November 2019

Staff Matters

#OurVoiceOurFuture

Everyone is now invited to join the Trust-wide ‘Our Voice, Our Future’ online conversation, where everyone can share insights and ideas, and read and comment freely.

The online workshop lets people join in anonymously to have their say in creating a better future for the Trust and those we care for.

The workshop opened on 14 November and gives everyone, at every level, the opportunity to make their voice heard. There are three areas under discussion – fixing the basics, behaviours and creating a new vision for the Trust.

Simon Morritt, chief executive, said: “The conversations are for everyone and every idea will be read. As I have travelled around the Trust speaking to people it has become clear that there are frustrations around the lack of consistency in the way we behave and how we treat each other.

“We need to try and fix this and we can’t do that without talking to all our staff. This online workshop is set to shape our future, shape our strategy and shape the actions we need to take to improve the environment we work in and the services we provide."

Personal email invitations have gone out to everyone in the Trust to join the conversation.

If you don’t have a Trust email you can join the conversation with your personal email by contacting support@clevertoggether.com.

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

- Endoscopy unit opened
- Poster helps to demystify ICU
- Learning disability liaison service 10 years old
- Raising alcohol awareness
Sad goodbye to cytology

This month Laboratory Medicine waves a sad goodbye to colleagues from the cytology department after changes to the NHS cervical screening programme means that it will no longer take place at the Trust.

The UK National Screening Committee recommendations for the NHS cervical screening programme was to replace cytological screening with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) primary screen as the first line of testing to identify women at risk of cervical cancer. The decision was based on the increased sensitivity of the test, longer protection of a negative result and better outcomes. With HPV, the cause of 99 percent of all cervical cancers, the new test could prevent around 600 additional cancers a year.

Liz Fox, Quality Manager, explained: “We entered a procurement process to become one of only nine laboratories in the country to support the delivery of HPV primary screening within the NHS Cervical Screening Programme across England. Unfortunately our bid was unsuccessful and the work will be transferred to Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. Sadly this means our cytology department closes in December.”

Around 95,000 cervical tests a year were processed by the cytology department with a total staff of 23, from medical laboratory assistants, cytology screeners, biomedical scientists, senior biomedical scientists to consultant biomedical scientists.

Liz continued: “We would like to thank the cytology team for their hard work and dedication over the years, and for providing an exemplary service for all our patients. Some of the staff have found other positions within Laboratory Medicine and the Trust itself, others are sadly taking other paths away from us and we would like to wish them well for the future.”

While cervical screening is no longer carried out at the Trust, non-gynaecological cytology and andrology services for York and Scarborough hospitals will be incorporated into the histology department.
York Hospital’s new £10m endoscopy and GI physiology unit, one of the most modern and largest endoscopy units in England, was officially opened on 23 October.

The unit took eighteen months to complete and will significantly increase capacity, providing around 15,000 treatments each year.

The new unit is a two-storey building, incorporating seven endoscopy procedure rooms on the first floor, one equipped with radiology facilities.

The upper floor accommodates two sizeable plant rooms - one for air-handling units to serve the treatment and recovery spaces below, and an adjacent ‘wet’ plant room.

It also houses staff changing facilities, meeting rooms, and a seminar room with direct audio-visual links to the endoscopy rooms, to allow live streaming for training purposes.

The clinic will be led by a team of consultants and supported by highly trained healthcare professionals. Mr Srinivas Chintapatla, Consultant Surgeon and Care Group Director, who has been instrumental in the design, development and build of the new unit, explained: “The new unit, one of the most modern and largest endoscopy units in the country, is an exciting development for the Trust. We used to do endoscopy in three rooms, so moving to a seven room unit will deliver significant improvements to diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy waiting times and increase the range of procedures offered.

“It’s truly fantastic to see a unit that is 100 percent designed around patients’ needs and complements their flow through the department. It’s bright and spacious, offering patients the best possible environment. I’d like to congratulate everyone involved.”

The new flagship unit, built above the hospital’s existing physiotherapy department, has been designed to increase capacity to meet growing demand, improve the efficiency of patient flow and enhance the patient experience. The new unit will deliver improvements to diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy waiting times and increase the range of procedures offered, meaning fewer patients will have to travel to Leeds or Hull.

Simon Morritt, chief executive, added: “This is one of the biggest capital investments for many years and will allow the Trust to provide clinical services to a growing number of patients needing an endoscopy.

“This is an exciting development for the Trust and it will transform our service into a centre of excellence for endoscopy, providing an enhanced high quality care to our patients.”

The unit is part of the Trust’s continued investment in its hospitals. Last month, plans were submitted for a new flagship Vascular Imaging Unit for York Hospital to provide enhanced diagnosis and care.
In May 2018 YorSexual Health started a trial of ‘Test and Go’ (TAG), a new service where patients without symptoms could be seen by a healthcare assistant and complete a screen for sexually transmitted infections. It was successful and very popular with patients right from the start. A year on the service was dramatically improved by offering an online facility for patients to book into the clinic, transforming the screening service for patients without symptoms. Evaluation revealed patients’ time in clinic was now around 20 minutes compared with up to two hours before the service started. The huge success is largely down to the commitment and enthusiasm of the healthcare assistant team who have worked very hard, embraced new challenges and worked well as a team to overcome teething problems and have worked together on ways to improve the service further.

Ahmed Moussa, Trust Grade Doctor, York Hospital
During a busy weekend on call the medical team were struggling with a lot of admissions and the patients were facing very long waits to see a doctor. Dr Ahmed Moussa was in the hospital in his free time to work on his audit. When he saw how badly his colleagues were struggling, Ahmed gave up his own time to help see patients. His contribution made a huge difference to the patient care and helped relieve some pressure for the hospital. Ahmed was happy to help out for the sake of the team and the patients, and when he was offered the opportunity to try and claim the time back he refused.

Emily Wilson, Senior Audiologist, Trust-wide
Emily works across the Trust with adults and children of all ages. She is praised by her colleagues for the way she engages with all her patients to achieve the best possible outcome and delivers individualised patient centred care. A perfect example was a small gesture that made a big impact on the family of a young child, who was difficult to test and who had become quite upset. He struggled with playing and following instructions and had some challenging behaviours. Emily noticed he became attached to one of the distraction testing toys which was a car and purchased a small toy car for him to take home after the appointment. With Emily’s kind hearted attitude and thoughtful planning the team were able to achieve the hearing test. The family were delighted to be given the toy, and were truly moved by Emily’s gesture.

Robert Goodare, Healthcare Assistant, York Hospital
Rob is nominated by a colleague for his exceptionally caring qualities as a healthcare assistant who really goes the extra mile for patients. When a patient on the ward was due to move to a care home he became very upset and worried about the transfer. Rob came in on his day off to see the patient on the ward before he left, and then drove to the care home to greet the patient and help him settle in – just one of many examples of his caring nature.

Allison Sawyer, Sister, Ward 16, York Hospital
Allison is a very caring and special person who is praised by a patient for going above and beyond her call of duty. Sharon, a long-standing patient, has witnessed first-hand Allison’s ‘amazing’ work and the kindness, understanding, comfort and compassion that she offers to patients. Sharon describes Allison as a very special lady after she came into work on her day off to take her shopping to ensure she had the food and equipment needed for her return home from hospital.
Demystifying ICU

A new giant poster on the corridor to the intensive care unit (ICU) at York Hospital is making a big impression on visitors and staff on the unit.

The vinyl infographic explains the complex equipment used on ICU in a simple way to help families understand what is happening to their loved ones when they are patients on the unit.

Consultant Rob Ferguson had spotted something similar used by another trust and had the image custom designed for York’s ICU. It was funded by York Teaching Hospital Charity.

Rob explained: “For patients and their relatives in ICU it can be the worst and most terrifying days of their lives. ICU involves a lot of invasive, complex procedures and equipment which can often overwhelm visitors on the unit. If we can help to provide simple explanations that are readily available and easily understandable then this will only help our visitors and hopefully reduce some of the stress that they are experiencing and lessen some of the emotional burden they are suffering. It will no doubt help to demystify some of the things we do for our patients on the intensive care unit.”

With so much to take in, families are often reluctant to ask too many questions of the doctors even when they are not sure what’s happening. As well as helping families, the infographic is proving a bonus to new starters on the ward such as nurses and junior doctors who have not encountered the specialist equipment used on the ward.

Elaine Hunter, Lead Sister for ICU, said: “The infographic is a fabulous idea, it will help families enormously when they are away from their relative’s bedside. It’s a fantastic use of charitable funds.”

Datix feedback coming soon

LAST year’s staff survey and workshop provided the opportunity for staff to air their concerns and make comments so that the Trust could act on feedback.

One of the issues that came up was that when an incident was reported on Datix people were not receiving feedback on what action was taken.

Fiona Jamieson, Deputy Director of Healthcare Governance, said: “We really appreciate individuals taking the time to report events on Datix. It gives us a clearer picture of issues that we need to address and informs the actions we take. It’s only right that we provide a summary after the investigation to the person that reported it. Our findings are also reported to the Board and forms part of the national picture.

“Thanks to our IT department being able to develop the technology, we will be launching the new improved feedback system the first week in January.”

In addition there will be extra training for investigation handlers in how to provide feedback from their report. The response is subject to confidentiality and will only be visible to the person who reported it. The feedback summary will be available for all new Datix incidents logged from the beginning of January 2020.

RESEARCH NEWS

Team in top five

UNDER UK rules all clinical trial results must be reported within one year, and a 2018 report from the Commons Science and Technology Committee declared that “failing to publish data from clinical trials presents risk to human health”.

It compromises patient safety, wastes resources, abuses the trust of participants and results in an inaccurate benchmark for new treatments.

While a third of all trials remain unreported, the Trust was named as one of only five NHS trusts that had reported 100 percent of its trial data. Congratulations to the research team!

Celebrating Play in Hospital Week

THE theme for this year’s Play in Hospital Week in October was ‘play for all’.

It is a celebration of the importance of play in hospitals led by the National Association of Health Play Specialists (NAHPS) to demonstrate the wonderful work of the play team.

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.’”
Top accreditation for Scarborough endoscopy

Scarborough’s endoscopy department is celebrating reaching the highest standard of quality for their services. The team has been accredited by the Royal College of Physicians on the quality of clinical services, patient experience, workforce and training.

The Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on GI Endoscopy agrees and sets standards for competence in endoscopy and quality to ensure that endoscopy units have the skills, resources and motivation necessary to provide the highest quality, timely, patient-centred care.

Sue Thomson, Sister for the Endoscopy Unit, said: “We are delighted to have attained the JAG accreditation. It reflects the high standards of service provided to our patients and the hard work of our team.”

Our patients can be assured that the highest standards of quality and safety are met and the unit can offer a first class service consistently.”

As part of the improvements made during the accreditation the team applied for funds from York Teaching Hospital Charity to provide an information screen for the patient waiting area.

Sue added: “Thanks to the charity we have been able to update the waiting room and improve the experience of patients waiting for an endoscopy procedure. Patients can now see waiting times at a glance.”

IN NOVEMBER, the diabetes team came together to raise awareness of a condition that millions of people all around the world live with every day – diabetes.

Currently there are 4.7 million people in the UK who have diabetes and if nothing changes, more than five million people will have diabetes in the UK by 2025.

Tara Kadis, Lead Nurse for Diabetes, explains more about the illness: “When I tell people what I do, many ask me – what actually is diabetes? There are two main types but simply, it is a condition where the amount of sugar in the blood is too high because the body’s way of converting glucose into energy is not working as it should - which can cause all kinds of medical conditions.

“In the UK, around 90 percent of all adults with diabetes have type 2 – many without realising it because the symptoms do not necessarily make you feel unwell. Symptoms of type 2 diabetes include feeling thirsty all the time, feeling very tired, losing weight without trying to, cuts or wounds taking longer to heal and blurred vision.

“Type 2 diabetes is often diagnosed following blood or urine tests for something else. However, you should see your GP straight away if you have any symptoms of diabetes.

“The good news is that type 2 diabetes is largely preventable and about nine cases in 10 could be avoided by taking simple steps like keeping weight under control, exercise and healthy eating. It’s not surprising therefore that much of our work focuses on this through structured education training programmes such as our group ‘Good2Go’ sessions for newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes, which helps people with day to day management of their condition.”

If you would like to know more about the sessions available to patients, contact Tara by emailing tara.kadis@york.nhs.uk or calling 772 6324.
This month the learning disability liaison service turns 10 years old and the team have never been prouder of their achievements. Since their launch they have delivered individualised care to over 2,000 patients, helping provide reasonable adjustments to enable them to access healthcare.

Jo Blades, Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurse, said: “The service has come a long way in the last ten years. At first I had to go around wards and introduce myself, and the concept of adjusting care to meet the needs of a patient with learning disability. Now referrals are on the increase from staff in all types of role. “People are so much more aware now of how we can help and, while we do not have any figures to count overall savings, we are confident that appointments, procedures and attendances would have been a lot more challenging without the support of the learning disabilities liaison team.”

First to wish the service happy birthday was 18 year old Jack who has been a patient since 2013 when he first moved to Scarborough. Jack has Down’s Syndrome, a severe learning difficulty, and a terrible needle phobia. Jack sent a letter to wish the team a happy birthday and thank them for all their help over the years.

Jack describes how the team have worked hard to put him at ease and he now carries a personal hospital passport to keep professionals informed of his needs, likes, dislikes, and the support appropriate to those needs. “They support me on hospital visits as an inpatient or outpatient in all hospitals within the Trust. I have tried and tested it all personally, everyone takes extra care to keep me feeling happy, safe and confident, but always at my pace, giving me time to process situations, before I give the okay. “You are truly extra special people making an enormous difference to the whole hospital experience for so many people just like me.”

Alex Rose, describes how the service helps her daughter Amelia “Without the support of Jo, our learning disability liaison nurse, there is no way I would have attempted to put my daughter through the x-ray procedure a second time. “Jo’s attention to detail, along with her time and commitment to my daughter to get the environment right for the best chance of performing the procedure, was outstanding. “After a home visit, which was really beneficial for my daughter and I, Jo quickly gathered video footage and pictures so that I could talk through and prepare my daughter for the best outcome before the appointment day arrived. “On arrival Jo met us in the corridor and greeted us with my daughter’s favourite TV character doll. Pictures had been put up in the x-ray room to support my daughter and music set up ready to help her succeed. “The consideration shown helped me to relax too, I felt that my daughter was understood and extra time had been allowed to take as much pressure away as possible. Jo’s support allowed me to step back, trust is so important. “The team worked well together and my daughter was given the best chance possible to achieve the X-ray procedure. “Without this input the process would have been impossible, having someone that understood what the experience was like for patient and parent was invaluable, I cannot thank Jo enough for her support and I won’t hesitate to recommend the service or get in touch with her in the future should we need help again. “Jo was outstanding and this service is invaluable.”

CONGRATULATIONS to former chief executive, Mike Proctor, who was crowned Health Service Hero in this year’s York Community Pride Awards in The Press. Mike retired earlier this year after 44 years’ service in the NHS. On his retirement, Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Director, Andrew Bertram, who worked with Mike for over 20 years, said: “His selfless approach to his work, his dedication to patient care over the past 40 years and his commitment and loyalty to our Trust has been nothing short of outstanding.” Picture courtesy of David Harrison, The Press

Minster Carol Service date

THE 41st Regional NHS Carol Service will take place at York Minster on Wednesday 4 December. Doors open at 6.30pm, with the service starting at 7.30pm. The event is free, with no ticket required, and is open to all. If you’ve not been before, please join us for a wonderful celebration of thanksgiving for the NHS, which is a very magical and special way to start festive celebrations.
Halfway mark for international nurse recruitment project

The project to recruit international nurses for York and Scarborough hospitals began in May 2019 and is making excellent progress, with 25 nurses already registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and working on wards.

Altogether 33 nurses are already settling into the Trust, with a further 16 due to arrive this month. The aim is to recruit 100 nurses in total by July 2020, with 40 nurses specifically for Scarborough Hospital.

Julie Southwell, Recruitment Manager, explained: “We’re delighted to welcome our new nurses who are fully qualified nurses in their own country and, for a variety of reasons, wish to pursue a career in the UK.

“They have to go through a very rigorous process to be able to work in the UK and we are supporting them in every way we can.

“Before arriving in the UK they must pass an English language test which is accepted as proof of English proficiency and then they must make an application to the NMC in the UK who verify the nurses’ identity and qualifications.

“They also undergo a computer based test with 300 multiple choice questions that assesses essential professional knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for safe and effective nursing practice in our country.”

When the overseas nurses arrive in the Trust they have four weeks of intensive training with the practice education team for their Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This is a practical examination where the candidates act out the scenarios they are likely to encounter when caring for patients.

Once they have passed their OSCE they can register with the NMC and are therefore a UK registered nurse.

Emma Deans, International Nurse Project Manager, added: “Our first group of nurses have achieved a 100 percent pass rate for their OSCE which is great news. They have come from as far afield as the Philippines, India and Africa and are working in all areas of the Trust.

“They are supported every step of the way to help them adjust and settle in. We also greet them personally at the airport and transfer them to their accommodation.

“Support on the wards is extremely important as, while they are qualified and have a wealth of experience, nursing practice differs around the world and it takes time for them to adjust. They also have to get used to the cultural changes, the varied accents they encounter when speaking with staff and patients and those little slang words we all use in everyday life!”

Nurses are on the UK’s official list of occupations for which there are not enough resident workers to fill vacancies.

The Trust is able to sponsor individuals from outside the European Economic Area to fill a vacancy by offering a Tier 2 visa.

Parking pilot aims to make life easier

FROM Monday 2 December, just in time for the cold, dark, winter months ahead, the Trust is introducing a pilot which will allow staff who work nights to park in the multi-storey car park at York, or the visitor car park in Scarborough between 7.30pm and 8.30am.

As well as being convenient and safe for night workers, the pilot is designed to help ease parking congestion in the mornings when the night and day shifts change over.

The pilot is in direct response to a suggestion made at one of chief executive Simon Morritt’s listen and learn sessions, held in September and October.

Janet Mason, Head of Security and Car Parking, explained: “When staff arrive for work in the morning, they often struggle to park – partly because many of the night shift staff are still working.

“By allowing night shift staff to park in the multi-storey or visitors car park overnight, we hope to improve flow around our hospitals and make parking easier for staff in the mornings.

“Staff who are eligible will automatically have permissions added to their ID badge, so there is no need to take a ticket at the barrier – instead simply present your badge.”

The pilot will run initially for three months, after which the Trust will evaluate it to see what difference it has made.

If you have any comments or feedback about the pilot, either before or during, contact Norman Elliott, Security Contracts Manager, on 772 5636.
Raising alcohol awareness

**Alcohol Awareness**

**Week ran from 11-17 November and encouraged all of us to get thinking about our drinking.**

Recent research has indicated that 1 in 5 people accessing hospital services are drinking at harmful levels and 1 in 10 people are alcohol dependent. Alcohol-related conditions are estimated to cost the NHS approximately £3.5 million per year and in England in 2017/18, 7.2 percent of all hospital admissions were related to alcohol consumption – 3 percent higher than the previous year. In the same period hospital admissions for conditions directly caused by alcohol were 15 percent higher than ten years previously.

Louisa Morley, Substance Misuse Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist, is based in York Hospital and works in the Substance Misuse Liaison Service three days a week. She sees first-hand the impact of alcohol dependency with well over 500 referrals annually, although Louisa believes this is not a true representation of patients admitted to York hospital with alcohol and other drug problems. Louisa said: “Data shows that only approximately a third of all patients admitted to York Hospital are referred to the Substance Misuse Liaison Service, resulting in missed opportunities to provide appropriate interventions and referrals to help people recover from alcohol problems.

“Evidence indicates that people who access services have the best chance of recovering from alcohol dependence and related problems. All staff can refer patients to community drug and alcohol services - contact details can be found in patient information leaflets available on the Trust website or on Staff Room.”

The Substance Misuse Liaison Service has specialist knowledge and experience of looking after the physical, emotional and social needs of hospital patients with alcohol or drug problems. It can help hospital staff by providing assessment and clinical management advice for inpatients with substance misuse problems and when patients are discharged provide a safe, seamless transfer of care between treatment settings.

The service accepts verbal referrals from all healthcare professionals, community services, patients, their relatives or carers by calling 01904 726559, or by electronic referrals via CPD.

**Alcohol facts**

- 24 percent of adults in England and Scotland regularly drink over the Chief Medical Officer’s low-risk guidelines, and 27 percent of drinkers in the UK binge drink on their heaviest drinking days - over eight units for men and over six units for women
- In 2017, 20 percent of the population reported not drinking at all and overall consumption has fallen by around 16 percent since 2004
- Alcohol is a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions including mouth, throat, stomach, liver and breast cancers, high blood pressure, cirrhosis of the liver and depression
- In the UK in 2017, alcohol-specific death rates were highest among 55-59 year-old females and 60-64 year-old males
- Hospital admissions due to alcoholic liver disease in England have increased by 43 percent in the last 10 years
- Approximately 61 percent of clients starting treatment were self-referrals. 24 percent were from health services and social care, which includes 14 percent from GPs.
Linda’s 45 years helping to save lives

LINDA GREWER is heading off for her retirement after working at the Trust for a whopping 45 years! Many people will know Linda for her role in the resuscitation team where her training has helped so many staff members learn the basics of life saving skills. Linda started as a healthcare assistant at only 20 years old before going on to qualify as a nurse. She has worked across many departments of the hospital, but has spent the last 16 years in the resuscitation team. Linda said: “I cannot tell you all the joy it has been working with you over the years and the laughter we have had together. Hopefully together we have laughed and cried and still benefited the patients and the families that we have had the pleasure and privilege to care for. “After 45 years, I have seen so many of you develop over your careers as likewise you have done mine. At times we have gone through tricky times as well as fun times but we have looked after one another, and that is what the ethos of the NHS should be based upon.”

How to play your part in fighting fraud

No individual or organisation is immune from the threat of fraud, and the NHS is no exception. NHS fraud affects all of us and International Fraud Awareness Week (17-23 November) is a timely reminder that everyone can play their part in preventing this hidden crime.

The local counter fraud team have highlighted some of the more likely types of fraud that pose a threat to the Trust, based on what has been reported at neighbouring trusts over the last 12 months.

Some of the biggest risks currently being faced are spoof emails sent by fraudsters pretending to be named contacts from genuine suppliers. They try to convince staff to change bank details for supplier payments, diverting large amounts of money from the genuine supplier into a dodgy account. There is also another type where a fake version of a senior executive’s email account is created asking for urgent payment of a large invoice. Staff can feel an increased pressure to comply because they think it’s the chief executive officer contacting them.

Another one involves payroll fraud where scammers send emails which look like they’ve come from ESR, to tempt staff to enter their ESR login details into a fake ESR log in page. This gives them access to the employee’s ESR record. They will then change the employee’s bank details, diverting their hard-earned wages to the scammers account.

Steve Moss, Head of Anti-Crime Services for Audit Yorkshire, said: “We take the threat of fraud very seriously, that means we need to make sure everyone is aware of it. Most of us would never dream of committing fraud and the same goes for our patients and the people we work with every day. However, the small minority who commit fraud against the NHS can have a serious impact on us all, and everyone has a role to play in fighting fraud.”

Meet the team

Meet the Trust’s local counter fraud specialists and security management specialists in Crime Prevention Week where they will be available all week with their crime awareness surgeries at the following locations:

- 16 December 12:00pm-2.00pm, York Hospital, The Hub at Ellerby’s
- 17 December 12:00pm-2.00pm, Scarborough Hospital, opposite Pat’s Place
- 18 December 12:00-2.00pm, Bridlington Hospital, Main Entrance
- 19 December 12:00-2.00pm, Malton Hospital, Dining Room
- 20 December 12:00-2.00pm, Selby War Memorial Hospital, Main Entrance

“International Fraud Awareness Week is a great opportunity to remind us of that, but remember – your Local Counter Fraud Specialist is available all year round to provide advice and support.”

For more information and advice about NHS fraud, speak to your Local Counter Fraud Specialists, Marie Hall, on marie.hall15@nhs.net / 01904 725190 or Rosie Dickinson, on rosie.dickinson1@nhs.net / 01904 725272.
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 Facebook @YHFTBenefits

Staff desk calendar competition

Each year, the staff benefits team produce a desk calendar which is distributed to staff across the Trust. The theme for the calendar changes each year and for the 2020 calendar the chosen theme was ‘weather’.

All staff were invited to submit an image of weather with the chance to appear in the printed calendar. The highest scoring 12 images were chosen to illustrate each month.

This year’s competition saw 77 entries from staff at Bridlington, Malton, Scarborough, York and community services. They included pictures of everything from rainbows, fog, snow, sunsets and rain to mist and ice. As well as Yorkshire weather there were images from Cornwall, Iceland, Lake District, Norway, Russia, New Zealand, Wales and Croatia to name a few.

Most of the entries were photographs but there was a textiles entry sewn by a healthcare assistant at Bridlington Hospital, a watercolour by an admin assistant at Scarborough and an oil and acrylic on canvas painting from a decontamination assistant at Scarborough Hospital.

Teena Wiseman, Staff Benefits Manager, said: “The calendar competition is one of the highlights of our year, and this year in particular we received a lot of positive comments from the judges who stated how much they’d enjoyed viewing all the entries.

“We’d like to say thank you to everyone who entered and whilst the 12 winning entries can be seen in the calendar, we think it’s important to share the talent of all the entrants so they will be shared throughout 2020 on our Facebook page.”

Desk calendars can be collected from staff shops. If that is not possible they can be requested by emailing staffbenefits@york.nhs.uk and one can be posted out.

Children’s Christmas parties

Tickets for this year’s Staff Children’s Christmas Parties are on sale now in the staff shops. This year both parties will take place on Saturday 14 December.

Building Better Healthcare awards

CELEBRATIONS are in order for York Teaching Hospital Facilities Management (YTHFM), in partnership with Kier Construction, who have been awarded ‘highly commended’ in the ‘Estates and Facilities Team of the Year’ category at this year’s prestigious Building Better Healthcare Awards. YTHFM and Kier were nominated for their work on the York Endoscopy Unit.

The ceremony recognises excellence in healthcare architecture, estates and facilities management, interior design, and product innovation.
Sign up for National Elf Day 2019!

With National Elf Day on 13 December fast approaching there is still time to take part and raise money for York Teaching Hospital Charity.

Last year was a roaring success across all the Trust hospitals, and this year the charity wants to go even bigger! There is a free fundraising pack available to help people raise as much money as possible. Register at www.york.nhs.uk/elf to receive this in the post or via email.

The pack includes bunting, cake labels, selfie props, a Christmas quiz and an elf hat for the nominated Chief Elf, as well as recipe ideas for anyone planning to hold a bake sale in their department. There will be collection tins provided for the day and the ‘Selfie Elfie Frame’ will be doing the rounds to capture the wonderful festive outfits.

Wards or departments that raise the most money for York Teaching Hospital Charity - or raise money in the most creative way – can win a hamper so sign up now and get thinking of ways to raise funds this festive season to improve patient experience in your hospitals.

On the countdown to National Elf Day, keep an eye out on social media for our roaming elf to see what he is getting up to around our hospitals. Look out for an elf invasion on Friday 13 December – we are hoping that the elves won’t cause too much mischief!

Play team raises money for children’s Christmas party

Thank you to Lynda Robson and the play team for their continued support, working tirelessly to raise money for the children’s ward at York Hospital. On the ward they see firsthand how patients and their families benefit from the money raised.

Recently Lynda organised a tombola to raise funds for the children’s ward Christmas party.

Well done to Lynda and all her fellow colleagues for your hard work over the years!

Collecting tin amnesty

Calling all wards and departments – we are looking for any unused collection tins that may be lurking around. We’d like to clean, rebrand and get any unused tins back into circulation.

On average a tin brings in £25 each time it is filled, so we’d like to see as many out there in use as possible, rather than forgotten in a cupboard or on a shelf.

If your ward or department is hosting one of our collection tins, please either return them to one of our Fundraising Offices in York or Scarborough, or contact the fundraising team to collect. You can email charity.fundraising@york.nhs.uk or call 01904 724521 or 01723 236210 to arrange collection.

Once we have received the collection tin and totalled the amount, we will return it along with a running total for your ward or department for you to display.