It’s time once again to recognise our fabulous staff and the wonderful work that goes on throughout the whole Trust.

Nominations for the glittering annual Celebration of Achievement Awards have now opened and staff, patients, relatives and visitors are invited to nominate individuals or teams who have gone above and beyond their duty.

This year the presentation will be held on Thursday 1 October 2015 at the beautiful Grand Hall at Scarborough Spa.

The top three nominations from each category, along with their nominator, will be invited to attend the evening presentation so if you want to be in the running for attending the Trust’s very own ‘Oscars’ it’s time to get nominating!

Patrick Crowley, Chief Executive, said: "These annual awards are an important part of York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust’s reward and recognition programme, which acknowledges those who have demonstrated and embraced the Trust’s values and beliefs in the delivery of their service. Each year we reward teams and individuals who have been nominated by patients and staff for excellent service and I would like to encourage you to nominate an individual or team for one of the award categories.”

More information about categories and the criteria for voting can be found overleaf or on Staff Room hot topics. Alternatively email eventsteam@york.nhs.uk or call the Events Team on 7726491, 7721006, or 7724096.

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, Communications Manager: rebecca.aspin@york.nhs.uk
- Elaine Vinter, Media and Communications Officer: elaine.vinter@york.nhs.uk
- Nicola Taylor, Communications Assistant: nicola.taylor@york.nhs.uk
Celebrating achievement

The categories

The Patient Award
The individual or team showing an exceptionally caring, supportive and compassionate service to patients, their families and friends. (This category can only be nominated for by patients, relatives and visitors).

Excellence in Patient Experience
The individual or team demonstrating excellent practice in improving patient experience by listening to feedback, working in partnership, valuing and respecting the view of all involved and through the demonstration of a caring and compassionate approach.

Living Our Values
The individual or team demonstrating how they have embedded the Trust’s values in the delivery of their services.

Unsung Hero
The individual making an outstanding contribution in providing a welcoming, caring and helpful service which goes the extra mile to meet the needs of patients and customers.

Volunteer of the Year
The individual or team consistently giving freely of their own time to contribute to the delivery of services which enhance the patient and customer experience.

Enhancing Services
The team or individual demonstrating the ability to solve problems and meet challenges which improve effectiveness, quality and behaviours to benefit those working in, or accessing, Trust services.

Efficiency Award
The individual or team demonstrating effective and creative value for money solutions through the efficient use of resources (staff, money and assets) while keeping quality at the heart of service delivery.

Patient Safety Award
The individual or team demonstrating an exceptional contribution towards making the care of our patients safer.

The deadline for nominations is 24 July 2015

Trust Medical Director retires

FOLLOWING the retirement of Alastair Turnbull, Medical Director duties will be covered in the interim by the current Deputy Medical Directors and Chief Nurse.

Deputy Medical Director Mr Jim Taylor will lead on Professional Standards and Revalidation, and Dr Ed Smith will lead on Patient Safety Agenda.

Chief Nurse Beverley Geary will lead on Infection Prevention.

Star Award winner

Keep your nominations coming in, and don’t forget you can now vote for your winner each month!

CHRISS HOLLINGWORTH, Occupational Therapist from Archways was the winner of May’s Star Award for her dedication to providing a professional, quality service to colleagues and patients.

Described as ‘the reliable glue that holds Archways together’ Chris has been there since it opened and is seen as ‘the quiet rock’. She has welcomed and supported several changes of nurse and senior management team in their new roles.

Chris stoically rearranges her holidays and working hours to fit the needs of the service and the patients to provide cover when required.

‘As a colleague she is respected for her knowledge and professionalism, appreciated for the quality of therapy her patients receive, her caring manner, and her reliability in supporting the senior team in continuing to promote the best about Archways.’

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Support Staff Learning Team

Learning opportunities

The wide array of opportunities available for non-clinical support staff to advance their learning was highlighted at recent awareness campaigns at York and Scarborough Hospitals.

The Support Staff Learning Team spent a week at both hospitals sharing information and giving advice about the variety of courses available to help people improve their skills and career prospects.

The team are dedicated to helping staff who work in non-clinical bands 1-4 to gain new skills and develop their career within the NHS. Learning options range from e-learning to face to face courses to nationally recognised qualifications.

Michelle Page, Programme Leader for the team, said: “The opportunities are there for anyone who wants to develop professionally. There are fully funded vocational learning opportunities in areas such as Business Administration, Customer Service and Healthcare Support Services and apprenticeship programmes which have helped people move into a completely different role.

“We also have bite sized units where people can gain new skills or test the water to see what it would be like to go for a full qualification. All the courses can be completed while carrying out normal everyday duties. People who have never studied can be signposted towards basic skills in English, maths and computer skills.

“We have seen some amazing transformations for staff in support roles where learning has literally changed their life.”

Anne Devaney, Head of Corporate Learning, said: “As an organisation we are committed to looking at new ways of working and supporting the development of our staff in an holistic way. The learning opportunities currently offered, and those being explored for the future, enable staff to develop at their own pace and grow as individuals as well as creating pathways for them to move into different NHS roles if that is what they want.

“The Support Staff Learning Team is central to this and works closely with individuals and teams to ensure a range of options are identified at different levels to encourage staff involvement.”

The team can be emailed on supportstafflearning@york.nhs.uk or for more information call 7715242 or 01723 385242.

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David’s story

David Millington, Maintenance Assistant at Scarborough Hospital, has been able to change roles and embark on a new career at the Trust with the help of the Support Staff Learning Team.

David joined the Trust as a porter and completed the customer service course over eighteen months with the support of his manager. He is convinced the qualification led to making the move into maintenance.

David said: “When I wanted to change jobs I was able to provide a qualification on paper that had been gained on site so it really made a difference when it came to landing a new role. I would encourage anyone to do it, the more qualifications the better - and the courses are all funded.

“I'm now at college studying as an apprentice electrician so I'm really happy I took the opportunity. The customer service course is a real help in giving people confidence when they are not used to talking to people.”
Calling all Junior Doctors... join the Trust’s locum bank

FOLLOWING the success of the new Trust-wide nurse bank, an internal locum bank is now being further developed.

This will mean the Trust can increase the number of staff currently on the bank with aim of covering all vacant shifts with our own doctors.

Not only will this seek to provide high quality, consistent patient care by doctors who are familiar with the Trust’s protocols and systems, it will help move away from the need to seek agency locum cover which can be difficult to source, unreliable and costly.

The Trust banks offer competitive rates and first refusal is given to all those registered with the bank. All available locum shifts across all sites will be on offer on a first come first served basis.

Having a locum contract comes with no obligation or pressure to undertake additional hours, just the opportunity to be the first to hear about shifts that become available.

It couldn’t be easier to join the locum bank, just attend one of the drop in sessions where the rota team will check applicants’ details and documentation and issue them with a locum contract.

The sessions in York will take place in the Hub at Ellerby’s on 1 and 21 July between 1pm – 4.30pm.

At Scarborough Hospital applicants can call into the office and speak to the team in person. Otherwise email locums@york.nhs.uk and the team will arrange an appointment.

School donation to Malton Hospital

THANKS to pupils from Malton School who donated £376.75 which has purchased a new Pulse Oximeter, a special a machine that measures oxygen levels.

Pictured is head boy Rob Ingram and head girl Merrie Barnet, handing a cheque to Deputy Ward Manager Sally Cliff, and Staff Nurse Sue Appleby.

Meet the Practice Education Team

A NEW Practice Education Team will now have responsibility for supporting non-medical student placements across the Trust.

The team replaced the previous Practice Learning Facilitators from 1 April 2015.

The team will provide information on practice education requirements and promote and advise on maintaining and improving quality experiences to meet national and regional standards.

They can also provide support for non-medical healthcare professional students facing challenging issues relating to practice, and review current practices to help enhance the student experience. Each member of the team will be able to offer advice and support to their allocated placement to achieve the quality assurance standards required.

Your Hospital’s Got Talent is back!

HAVE you got a talent or hobby that you’re proud of? We want to hear about it, and more importantly, we want to see it!

After the success of the 2014 ‘Your Hospital’s Got Talent’ project, The Arts in York Hospital are bringing it back for its second year and are encouraging staff to get involved once again.

Our staff have an incredible range of extraordinary talents and we want to celebrate them as they’re something to be proud of. An exhibition is planned to show off your talents... so if you embroider, run marathons or play the flute, take photos, write poems or short stories contact the Arts Team by emailing jessica.sharp@york.nhs.uk or calling 7725265.

New role for Keith

SCARBOROUGH Hospital’s Lead Medical Devices Training Coordinator, Keith Underwood has been appointed into the role of Medical Devices Safety Officer (MDSO) for the Trust.

Aimed at improving patient safety, the new role will help to strengthen medical devices incident reporting and learning within the organisation, promote the safe use of medical devices and provide expert advice.

In addition to improving reporting, Keith will serve as the essential link for the identification and implementation of local and national medical devices safety initiatives.

For queries about the MDSO role, or for any concerns relating to medical device safety, contact Keith on 7712633 or 07515 905570.
A SAD, neglected patio and overgrown garden at Whitby Hospital has been transformed with the help of the Staff Benefits Gift Box scheme and a very generous donation from Whitby Hospital League of Friends.

Miriam Binney, Admin Support to the Whitby Virtual Ward sought funding to buy plants.

Miriam said: “We are absolutely delighted with the new look, thanks to everyone for their time, hard work and donations.

People have been giving up their free time at evenings and weekends and there is still more to do. It’s already become an attractive area for staff to take breaks, and will also improve the outlook for inpatients from the wards overlooking the area.”

Whitby Hospital patio makeover

Dr Alastair Turnbull (front centre) with speakers at the Conference

Trust’s first Patient Safety Conference

OVER 280 staff, from all roles and responsibilities across the Trust attended the inaugural Patient Safety Conference. The conference, ‘Patient Safety: The Next Frontier’, took place at York Racecourse on Friday 22 May.

Chaired by the Trust’s Medical Director Alastair Turnbull and Chief Executive Patrick Crowley, the day was planned to coincide with the Trust’s clinical governance day to give as many staff as possible the opportunity to attend.

Transport was arranged for Scarborough-based staff and over 280 staff from all roles and occupations across the Trust attended.

The day’s agenda featured both internal and external speakers including Professor Brian Toft from the University of Coventry.

Alastair Turnbull, Medical Director, said: “Sign up to Safety is a national patient safety campaign. Launched in June 2014 its mission is to strengthen patient safety in the NHS and make it the safest healthcare system in the world.

“Organisations who Sign up to Safety commit to strengthen patient safety by setting out the actions they will undertake in response to five Sign up to Safety pledges, one of which is learning and listening.

“This event gave us the opportunity to listen and learn. It gave our staff, who work in all different roles, the opportunity to hear about the fantastic work that is taking place to improve patient safety as well as what we need to do in the future to continue to reduce harm for our patients.”

Staff displayed posters at the event showcasing their work and improvements in patient safety and awards were made for work in the following areas, falls prevention, paediatrics and deteriorating patients in community hospitals.

Alastair continued: “I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fantastic event. Feedback from those who attended was extremely positive. It was great to see staff so engaged, motivated and committed to patient safety.”

Proud to be Top 40 hospital again

THE TRUST is proud to have been named a 40Top Hospital for the 13th year running.

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is one of the CHKS Top Hospitals for 2015, an accolade awarded to the 40 top performing CHKS client trusts.

CHKS is a leading provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

The Top Hospitals award is based on the evaluation of over 20 key performance indicators covering safety, clinical effectiveness, health outcomes, efficiency, patient experience and quality of care.

Patrick Crowley, Chief Executive, said: “We are delighted to have been recognised as a top40 hospital for the 13th year running.

“This accolade is testament to the hard work and commitment of each and every one of our 8,500 staff members who continue to deliver excellent care to our patients.”

Ramadan begins in June

FASTING in the month of Ramadan is obligatory on all adult Muslims.

Many patients and staff will be fasting or wanting to fast in Ramadan, which is expected to commence this year from 18 June 2015.

It helps if NHS frontline staff are aware of, and respect this important religious obligation, and how such beliefs may affect the different elements of care.

For more detailed information on Ramadan see Staff Room/Patient Resources/Chaplaincy.
Forget me not dining

DURING Dementia Awareness Week friends and relatives were encouraged to stay with patients during mealtimes with the launch of a new initiative called ‘Forget me not Dining.’

Pamela Hayward Sampson, Assistant Director of Nursing, said: “Previously we had a restricted mealtime policy which discouraged visiting during mealtimes. However, many people with dementia have problems with eating and drinking. “We are currently looking at changing this policy to make it more dementia friendly and are actively encouraging friends and relatives to stay during mealtimes.

“Food plays an important part in our lives. Patients with dementia can often lose their sense of time and can forget about mealtimes and eating, even when food is placed in front of them.

“Our forget me not dining initiative aims to promote a more dementia friendly approach to mealtimes and we have been serving sandwiches, cake and refreshments to relatives who stay over mealtimes during dementia awareness week.”

Pictured: Chief Executive Patrick Crowley celebrates with dining companion Diana Thompson and staff from ward 37

Becoming a dementia friend

A CAMPAIGN encouraging staff to become a ‘Dementia Friend’ was promoted during Dementia Awareness Week with over 60 staff in York and Scarborough taking part.

The Trust has pledged its support to the Alzheimer’s Society’s Dementia Friends scheme and is aiming for 3,000 staff to become a Dementia Friend over the next 12 months.

Liz Sweeting, Specialist Nurse, said: “Our Dementia Friends sessions are one hour long and a quick and easy way to learn more about dementia and how it can affect people. It’s about turning understanding into action to support people with dementia.

“We’d love to see as many staff as possible at the sessions. It’s something that everyone can benefit from as most people will come into contact with someone with dementia at some point in their lives.”

Attending one of the sessions was Consultant Roxanne Owen who specialises in elderly medicine.

Roxanne said: “Most doctors don’t get any specialised training unless they have chosen to work with the elderly so everyone can benefit from becoming a Dementia Friend. These sessions give people more insight so they can adapt their behaviour to recognise the signs and communicate better with someone with dementia.”

Check the Learning Hub to book your Dementia Friends session.

Some of the staff who took part in the Alzheimer Society’s 24-hour Dementia Friends Marathon

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Signs of dementia:

- Struggling to remember recent events
- Problems following conversations
- Forgetting the names of friends or objects
- Repeating yourself
- Problems with thinking or reasoning
- Confusion in familiar places

Thanks to knitters

THANKS to all the volunteers who did such fantastic work at Scarborough’s Dementia Awareness stall.

Virginia Smith, Matron for Elderly Medicine at Scarborough Hospital, said: “I want to say a personal thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Dementia Awareness stall and knitathon such a success. The stall was well received and the knitting was a real attraction with lots of staff, patients and visitors stopping to chat and hear what we were doing. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage and raise awareness. “I have been so very impressed with how the team here at Scarborough has worked together and the commitment to all our Dementia Awareness week activities has been palpable.”

Malton staff raise funds

THANKS to Rachel Helm and Sheila Christon at Malton Hospital who raised awareness during dementia week and raised funds of £30 by selling homemade baking!

Bake sale

Staff on ward 37 held a mouthwatering bake sale.

Helping hand

Red Cross volunteer Ruth Cozens (pictured), giving relaxing hand massages on ward 37. Thanks to Ruth and colleague Margaret Bell for all they do to make patients more comfortable.
Football kicks off 2015 Men’s Health Week

A football tournament was held in York on 3 June to launch Men’s Health Week (June 15-21) where the Trust is promoting physical activity for a healthier and happier life.

The tournament was organised by Salahuddin Dewan from Human Resources and involved eight different departments and teams from HR, x-ray, physiotherapy, systems and network services, estates and pharmacy. It also included Scarborough physiotherapy and Ryedale Community Response.

York Sport Village kindly let the teams have the space for free as they were raising money for York Teaching Hospital Charity.

Saluhaddin said: “It was great getting to know staff from different departments and hospitals which was one of the aims of the event. There was some fantastic football which culminated in a tense estates v systems and networks final with estates winning 7-4.

“The quality of the football was great and overall it was a very fun day.

“There was a real community spirit on the day with much positive feedback from the teams. The football tournament was a great example of people getting together having fun and great exercise to boot!”

“IT’s also gratifying to know the funds raised will change patient’s lives in some way.”

Ruth Hine and Carol Dickinson from Staff Health and Wellbeing and Heather Simpson from Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust were there promoting men’s health.

Ruth and Carol will be at the Staff Benefits and Wellbeing Fairs in Scarborough on 8 July with advice for men wanting to make positive lifestyle changes whether stopping smoking, doing more exercise or healthier eating.
Kidney injury pathway

Staff from Scarborough’s Acute Medical Unit have designed a new care pathway to help combat a potentially life threatening kidney condition which claims up to 12,000 lives a year.

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is sudden damage to the kidneys that stops them from working properly. There are many causes for AKI such as dehydration, infection and certain medications. It is very common and can be life threatening in severe cases. It is not caused by a physical ‘blow’ to the kidneys as the name suggests.

William Lea, CT1 doctor for acute medicine, said: “Acute Kidney Injury and its consequences cost the NHS more than prostate, bowel and lung cancer combined. It has been reported that improving care for patients with AKI could save £150 million.

“NICE guidelines provide clear advice on how to recognise and treat AKI. In Scarborough we decided to carry out an audit to see how well we are recognising and dealing with AKI. The results showed three cases in four are not managed correctly and, although a shocking result, it appears this is a national problem.

“It was clear that we could significantly improve so we are working closely with the renal physicians to test a new AKI Pathway. It has been designed to aid doctors and nurses to manage these patients.

“The pathway will be trialled on AMU at Scarborough and if it is successful could be rolled out across the Trust. We hope to have the results of this second audit by August - so watch this space!”

A number of teaching sessions have been organised for doctors and nurses to improve knowledge of AKI. For more information contact William.lea@york.nhs.uk

Think four ‘R’s for renal

• Risk - identify those patients at risk. Chronic kidney disease, sepsis, low blood volume (bleeding, D&V, dehydration), low blood pressure, diabetes, heart failure, vascular disease, jaundice, on kidney-damaging medications.

• Recognise – does your patient have a rise in serum creatinine (a blood test to diagnose AKI) or a drop in urine output?

• Respond – monitor and improve hydration, monitor urine output, initiate the AKI pathway and follow its guidance.

• Refer – inform the doctor as soon as possible and suggest the pathway. Discuss with the renal physicians if necessary.

Wonderful work of volunteers celebrated

THIS MONTH’S National Volunteers Week recognised the fantastic work of volunteers throughout the Trust. For many people it provides the opportunity for hands on experience of what it is like to work in a hospital environment and to work alongside hospital staff.

Lois Boynton has volunteered for two and a half years at the Macmillan Unit at Scarborough Hospital.

Lois said: “Being a volunteer is such a rewarding role. I’m available to be on hand with a cup of tea or coffee, a smile and willing hands to offer those extra comforts to patients.

“It is a pleasure and a privilege to work here and to feel part of such a wonderful, hard-working team.”

Cherelyn Pye, Macmillan Oncology and Haematology Specialist Nurse on the unit, said: “Volunteers make such a difference, their assistance frees up the nursing staff to focus on patient care. We really notice when they aren’t there, and regard them highly as part of our team.”

Diane crowned Midwife Mentor of the Year

Congratulations to Midwife Diane Green on becoming Midwife Mentor of the Year 2015. Diane is pictured receiving her award from Liz Ross, Head of Midwifery.

Photographic calendar competition

THE Arts in York Hospital Team has joined forces with Staff Benefits to produce the new 2016 calendar with photographic images from staff.

Kat Hetherington, Arts Manager, said: “We are looking for twelve images of Yorkshire landscapes and seascapes for the new calendar in a similar style to last year. To make it more exciting we will be displaying all entries at the Celebration of Achievement Awards on 1 October where people will be able to vote for their favourite twelve.”

For details of how to enter see the Arts in Hospitals section on the Trust website under ‘opportunities’ or email jessica.sharp@york.nhs.uk

Deadline for entries is Monday 3 August 2015.

Staff discount for new art exhibition

A NEW exhibition by York Artist Steve Williams is on display at York Hospital and will be offering staff a discount on his landscape and seascape paintings.

Steve paints using acrylics, palette knives and brushes. He describes himself as ‘instinctive’ and says: “I aspire to infuse my pictures with fluidity, energy, colour and texture. My aim is to achieve a balance, a harmony and a completeness that encapsulates the essence of what I feel.”

Steve is offering all NHS staff a 10 percent discount on the purchase of any of his exhibited artworks as a sign of his appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

People can visit the exhibition from 18 June to 27 August at York Hospital or view examples of Steve’s work on the Arts in Hospitals page on the Trust website.
Football fundraisers
THANKS to all that took part in the recent football tournament to kick off Men’s Health Week. The teams have raised around £400 so far. Anyone still wishing to donate can text YTHC31 £5 to 70070 or visit the just giving page www.justgiving.com/YorkTeachingHospital
A big thank you also goes to York Sport who offered their pitches free of charge at their York Sport Village venue.

Jane Tomlinson York 10k
– Sunday 2 August 2015.
The route takes you on a tour of the stunning city, passing the iconic York Minster, before heading towards the riverside and city walls. YTHC has 30 places available.

Plusnet Yorkshire Marathon
– Sunday 11 October 2015.
The highly-anticipated Plusnet Yorkshire Marathon takes runners through the beautiful medieval City of York and its picture perfect countryside in the county’s biggest marathon. YTHC has 20 places available.

If running’s not your thing you can still be involved in either of the events by becoming a volunteer steward – this way you experience all the excitement of the event and do a good turn at the same time!

Please contact the Fundraising Team to volunteer or to book your place in one of the above events on 01904 724521 or email charity.fundraising@york.nhs.uk

Bric a brac wanted!
UNWANTED gifts, unused toiletries, books, ornaments or crockery are being sought for our next charity stall at St Crux. You can help raise funds this way so please contact the team with your donations.

Join Lucy on the Great North Run in September
Clinical Coder Lucy Wilkinson has set her self the challenge of running the Great North Run this September in aid of the eye clinic at Scarborough Hospital along with her sister Irene.
Lucy said “I decided to do the Great North Run because I wanted to get fitter and my sister and I wanted to raise money for the eye clinic. It is close to our hearts as our parents both have lots of eye problems and they have had multiple operations on their eyes. We have always found the staff to be friendly and helpful, even though they are always so busy.
“The Great North Run is 13 miles, from Newcastle to South Shields and it is the most popular half marathon in the world. so I’m not expecting to win (although my kids are convinced I will). If I complete it in less than 2.5 hours I’ll be happy!”
Places are still available or if you would like to donate to Lucy please go to her Justgiving page www.justgiving.com/lucy-is-running.

Thanks to Portakabin
Thank you to staff from Portakabin in York who donated £550 to the Coronary Care Unit at York Hospital.

Team effort
A massive well done to the Scarborough Dragon Boat team for their heroic efforts. It was an excellent team building day for the Child Health Directorate with SCBU, Duke of Kent and Managers giving something back to the local community.
Ophthalmology clinic move to Bridglington proves huge success six months on

OVER six months ago, the Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Clinic moved from Scarborough Hospital to Bridlington Hospital.

Relocating into the former Minor Injuries Unit at the hospital, the space was upgraded to provide a dedicated department for the service with specialised clean rooms in which to deliver the treatment.

The clinics see patients from Driffield, Bridlington, Scarborough, Whitby, Pickering and surrounding villages and treat over 600 eyes. Suzanne Meek, Sister in Outpatients, explained: “There is growing demand for the AMD service so we needed to expand the service we offered from Scarborough Hospital.

“The injections we give to treat the condition have to be given in an operating theatre or a clean room. By moving the service to Bridlington, there was space to expand and create two clean rooms so we now provide a service two days a week instead of just one.

“Feedback from both patients and staff has been extremely positive. We have invested in developing the clinical skills of our staff and have trained a number of senior nurses to deliver the intravitreal injections, which were previously given by Consultants.

“From improved waiting rooms, to specialised clean rooms, improved staff morale and clinical expertise we are delighted with the service we are now able to provide and have exciting plans to make further improvements to upgrade the service.”

Staff are also benefiting from cross site working with staff from York coming to work at Bridlington and vice versa.

Ward staff help shape electronic prescribing

Ward staff at York, Scarborough and Bridlington are providing vital feedback on medicines administration processes to help in the development of a new electronic prescribing system that will improve patient care.

The Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) project team are developing a document which will form the basis of the medicine administrations screens which nurses will use.

To get an accurate picture of how the medicine rounds work, the project nurse and project support officer have been out on the wards filming the morning, lunch and tea time medicine rounds. This will help them ensure that practices are safe and secure and to see whether any changes in practice are needed before the project is rolled out. The filming will continue over the next couple of months across York, Scarborough and Bridlington.

Caroline Mulholland, EPMA Project Manager, said: “We have worked, and will continue to work, closely with Sisters to ensure they understand what EPMA is, what it means for their teams, and to ensure the medicines administration screens are as safe as or better than the current paper medicine chart.

“Working together we can ensure a smooth transition to them using the electronic system once it is ready to be rolled out. We will revisit Sisters’ meetings when we have some screens to show and test.”

The team have also been demonstrating new drug trolleys that can accommodate a laptop or similar device to staff in York and Scarborough to make sure the right equipment is chosen.

Staff experiencing problems with any of the new laptops should contact Service Desk on 771 5000.

If you have any questions or feedback about EPMA you can email the team on epma@york.nhs.uk

York Hospital promotes help for alcoholics

York Hospital hosted a unique partnership this month when Substance Misuse Lead Louise Morley, joined forces with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) to highlight the services available for those with alcohol problems.

Alcoholics Anonymous hold a weekly meeting in York Hospital’s boardroom every Sunday between 3pm and 4pm.

Adam, from Alcoholics Anonymous in York, said: “The meeting is open, meaning everyone is welcome to attend, patients, staff or relatives. Anyone can pop into the boardroom and observe if they want to know more about how Alcoholics Anonymous works.”

For further information visit www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk or call Adam on 07792 180495.

Joining forces

THE YORK Adult Speech and Language team have now been joined by the team in Scarborough who moved over from Harrogate Trust on 1 April.

Heather Robinson, Professional Lead for Speech and Language Therapy, said: “We are excited about the new opportunities to work together this will bring, to maintain and improve good practice. Service will continue across the two areas but provides increased opportunity for integrated working, as part of the wider integration of Allied Health Professional services across Trust.”

Funding available

THANKS to support from Health Education Yorkshire and the Humber, funding has been made available for non-medical healthcare staff at all levels at the Trust to access a variety of courses and access modules with the Open University. Funding is limited and places are offered on a first come first served basis.

For more details, including eligibility and how to apply please email supportstafflearning@york.nhs.uk for a copy of the brochure.
A scheme to provide keepsake ‘journey books’ for babies born at Scarborough’s Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) received a boost thanks to a charity donation.

A brand new camera and printer along with books, stickers and pens were donated by Yorkshire charity SOFAB (Supporters of Families and Babies) who raise funds to improve the experience of parents whose babies are admitted to special care baby units.

Staff Nurse Alison Gaythorpe explained: “On SCBU we provide journey books for all infants admitted for an extended length of time, especially those who are premature. Their journey is documented in a family friendly manner so that the infants and their families have a record of their very first days and their time on the Special Care Baby Unit at Scarborough.

“Parents, siblings, other family members and friends are encouraged to write messages and draw pictures for their new baby. The nursing staff on SCBU also write messages and place photos in the books to record significant events such as weigh days, changing from IV fluids to milk feeds, moving from incubator to cot and first baths. “Parents often comment how wonderful it is to have this keepsake to aid the memory of their baby’s time in SCBU, which can be very stressful and means that it is difficult to remember these early milestones. We are so grateful to SOFAB for the donation.”

Team Louise Peever, Julia Thomas and Jan De Mello with Staff Nurses Alison Gaythorpe and Rachael O’Mara and twins Alice and Max