All of them are looking for a caring family to help them feel safe, secure and happy.

If you’re interested in becoming a foster carer for North Yorkshire County Council, visit their website www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 054 6989 for an informal chat.

‘Best for knee replacements’

Scarborough Hospital has been named in the end of year NHS report as one of the best performing hospitals in the country for knee replacements in a national patient questionnaire.

Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) is a method for collecting information on the clinical quality of care as reported by patients themselves.

Patients undergoing hip replacement, knee replacement, varicose vein or groin hernia surgery are invited to fill in PROMs questionnaire shortly before surgery and six months after their operation.

The information given helps the NHS measure and improve the quality of health services. Each year it is published in a league table, providing patients with better information about where to go for their treatment.

Mark Andrews, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Scarborough Hospital, explained: “In the recent PROMs results which cover the period January 2012 to March 2012 we were one of only two hospitals in the country who performed statistically better than the rest for knee replacements.”

“As part of the Enhanced Recovery Project we have made significant improvements to all stages of a patient’s hospital experience from preparing for the operation through to recovery and this work is paying dividends.”

As well as excellent PROMs results recent statistics show Scarborough Hospital to have amongst the lowest length of stay and readmission rates in the country for both hip and knee replacements.

Mark continued: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team in theatres and Ash Ward who ensure that the quality of care delivered to our patients is of the highest standard. I think that the whole team should feel proud of the care it provides.”

On Wednesday 27 September, Mark Andrews held his first arthroplasty list at Bridlington Hospital.

Knee replacement surgery or arthroplasty involves replacing a damaged, worn or diseased knee with an artificial joint. It’s a routine operation for knee pain most commonly caused by arthritis.

Previously patients from the Bridlington locality would have gone to Scarborough Hospital for this surgery however the refurbishment of the main theatre and expansion of services to enable overnight surgical stays has enabled the Trust to introduce an arthroplasty list.

Sandra van der Kooij, Therapy Manager for Scarborough and Bridlington Hospitals, explained: “Both patients were treated under the enhanced recovery programme which aims to improve patient outcomes and speed up their recovery after surgery.”
Goodbye from Sir Michael

Sir Michael Carlisle, retired at the end of September, after 43 years in the NHS.

He said: “The last five years have been very challenging to develop a strategy that removed the large historic debt of £20.5 million and provide the plan for capital investment and a sustainable future for the patients, residents and staff of the hospitals and communities in North East Yorkshire.

“I have valued the support that I have received from all my colleagues and I wish the local hospitals every success within the excellent framework of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.”

Remembering Michelle George

ONE of our staff members Michelle George sadly passed away at Scarborough Hospital on 12 October after many years of service to the NHS and staff side representation for Unite the Union.

Michelle started her NHS career at the Hull Health Authority as a Personal Secretary in 1990. She then went onto work for the East Yorkshire Health Authority at Castle Hill Hospital before joining Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Bridlington Hospital in 2001 as a Medical Secretary. In 2009 Michelle moved to Scarborough Hospital as a Service Improvement Support Officer.

Peta Hayward, Director of HR, said: “On behalf of the Trust I would like to offer our sincerest sympathy to Michelle’s family. Having worked in the NHS for over twenty years and as a Union Representative for 12 years Michelle was a well known and well respected member of staff and will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues at both Bridlington and Scarborough Hospitals.”

Terry Cunliffe, Unite the Union Regional Officer, said: “We are devastated by the sad news that we have lost Michelle. She was a tireless representative for all her colleagues at work, and inspirational as an advocate for the principles of the NHS. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and in particular her husband Steve and baby Charles.”

Support for staff is available from Occupational Health and the chaplaincy team. A remembrance service for friends and colleagues is being planned, details of which will appear on Staff Room.

Join the choir

York Hospital is about to have its very own choir for staff members. Rehearsals will take place from 12.45 – 1.45 every Thursday lunchtime in the chapel, starting on Thursday 8 November. It will be led by artist, musician and voice coach Anne Hutchison. The choir will be free and don’t worry if you haven’t sung in a group before, there are no auditions and everyone is welcome!

Contact Kat Hetherington from the Art and Design Department: Kat.hetherington@york.nhs.uk or call 01904 726943.