October was ‘Speak Up Month’ and the Trust held a number of events to highlight the ways that staff can raise concerns at work.

Every NHS trust in England has a freedom to speak up guardian who can help staff to speak up. Last year, over 6,700 cases nationally were raised to guardians.

During the month there were sessions to encourage junior doctors to speak up about their concerns, a training day for the Trust’s Fairness Champions, speak up training for healthcare assistants and a celebration tea party to thank the fairness champions for their support.

Lisa Smith, Freedom to Speak up Guardian and Guardian for Safe Working, said: “We have been busy over the past year making it even easier for people to get the support they need if they have a concern at work. As well as my role as Freedom To Speak Up Guardian we also have 34 Fairness Champions who are trained to support and signpost people when they have concerns.”

The role of Guardian for Safe Working acts as a champion for safe working hours for junior doctors. A junior doctors’ forum

Continues 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: Elaine Vinter, Media and Communications Officer: elaine.vinter@york.nhs.uk
Or email staffmatters@york.nhs.uk

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7 Chaplaincy – here to listen to you
9 A ‘Black Start’ for York Hospital
12 Your charity says thanks for your efforts
Do you know how to speak up?

Continued from page 1

has been created which meets monthly to help develop and improve the Trust’s services, working conditions, education and training for junior doctors.

The group report some positive changes over the last 18 months based on feedback from the forum. Adjustments have been made to rotas, there are improved IT facilities for desk-based PC work in some clinical areas and better access to rest facilities – particularly after a night shift. Hot food availability during night shifts has also been improved. There are revised ED work schedules to ensure that handovers are included within scheduled times and the forum has reached agreement on how to use information from Junior Doctor exit interviews.

Details of the Fairness Champions can be found on Staff Room under Working Environment.

Message from the Chair

Life goes on apace for all of us, though the cold winter weather has not yet arrived thankfully!

You will read in our newly published strategy that the board is committed to developing engagement with staff at every level in the Trust. There are many ways to do this. Staff can support the Trust – and hopefully we can support your wellbeing – by having your flu jab. If you haven’t done it yet it’s not too late, dates for the drop-in vaccination sessions are on Staff Room and screensavers.

You can also engage in the development of the Trust by contributing to the annual staff survey. The closing date is 30 November and everyone should have received their online link. It is the most important tool that the board of directors have to understand the health of the Trust.

And on a more seasonal note I am keen to remind everyone about the important ways in which the chaplaincy seeks to engage with all staff over the festive period.

The Scarborough Hospital carol service is at St. Columba’s Church, Dean Road, Scarborough on Tuesday 11 December at 7.30pm. This will be a special service, led by the hospital choir, commemorating 70 years of the NHS.

Instead of having drop-in carol sessions at York Hospital, the chaplains plan to do something different this year. Knowing that the festive season can be difficult for some staff, they plan to hold a ‘Christmas Presence’ event. Staff can have a quiet few minutes over a lunchtime leading up to Christmas to pop into the chapel and light a candle in someone’s memory, or to put a prayer on the prayer tree.

Of course everyone is invited to the NHS Carol Concert at York Minster on 5 December. You need to be there early to get a seat and wrap up warm, but as our Lead Governor Margaret Jackson says, it really does mark the start of the festive season!

Finally, I wish to provide assurance to all staff that our search for a new Chief Executive continues and I look forward to sharing progress shortly.

Susan Symington
Chair
**10 years of saving sight**

Diabetic retinopathy is the number one treatable cause of visual loss in the UK among 16-64 year olds and can have a devastating impact if not detected.

Since 2008 the North Yorkshire Diabetic Eye Screening Programme, run by the Trust, has been successfully offering eye screening for people with diabetes in the region and recently celebrated 10 years of saving sight.

Diabetic eye screening is a key part of diabetes care. Diabetic retinopathy, caused by high blood sugar levels damaging the blood vessels at the back of the eye, can cause blindness if left undiagnosed and untreated. It is the most common cause of sight loss in people of working age.

Shelley Widdowson, retinal screening grading manager, said: “The programme has gone from screening 29,000 patients in 2008 to over 40,000 people today, and covers a large geographical area. We offer appointments to everyone with diabetes over the age of 12.

“Often people with sight threatening retinopathy have no visual symptoms, and by the time the symptoms become noticeable, it can be much more difficult to treat.

“Screening reduces the risk of sight loss by detecting sight threatening changes that you don’t notice, and this is why attending a screening appointment is so important.

We have an increasing number of patients at risk needing eye screening and our aim is to make sure we offer convenient, local screening appointments.”

The screening team travels across North Yorkshire as far as the East coast to meet people in their communities, visiting more than 110 GP practices and health centres.

- Anyone with diabetes concerned that they may need screening should contact their GP.

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**35-year nursing reunion celebrates NHS70**

A group of nurses from York School of Nursing held a reunion to celebrate NHS70, marking 35 years since they trained – half the life of the NHS! Thanks to Ruth Kingsley, Paediatric Diabetes Nurse, for sharing pictures of the group then and now, a number of who still work at the Trust and in the community.
New physician associate role welcomed

A NEW role that supports hospital doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients is set to free up more time for senior doctors to deal with complex cases.

The Trust has welcomed 12 new physician associates to its workforce. The new recruits have graduated after completing their MSc in Physician Associate Studies.

Physician associates are medically trained, generalist healthcare professionals who work alongside doctors and provide medical care. The role allows them to take a patient’s history, make a simple diagnosis, carry out some physical examinations, formulate diagnosis and develop treatment plans.

The new physician associates will practice across a range of medical specialties, freeing up senior doctors to deal with complex cases, as well as providing cover so that trainee doctors and surgeons can attend training, clinics or theatre.

Karen Cowley, Directorate Manager Specialist and General Medicine, explained: “Physician associates are unique in that they are trained in a medical model unlike the other professionals - so they develop skill sets and attitudes to deliver healthcare to patients in multiple settings very much like a doctor.

“Still a relatively new role to the NHS, the introduction of the physician associate role is great news for the Trust as it complements the numbers of the medical workforce, and increases access to quality care for patients.”

The physician associates will complete four six-month rotations as part of a two-year preceptorship programme. Their ability to practise medicine will be supported by clinical and educational supervisors - meaning that there is always someone who can discuss cases, give advice and attend to patients if necessary.

Benefits of play highlighted

The ‘Superheroes’ of York Hospital’s Childrens ward promoted the power of play in the treatment of poorly children in hospital for national ‘Play in Hospital Week’ (8-14 October).

It celebrated the little known but hugely important role of the play team. They are registered hospital play specialists and qualified nursery nurses who help provide a child friendly and welcoming environment that helps bridge the gap between home and hospital.

Behind the scenes the play team help make a child’s stay in hospital fun by providing them with activities, toys and equipment. Part of their role is to prepare children for hospital life and distract them during medical procedures.

Leanne Haycock, hospital play team leader, explained: “Play is very important not just on the children’s ward, but throughout the hospital, as it eases hospital fears and anxieties. It helps children to understand treatments and illness, through the use of models, photographs and medical or play equipment. This helps them to prepare for hospital procedures and treatment.”

The team creates a programme of play to meet the needs of each individual child which helps with their recovery and their development. Play-based observations can also make a contribution when making clinical judgements.

Claire Kilmartin, sister on Children’s ward, said: “The play team make a big difference when it comes to assessment and diagnosis of the children. Something as simple as a blood test can be very frightening to a child, particularly when they are feeling poorly, and the skills of the play team in distracting and encouraging children helps boost a child’s confidence and self-esteem. Play helps the children to regain control and express a choice with regards to their treatment.”

Leanne added: “We develop good relationships with the families, which is crucial as parents often feel helpless in the face of their child’s illness. Parents are encouraged to interact with their children through play as part of the child’s recovery. As play specialists we have a unique role in the hospital, leading playful activities and using play as a therapeutic tool to complement clinical care.”
September finalists

Lisa Flesher, Head and Neck Clinical Nurse Specialist, York Hospital
Lisa’s nomination by a patient who was diagnosed with tongue cancer describes her as caring, caring, caring! Throughout the last 12 months of his treatment the patient describes Lisa’s ability to display a caring nature not only by what she says but also her facial and eye expressions and her other non-verbal communications. Rather than just feeling looked after, the patient and his wife felt cared for in every way from Lisa’s detailed explanations of treatment to her empathy for concerns and questions and her support while he was an inpatient.

“What Lisa has demonstrated and the way her caring nature has helped me is above and beyond what could be reasonably expected.”

A special mention also goes to nursing staff in Intensive Care, Recovery, Ward 16 and G1 who have all played their parts and Mr P Whittfield, Mr N Brown, speech therapist Ruth Wallace and nutritionists Jill Watson and Emma Tease.

Fiona McHale, Administrator & Fiona Seagrave, Domestic Supervisor, Selby War Memorial Hospital
When Selby Hospital was struck by lightning during a storm at 7.30am and sustained a considerable leak in the roof the result was catastrophic. Water damage meant two physiotherapy rooms were unsafe as well as the dialysis room leaving patients potentially stranded and having to rearrange appointments. Teams throughout the hospital pulled together - domestic and maintenance, senior ward and physiotherapy staff all worked tirelessly using linen resources from the ward to ensure the water damage did not spread and equipment was moved to a safe location. Staff waded in bare feet through the excessive water to clear clinical areas, and outpatients quickly rearranged their clinic list to accommodate physiotherapy appointments. The dialysis room was completely flooded and unsafe so patients were diverted to York Hospital for treatment. Incredibly, by 8.30am normal service had resumed within the hospital with minimal disruption to any services provided or affected.

York Community Response Team
The whole team has received two nominations by families of patients. One family describes the care and dedication shown to their mum Heather as “fabulous” after the team visited Heather every day for weeks and cannot praise the care and service enough.

The second nomination from the daughter of a patient describes three months of “outstanding” care and support for her mum from a totally committed group of health and social care professionals. “They have always treated my mum with the utmost respect and dignity, valuing her opinions whilst at the same time always making sure my Mum was safe.” Praised for their empathy and kindness – “nothing has been too much trouble” – and the way the team have all gone that extra mile to ensure the patient’s reability was maximised to its full potential. “I would recommend this service to any older person in York requiring rehabilitation following hospital discharge.”

York Security Team, York Hospital
While security officer Richard Breckon was on car parking duties he was faced with an elderly gentleman collapsed near his car. After initially gasping the man became quiet and did not appear to be breathing. Richard called on his radio for assistance and started CPR until he was relieved by a paramedic. They were joined by another paramedic with a defibrillator and a doctor leaving the hospital after his duty until the ambulance arrived. The security team are praised for their actions in helping to save the man’s life from initiating first aid, calling the ambulance, closing the car park, assisting the ambulance crew and traffic management. The team assisted service users where to park due to the closure and those that were waiting to leave, the ambulance leaving and also checking on the gentleman in ED afterwards. “The team as a whole pulled together through this distressing incident and proved they are stars without a doubt.”

Olivia-Jo Lovitt
Olivia-Jo Lovitt, Healthcare Assistant, Scarborough Hospital
After a 12-hour shift on a Sunday Olivia-Jo came across a man in the corridor struggling to walk with a broken crust and an injured foot. Olivia found a wheelchair and wheeled him to A&E to get new crutches. When she asked him how he was going to get home, he said he didn’t have a home and would walk back into town. Olivia wheeled him to collect his belongings from under a bush where they were hidden and to the main road so he had a flat surface to mobilise on. She returned the chair, picked up her things and when driving home she saw him on a bench. Olivia-Jo and her boyfriend took supplies and drove back to Scarborough, found the gentleman and gave him crisps and biscuits. She is praised for her tremendous compassion and selflessness when, even after a 12-hour shift, she didn’t think twice about helping when many would have turned a blind eye.
THE TRUST held the first ever workshop designed specifically to support ex-military personnel into NHS jobs.

Representatives of the Trust, NHS Employers and The Officers Association were joined by ex-military candidates to explore the opportunities the NHS can offer.

Mark Hindmarsh, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, said: “Each year people leave the Military to go and work in another industry. Many of them want to come and work in the NHS in non-clinical roles but often feel they don’t fit the criteria. We know there are people out there with just the skills we are looking for so we wanted to do a little more to try and help them make the transition from Military to NHS.”

Breakout sessions were held where guests could find out more about how the NHS works, a ‘speed dating’ session to briefly hear about people’s roles and advice on a mock job application.

The workshop began with the Trust signing up to support the NHS Employers “Step Into Health” programme, which is the NHS scheme aimed at supporting military personnel into NHS jobs. Current staff who have made the transition from Military to NHS also shared their experiences of life in the NHS.

The event will also help support the Trust to achieve the gold standard Employers Recognition Award from the Military for supporting ex-military into civilian life. Only a handful of trusts in the UK have achieved this and the Trust currently has the silver standard.

THE TRUST currently has a total of five staff governors who are elected to represent the views of staff.

Staff governors bring a unique perspective to the Council of Governors and have an important role in supporting, informing and influencing at a number of levels.

The staff governor role is very different from trade unions, professional bodies and staff-side organisations. They bring a strong clinical or professional perspective and knowhow accrued from working with staff and patients.

Anyone wishing to contact staff governors with any questions can use their work email address.

STAFF celebrated the new extended opening times that have been introduced to the Children’s Assessment Unit on Ward 18 at York Hospital which will see children fast tracked from the hospital’s Emergency Department.

The new hours will help improve patient experience by avoiding unnecessary overnight admissions, catering for patients who require shorter stays in hospital and improve accessibility for incoming referrals.

The extended times run from 9:00am to midnight seven days. This is a big improvement to the previous times of 9:00-22:00 hours Monday to Friday.

Last referrals will be accepted at 23:00 hours from external organisations, for example GPs, and internal referrals such as the Emergency Department at 23:30 hours.

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Representing you – know your staff governors

Andrew Bennett
Sharon Hurst
Mick Lee
Helen Noble
Jill Sykes

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Children fast-tracked from ED

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Have you ever wondered what the Trust’s chaplaincy department do?

The chaplaincy department offers spiritual and pastoral care to people of faith and for those who describe themselves as having no faith. They support patients, relatives and staff from the beginning of life, through to the end of life.

In October they launched a new booklet that gives a guide to spiritual care and chaplaincy services in the hospitals. It has been created to remind people of the importance of spiritual and pastoral care that helps health and healing.

To promote their services the team held ‘Here to Listen’ days at York and Scarborough hospitals in October and delivered the new booklet to wards.

Heading the team is Rachel Bailes, Lead Chaplain for the Trust supported by Louise Grosberg, based at York, and Chris Hayes who covers Scarborough, Bridlington and Malton.

Rachel said: “We each have a great deal of expertise and training in spiritual and pastoral care, and we work with on-call and part-time chaplains to provide chaplaincy cover for emergencies around the clock. We also work Sundays and provide a service in the chapel at York and bedside ministry at Scarborough.

“Our beautiful and peaceful chapels in York, Scarborough and Bridlington are open to all and many staff tell us it is vital to their well-being to have such a space where they can simply come and ‘be still’ in the middle of hospital ‘busyness’.”

The team were keen to highlight that people don’t have to be ‘religious’ to talk to a chaplain and that the Chaplaincy team is available for all - from simply people who are lonely, to those who have deeply complex spiritual and pastoral needs.

Rachel added: “Patients should be asked on admission if they would like to see a chaplain and the information should be passed onto the department.

“There have been heart-breaking incidences of patients asking for a visit from the chaplain but the message didn’t get through to the chaplaincy office. A visit from a chaplain can make all the difference to someone at a very low point in their life.”

The chaplaincy department also has a substantial volunteer team who are well trained in pastoral and spiritual care. The team can be contacted with a referral or non-urgent message on – York Hospital – 01904 725579 or 725678, Scarborough Hospital 01723 342500, or leave your message on the answerphone. For urgent referrals contact a chaplain through the hospital switchboard. The chaplaincy booklet is available on wards and departments and on the Trust website in the patient information leaflets section.

Words of praise

Words from just some of the thank you cards received in the chaplaincy department:

“Thank you for your pastoral care and support for my daughter during her stay in hospital. It’s so dreadful when you simply can’t make things better for your daughter.”

“It is obvious to the family that you built up a great relationship with Cathy in her last days, thank you for your wonderful support and spiritual care.”

“I cannot thank-you enough for all the help, support and empathy that you have shown over the past week. Your involvement gave me great strength to get through this painful time.”

First-ever high cholesterol support group

YORK Hospital’s first ever Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) patient support group meeting took place in September, hosted by Claire Tuson, FH Specialist Nurse and supported by Dr Deepak Chandrrajay and Dr Rashed Hossain.

Approximately 180 patients have been genetically tested for inherited high cholesterol at York and Scarborough hospitals since the FH service began in 2017 and all patients with a positive genetic result were invited. The aim was to offer newly diagnosed FH patients the opportunity to meet and network in North Yorkshire where they could ask questions and share experiences in a friendly and supportive environment.

Patients attended from York, Harrogate and Scarborough found the session “very informative.”
Helping managers to support good mental health

Managing Mental Health in the Workplace training is a new workshop aimed at anyone who manages others.

Mental health is everyone’s issue – we all suffer from stress at times and 1 in 4 of us suffer from mental ill health. The training aims to increase managers’ confidence in noticing signs of stress and mental ill health in staff and in having conversations with staff about their mental health. It includes training on resources so that managers are confident in signposting staff. The workshop looks at awareness of the impact of an individual’s own management style and other workplace factors on staff stress, and crucially, awareness of how to look after personal mental wellbeing.

It will be held on Wednesday 12 December, 9:30 to 16.00 at Centurion House. Places are only open to line managers and are limited, staff can book via the Learning Hub.

Step into Health distance learning courses offered

Once again this popular distance learning course from Loughborough College is offered free to staff. It includes three modules on physical activity, nutrition and stress. Places are now available for 4 February and 1 April 2019.

Learners will be provided with a resource manual which should be completed alongside a workbook of the learning on each module. There is no need to attend College but learners will be provided with telephone support if required.

If you would like a place on either of these courses please email carol.dickinson@york.nhs.uk for an information sheet and application form. Closing dates for applications – 10 January 2019 for the February course, 4 March 2019 for the April course.

Research News

RESPITE trial identifies better pain relief for women in labour

The results of a study that compared pain relief medication for women in labour has just been published. Between 2014 to 2016 York Hospital was one of 14 organisations to take part in the national ‘RESPITE’ trial. From the 400 women recruited, 25 were from York.

Two types of opioid pain relief, Remifentanil intravenous PCA and intramuscular Pethidine were compared in a randomised control trial. The primary aim of the study was to determine the proportion of women in either group who went on to have an epidural in labour.

The study results found that only 19 percent of women randomised to Remifentanil went on to require an epidural, this was compared to 41 percent for women on Pethidine, the women found Remifentanil a superior form of pain relief.

The results found minimal difference in sedation in either group and no demonstrable neonatal ill effects.

A big thank you to Dr Taylor and her anaesthetist colleagues, all the labour ward staff, the clinical trials pharmacy, and all those who helped deliver this important and highly successful study.

More information about the trial is available on the NHIR website.

Research Team Member of the month August

The research department has awarded two individuals as team member of the month.

Nicki Marshall, Research Nurse, has been nominated by the renal team for her continued support – ‘Nicki deserves this recognition as she has continuously supported us, along with numerous other teams. Despite being extremely busy, Nicki is always willing to listen, encourage and help others. We really can’t find the words to describe how grateful we are for everything Nicki does’.

Laura Jeffery, Healthcare Associate Practitioner in Labs, was nominated for all her hard work and support in contributing to the setup of COMBACTE CDI, ASPIRE SSI and the UK Meningitis Study. These studies require a great deal of collaboration between the research lab team and the core microbiology team – ‘Laura has shown relentless efforts to move these projects forward to make them a success and develop good relations. All three projects have been set up together and while this may have huge benefit, it has also involved a great deal of work and Laura has shown excellent management of these.’
A ‘Black Start’ for York Hospital

Power to York Hospital was turned off earlier this month – part of the master plan to test out the Trust’s business continuity action cards.

The ‘Black Start’ exercise saw the main power to the hospital turned off for 15 minutes. This tested the back-up generator and directorate preparedness to deal with such an incident.

Andrew Hurren, Deputy Head of Operational Performance and Planning, explained: “Over the last few months, directorates have worked hard to prepare action cards in the event of a major incident. The Black Start exercise was our first real opportunity to test these plans and, importantly, put them into action.

“Testing the plans helps us validate content and ensure that we are capable of providing an appropriate response when it matters the most.

“It also helps highlight weaknesses and areas for improvement and provides critical hands-on training to the staff responsible for the response and recovery activities.

“In the event the back-up generators provided power to critical clinical areas within seconds of the main power being cut and many directorates initiated their plans within minutes, which is testament to the work that has gone into the action plans over the last few months.

“We are currently evaluating the exercise and all teams have been asked to provide feedback to ensure that we capture any important learning points to strengthen our plans further.”

All staff should know where these action plans are housed on their ward or department, and to understand what to do in the event of an incident. If not, please speak to your line manager.

Scarborough Hospital will be the next site to be tested early in 2019.

Procurement’s rising star

SCARBOROUGH buyer Richard Robinson has won the prestigious North West Procurement Development’s Rising Star Award at the Excellence in Supply Awards 2018.

Richard is a senior buyer with the non-medical section of the procurement team based at Scarborough Hospital. He supports the general work of the team but his specific remit is workforce and print.

Ian Willis, Head of Procurement, said: “Everyone should have someone like Richard in their team - he’s simply brilliant. It was a joy to see Richard’s face when he won the award as he was left speechless – which is a rare occurrence. He is very much a well-deserved winner!”

Staff Survey – why bother?

WITH just days to go until this year’s annual staff survey closes, over 40 percent of staff have already taken the opportunity to tell us what they think.

Staff Matters met with Vicki Mallows, Human Resources Business Partner, to find out why completing the survey is more important than ever this year.

“It’s important that everyone in the team has an equal voice in what’s working and what’s not, and the survey is the perfect opportunity to tell us.

“Only by knowing the issues can we begin to put things right. In turn, that helps us to retain staff, making things easier on teams and reducing some of the staffing pressures we know teams are experiencing.

“All survey results are kept completely anonymous by our external provider, so no-one internally knows who said what. And while each survey has a unique reference number, our provider is legally required to withhold this information from us. We do it this way so that staff can be confident that they can voice their opinions openly and honestly.”

The staff survey closes on 30 November.
The laboratories at York and Scarborough hospitals have been awarded a national badge of quality by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

The labs were independently assessed to confirm that they deliver high quality patient care and testing services and granted UKAS accreditation. It is recommended and endorsed by NHS England, NHS Improvement and the CQC.

Liz Fox, Quality Manager, said: “We are delighted to have achieved UKAS accreditation. It provides assurance for patients that staff who carry out their diagnostic tests are competent and the equipment being used is safe and fit for purpose.

“We are recognised as providing the best possible care and delivering a quality led service with patient safety and delivery at its core.”

What the report said
“The overall impression was that the laboratory is well managed and operating effectively, and the quality culture is well developed now for the new standard.”

“Assessors were impressed with the overall atmosphere in the laboratory on both sites. Staff were clearly very enthusiastic about the service offered by the laboratory, and their individual part in that service.”

“Staff recognised the different approach needed and were knowledgeable, competent and motivated.”

“Many examples were seen of a very high degree of knowledge and competence in areas witnessed.”

NEW work-based learning opportunities for staff at Scarborough and Bridlington hospitals is expected to see even more people gain work-based qualifications and further their career with the Trust.

The addition of two new clinical work-based facilitators to the team has seen support for learners in Bands 2 – 4 increase.

Shermeem Henderson and Felicity MacDonald are both registered nurses who have worked at Scarborough Hospital for a number of years.

The work-based learning team facilitate the Healthcare Assistant Band 2 Development Programme and support healthcare assistants who are completing their care certificates. The team also supports learners who are completing level 2 and level 3 QCF awards and give feedback and guidance to the assessors in the clinical areas. The team are currently supporting the Band 4 Associate Practitioners within the clinical areas.

Congratulations to all recent achievers – Tracey Humphrey, Amandou Jallow, April Mehilhopt, Daniel Brown and Louise Crosby
STAFF BENEFITS
A regular section provided directly for you by the Staff Benefits team bringing you the latest benefits as a staff member of the Trust. Whether you are looking for a better work-life balance, want advice in making healthy lifestyle choices, or just to see what discounts are available to you. For all of your benefits go to the staff benefits section on www.york.nhs.uk/staffbenefits or call the team on 01904 721170 or 771 5262. Follow staff benefits on Twitter and Facebook @YHstaffbenefits StaffBenefitsYHFT

News round-up

Staff Lottery prizes up

The Staff Lottery Committee has decided to increase the prizes for the staff lottery in 2019.

An extra special cash prize of £2,500 will be one of the new prizes to be drawn in July at the summer staff benefits fair and two extra prizes of £250 shopping vouchers have been added in the December draw. This will give us a total of £56,000 in prizes for 2019.

To join the Staff Lottery go to the Staff Benefits page on the Trust website or pick up an application form from either staff shops.

Christmas in the staff shops

The staff shops have lots of fab ideas for Christmas presents, decorations, secret Santa presents and chocolate gifts. Make sure you visit the shops in November and December to pick up a great bargain.

Staff Desk Calendars

In the 70th year of the NHS, Staff Benefits wanted to celebrate the diversity of our workforce with a ‘Gems of our Hometowns’ competition. Staff were invited to send in their image of their hometown - wherever in the world they may be! It could be a photograph, drawing, painting or illustration. The panel selected 12 winners and the desk calendars are being distributed throughout November. If you don’t receive one please contact Staff Benefits.

LGBT+ network helps plan transgender policy

THE LGBT+ staff network held a workshop to help plan the Trust’s new Transgender Protection Policy for patients and staff. Members of the local trans community worked with Trust staff to look at the current issues facing trans people and how this could be incorporated into the policy.

Steven Clark, Chair of the Staff LGBT Network, said: “We’re keen to get things right and create a policy that’s fit for the future. Bringing together Trust staff and members of the transgender community generated valuable discussion and we learnt a lot that will help us update the policy. Many thanks to our guests for taking the time out to help make this valuable contribution.”

Information from the workshop is being collated and will be reviewed in the new year.

Dawn’s 10,000ft leap to raise money for patients

YORK-BASED Dawn Platt, Lead Nurse for Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP), took her dedication to patients to an extreme in September when she jumped from a plane from 10,000ft – at 100mph! Dawn is raising money for the Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP) Foundation – Jo’s Friends Community, one of the few charities that offers information and support to patients, families and carers following a diagnosis of CUP.

Dawn said: “Being given a diagnosis of any type of cancer is difficult to cope with, but being told that you have advanced cancer and that despite all the developments in diagnostic testing, the doctors are unable to find where the cancer started, information fundamental to the type of treatment on offer, is particularly difficult to comprehend.”

CUP affects around 10,000 people in the UK each year. Anyone wishing to support Dawn can contact her direct at dawn.platt@york.nhs.uk
Thanks to you...

Throughout 2018 members of staff from across our Trust give their spare time to fundraise for York Teaching Hospital Charity to help make things better for our patients. From jumping out of planes to cake sales, our staff have found creative and fun ways to help make a difference. We’re looking back on just some of the fundraising highlights this year and the different ways in which our staff have gone the extra mile for our hospital charity.

CAKE SALES

Cakes sales are hugely popular and this year we have been treated to lots of tasty treats in aid of the charity. Paula Deakin is housekeeper on Lilac Ward at Scarborough Hospital and is passionate about helping to make a difference to patients. Paula has been fundraising for many years and regularly organises music nights, balls and cake sales. Recently, Paula has organised cake sales in aid of the Dementia Appeal.

NHS70 CELEBRATIONS

In July the Trust came together to celebrate 70 years of our amazing NHS and the charity was overwhelmed by how many wards and departments took part in a ‘Big 7Tea’ – helping to raise thousands of pounds.

SPARE CHANGE

Thanks to everyone who has dropped their spare change in the collection tins in the staff shops and restaurants in both York and Scarborough hospitals, helping to raise nearly £1,000 this year!

SKYDIVING

This year, staff taking part in skydives in Bridlington have helped to raise more than £10,000 for York Teaching Hospital Charity. Thank you to everyone who bravely took to the skies this year!

DEMENTIA APPEAL

To date, more than £140,000 has been raised through the Dementia Appeal and this has been helped by the passion and support from our staff. February saw York Teaching Hospital Charity reach the half-way milestone of £100,000 after receiving a generous donation from staff on Ward 35. Several members of staff from the ward along with friends and family organised and took part in an eight mile ‘Glow walk’ across York and raised more than £2,000 for the Dementia Appeal. The money raised through the appeal is already making a huge difference in our hospitals by funding reminiscence boxes, specialist chairs, staff training and a £21,000 boost to Emergency Department improvements in York Hospital to help make the environment more dementia friendly.

Get involved

Are you passionate about helping to make a difference in your hospital and would you like to get involved with some fundraising? York Teaching Hospital Charity has a dedicated fundraising team based in York and Scarborough hospitals who can provide support and advice for any fundraising ideas you have. To get in touch with the fundraising team please email charity.fundraising@york.nhs.uk or call 772 4521.

Go to our Facebook page for more