



## TRFT welcomes NHS England's newly appointed Chief Nursing Officer to Rotherham

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust recently welcomed Duncan Burton, the newly appointed Chief Nursing Officer for England, to Rotherham Hospital.

During his visit, Duncan met with Dr Richard Jenkins, Chief Executive, and Helen Dobson, Chief Nurse, and nursing representatives from a number of wards and departments.

Key areas highlighted included:

- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC):**  
 The Trust has successfully implemented IPC strategies, including the Florence Nightingale Foundation IPC Champions initiative and the Golden Commode Award, both have significantly boosted staff engagement and reduced infections.
- Nurse and Care Worker retention:**  
 By prioritising staff wellbeing and development, the Trust has made strides in

reducing nursing turnover and creating a positive working environment.

- Quality Improvement:**  
 The Trust's commitment to excellence is evidenced by its success in implementing Exemplar Accreditation across its wards. This recognition highlights the team's dedication to standardised care and improved patient outcomes.

Dr Jenkins, said: "We were delighted to welcome Duncan to Rotherham Hospital. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our achievements and discuss how we can continue to improve healthcare for the people of Rotherham."

Helen Dobson, added: "By sharing our experiences and challenges, we hope to contribute to the development of nursing across the country, while also gaining valuable insights to enhance services here in Rotherham."

Duncan then met with colleagues from our Fitzwilliam ward to see first-hand about how they manage infection prevention and see the control measures in place keeping our patients safe during their stay at the hospital. There was also an opportunity to meet Student Nurses that have recently been successfully recruited to Fitzwilliam ward and discuss why they have chosen Rotherham Hospital to begin their Registered Nurse careers.

From there, Duncan paid a visit to the Trust's 0-19 team to highlight the biggest challenges faced by the team. This included Health Visitors, School Nurses and teams caring for Looked after Children. Together, they discussed the importance of early intervention and prevention, as well as the need for strong partnerships between health professionals, parents, and children.

Duncan said: "It was a pleasure to meet nurses and healthcare support workers from the trust. This included the chance to speak

with some internationally educated nursing colleagues, as well as student nurses and it was wonderful to hear how excited they are to qualify and start working at the trust next month.

"I also heard about the specialist support the trust's 0-19 team provides to children, young people and families in the community and I met some of the school nurses, public health nurses and health visitors delivering this invaluable work.

***"Thank you to all those I met for sharing your experiences with me and for all you do for your patients and communities."***

This visit provided an opportunity for the Trust to demonstrate achievements in enhancing its working environment for colleagues and healthcare delivery for patients across the borough.

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# Welcome from our Chair



The past few months have seen the NHS put under a lot of public scrutiny and debate in the lead up to the general election and the start of the new government's tenure. I believe in the importance of hearing your thoughts on our services and how we can improve, as well as celebrating our successes.

In June I had the pleasure of attending the first staff awards ceremony of my time as Chair and it was fantastic to hear about the work of teams and individuals across our sites and services. We also heard from a patient, which brought home the real impact our colleagues have on the local population.

In the past couple of weeks, the CQC

inpatient survey results for 2023 have been released, and I am pleased with how we have performed, with many improvements being recognised. We are continually looking to improve our services and patient experience, and your voice is important in helping us know what we do well, and what we can do better.

One of the ways you can be involved is to become a member. As an NHS Foundation Trust, we are accountable to the public through our membership. Members help shape our services and can put themselves forward to be elected to our Council of Governors to represent the views of the people of Rotherham and beyond. We have recently held Governor elections; I welcome our new Governors to the Council and look forward to working with them. Membership

is free and you can be involved as much or as little as you like. If you are interested, further information is available on our website.

Every year, we hold our Annual Members' Meeting where we present our annual report, successes and challenges for the previous financial year. The meeting is public and anyone can attend. This year, it is being held at **5.30pm on Thursday 19 September** in the lecture theatre at Rotherham Hospital.

You can also submit questions to the Board of Directors in advance by emailing them to [rgh-tr.foundation.trust@nhs.net](mailto:rgh-tr.foundation.trust@nhs.net) by 12noon on 13 September. I hope some of you will be able to join us.

Dr Mike Richmond  
Chair

## Join us for our Annual Members' Meeting



Thursday 19 September 2024, 5.30pm  
Lecture Theatre, Rotherham Hospital

You will hear a summary of the successes and challenges faced by our Trust's healthcare services in 2023/2024 and a look ahead at our priorities for the future.

If you'd like to have a question answered, please submit your question to the Board of Directors by noon on 13 September, by emailing: [rgh-tr.foundation.trust@nhs.net](mailto:rgh-tr.foundation.trust@nhs.net)



## A message from our Chief Executive

In March the annual NHS staff survey results were released, and it was good to see the improvement in our scores over the past few years. We have carried out a lot of improvement projects to enhance both our patient and staff experience. As is usual with such work, it can take some time for the results to be seen.

However, over the past couple of months, we have been recognised nationally for a number of our improvement projects and ongoing work. We have been shortlisted in various categories for the Nursing Times Awards, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (CAHPO) Awards, Health Service Journal Awards and the Nursing Times Workforce Awards. Each of our shortlisted teams, individuals and projects demonstrates how we strive to continually improve the service we provide to the people of Rotherham, and how they are being recognised at a national level against many other Trusts and healthcare providers. In the past few weeks, we have also been ranked as one of the most improved Trusts in the country for our inpatient experience. This is something that our teams have worked extremely hard for, and their efforts are continuing into the coming months.

In the busy day-to-day world of the NHS, it is easy to forget these achievements and recognition. However, we believe in celebrating our workforce and so it was a great pleasure to attend our annual Proud Awards in June. We received a record number of nominations and choosing the winners was extremely difficult. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who submitted nominations, some of which included heart-warming and emotional



stories. Our shortlisting team read each and every one of them.

Finally, we're fast approaching the colder, darker winter months. We are starting our planning to ensure we continue to provide our essential services through the winter period when pressure on NHS services is at its highest. I encourage you all to think about the various options available to you if you think you need medical advice – attending the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre should be kept to those needing immediate treatment. Colleagues in local pharmacies are trained to provide advice and treatment for many common illnesses and injuries that can be treated at home. If you are unsure where is best to go for the non-urgent treatment you need, visit the NHS 111 website or call 111. Together, we can help keep emergency services available for those most in need.



# Trust funding for lightweight bodyworn cameras to protect colleagues from abuse

Lightweight bodyworn cameras for colleagues working at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust have been funded following a successful three month trial.

The cameras were introduced in response to an increase in violent and aggressive incidents towards our staff. During the trial, a man caught on camera abusing and threatening to kill colleagues was prosecuted and sentenced. Further footage saw two individuals banned from Trust sites for 12 months aside from in exceptional circumstances and 14 conduct warning letters sent out.

Now, the Trust is funding the cameras' ongoing use, as part of its commitment to maintaining a secure environment for patient care.

The cameras will only be used during an active incident and will not record any other time. Colleagues will say when they are turning the cameras on.

The cameras were first trialled in the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC). When Rickie, a Healthcare Support Worker from UECC, stepped in to an active incident, he was punched in the face with such force his glasses broke. He wants people using and visiting our services to remember the people behind the uniform and why they are there.

***"I took a punch to the face. I did it without thinking. But one punch can kill."***

***"We're fathers, mothers, husbands, wives. I'm a dad of two – we have to think of our families. We don't want to***



***have people's partners saying 'I worry about you doing that job'.***

***"We are here to care for and look after people - not look over our shoulder."***

Grace is a senior sister in UECC and has worn a camera. She and her UECC colleagues are reassured by their introduction. "The cameras have been well received and people don't mind wearing them as they are smaller and easier to use.

"I've worn one a couple of times. It's just a little bit of reassurance that, if you are in that situation, you've got a recording. Often telling somebody we don't feel comfortable

and we are recording the incident does calm the situation down.

"It's not nice being in that situation but wearing a camera does make you feel you have a little more back up".

Managing Director Michael Wright chairs the Trust's Violence Reduction group. "Any abuse of our colleagues is unacceptable and we want to help our colleagues feel they can challenge it. The lightweight bodyworn cameras will be used during active incidents of abuse. With them, we have already captured evidence we have been able to act on.

***"We hope the cameras will discourage abuse of colleagues by those visiting and using our***

***services and de-escalate active incidents."***

Sergeant Neil Windle, from South Yorkshire Police's Rotherham Safer Neighbourhood Services, said: "Our NHS colleagues are there to help people as best they can, and should not be subject to abuse.

"Obtaining footage through body worn cameras allows us to gather evidence if an incident was to take place and to ensure that offenders get the justice they deserve. We are pleased to hear that the trial of body worn cameras has been successful and will continue to work closely with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that they are supported and safe while at work."

## Trust celebrates success with multiple award shortlistings

**The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust has once again demonstrated a commitment to providing exceptional care to the local community.**

We are delighted to confirm that we have been honoured by being shortlisted as finalists for multiple awards; a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff.

From innovative treatments to compassionate care, each nomination represents a success story that highlights the Trust's pursuit of excellence. Whether it's the exceptional work of our nurses or the outstanding support provided by our colleagues, every individual plays a vital role in making the Trust a leading healthcare provider.

Our shortlisted awards include Nursing Times Awards, Nursing Times Workforce Awards, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer (CAHPO) Awards and the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards.

We have been recognised for our dedication to nursing in categories such as Care of Older People, Infection Prevention and Control, and Learning Disabilities Nursing. Additionally, the Trust has been nominated for Best UK Employer of the Year for Nursing, Best Employer for Staff Recognition and Engagement, and Best Employer for Diversity and Inclusion.

Furthermore, the Trust's Dietetics team has been shortlisted for the Innovation and Improvement within Integrated Care Systems

award for their work in revolutionising hydration care across Rotherham's care homes. The project has also been shortlisted for the Place-Based Partnership award at the HSJ awards which is one of the most esteemed accolades of healthcare service excellence in the UK.

"I am extremely pleased that the Trust has been shortlisted for a number of awards. This is a fantastic accolade for the staff nominated and for the Trust as a whole," said Dr Richard Jenkins, Chief Executive of Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust. "Our staff work extremely hard and to receive external recognition is fantastic."

As we await the award results, we take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of



our colleagues and the positive impact our teams continue to have on the lives of our patients, the local community and beyond.





# Celebrating Rotherham's healthcare heroes



The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's annual Proud Awards were held in June, celebrating the achievements of our staff and the impact they have on the people of Rotherham.

Almost 500 colleagues came together to celebrate each other's achievements and honour those who go above and beyond to help deliver outstanding patient care.

The evening also provided the opportunity to formally recognise colleagues' long service, with a special presentation for those who have worked for the NHS for 40 years.

759 nominations were received for the 2024 awards, with 274 for the Public Recognition Award alone. This category provides patients, family, friends, carers and members of the public to put forward a person or team that has had a real impact on them.

The recipients of the 2024 Public Recognition Award were the Dermatology team, with a special mention for Nurse Consultant Tara Lees. While presenting the award, Hannah Watson, Non-Executive Director, read out some of the nominations received for the team. One read: "Thanks to them, and the treatment and care they have given me, they have helped to change my life for the better."

Attendees also heard the real experience of a patient who has received care from a number of teams, including orthopaedic and cancer care. He shared his experiences and praise of the staff he had encountered, calling them "extraordinary people".

Dr Richard Jenkins, Chief Executive of The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The Proud Awards are the highlight in our calendar. It is a great privilege to be able to recognise our colleagues for their hard work and excellent care they provide to our patients throughout the year. It's also important that we recognise our non-clinical colleagues too, without whom we wouldn't be able to provide our services."

Keepmoat were the headline sponsors for the second year, alongside fellow sponsors Hits Radio, Knowles Fleet and Assutt. Their kind generosity helped staff to celebrate in style.



**2024 Proud Award winners:**

**Chairman's Award**  
Clinical Haematology

**Chief Executive's Award**  
Laura Mumby

**Public Recognition**  
**Sponsored by Hits Radio**  
Dermatology team and Tara Lees

**Non-Clinical Team of the Year**  
Orthopaedic Operational Team and Schedulers

**Inspiring Leader**  
**Sponsored by Knowles Fleet**  
Chris Hammond-Race

**Diversity and Inclusion**  
Sri Kakarlapudi

**Learner of the Year**  
Billy Ferguson

**Quality Improvement**  
Andy Woods

**Unsung Hero**  
Billy Bell

**Clinical Team of the Year**  
**Sponsored by Assutt**  
Virtual Ward / Urgent Community Response

**Governors' Award for Living the Values**  
Danijela Preradovic

**Volunteer of the Year**  
B5 volunteers

**Excellence Award**  
**Sponsored by Keepmoat**  
**Team of the Year**  
Education and Development Team

**Excellence Award**  
**Sponsored by Keepmoat**  
**Individual of the Year**  
Lucy Richardson

**Excellence Award**  
**Sponsored by Keepmoat**  
**Public Excellence**  
Maternity

**40 years' NHS service award**

- Vicky Muff
- Teresa Muffett
- Mark Smallcombe
- Elizabeth Strawinski
- Denise Tonkin
- Gail Smith
- Helen Utley



We dedicate this photo in memory of Mark Smallcombe, who sadly passed away recently. He was a popular and well respected colleague who will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends.









# Join our celebration of Organ Donation Week and the power of giving

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is proud to be participating in this year's Organ Donation Week taking place 23 to 29 September.

As we approach Organ Donation Week, we are reminded of the impact that one simple decision can make. Throughout the week the Trust will be celebrating the gift of life that donors provide and encourage everyone to consider joining the organ donor register through several events including tea parties for patients, a memorial service for those affected by losing a loved one too soon, and more.

Our Chief Nurse, Helen Dobson, emphasises the importance of organ donation:

*"Every day, many individuals and their families are given a second chance at life thanks to the generosity of organ donors. It's a powerful reminder of our capacity to make a difference."*

The benefits of organ donation are immense. It saves lives, restores health, and provides hope to those in desperate need. Registering as an organ donor demonstrates a commitment to the wellbeing of others, reinforcing the

compassionate care we strive to provide daily.

Joining the organ donor register is quick and easy. By doing so, you ensure that your wishes are known and that you can potentially save multiple lives. To register, visit [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk).

We also invite you to participate in the upcoming Park Run at Clifton Park on 28 September. This event not only promotes physical fitness but also unites us in a common cause. Wear something pink to show your support and solidarity. For more details about Park Run, and how you can get involved, visit [www.parkrun.org.uk/rotherham](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/rotherham).

Together, let's make Organ Donation Week a time of reflection, action, and celebration. Sign up to the organ donor register, join us at the Park Run, and help turn lives around.

Your decision today can give someone a tomorrow.

## New Youth Work Support Project in Rotherham is transforming lives

A ground-breaking pilot scheme has launched on the Children's Ward of Rotherham Hospital to support young patients managing chronic conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, and asthma.

This initiative is a collaboration between The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, the Children and Young People Consortium, and Rotherham United Community Trust. It aims to significantly enhance quality of life through holistic support beyond medical treatments.

Chief Nurse Helen Dobson emphasised the project's importance, stating,

*"The youth worker project bridges the gap between medical care and emotional support for young patients with long-term health conditions. By offering empathy and guidance, we actively improve health outcomes."*

Personalised support is provided by trained youth workers who act as mentors and advocates. These professionals guide patients through their diagnosis journey, offering practical advice and connecting them with essential resources, while recognising the challenges faced by young people managing chronic conditions.

The goal is to alleviate the stress and anxiety associated with chronic illnesses. Young patients can develop effective self-management strategies and cultivate sustainable, healthier habits in a supportive environment outside clinical settings.

The project integrates seamlessly with existing community services and healthcare providers, ensuring comprehensive, tailored care for patients. It strengthens the support network available to young patients and empowers them to take control of their health and wellbeing.

By promoting proactive health management, the initiative sets the stage for a healthier and more supportive environment across our region.





# Volunteers needed!

**NHS and Care Volunteer Responders is looking for more volunteers in Rotherham to support the NHS and people in the community.**

There are lots of volunteer roles available. Roles include making friendly phone calls, delivering groceries and prescriptions, dropping off medication or medical devices from NHS sites to people at home, accompanying someone to a social activity or to enjoy hobbies at home.

Volunteering is flexible to fit around your existing commitments and is organised through a simple app, so you can help when you can.

Even a little help can achieve a lot and make a huge difference to someone's life. Find out more or sign up today: <https://nhscarevolunteerresponders.org/i-want-to-volunteer>

**For Trust volunteer opportunities please visit**  
<https://www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/get-involved/volunteering>



## WE WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

### Join our team as a new Meet and Greet Volunteer!

Serve as a welcoming face of the Trust, providing advice and directions to patients and visitors during their visit.

Volunteers must commit to at least 3 hours per week, for a minimum of 3 months.

Take the first step today and contact us to learn more about becoming a Meet and Greet Volunteer.

#### For more information contact:

Mavis Francis (Voluntary Services Coordinator)  
01709 424329 | 07752 445875  
[rgh-tr.volunteers@nhs.net](mailto:rgh-tr.volunteers@nhs.net)





Fancy a  
challenge?

# Double the cheer, double the impact. Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity have two upcoming festive events



The event is open to everyone including those who can't swim well or have a disability. It costs £25 to take part and the charity would like participants to raise a minimum of £50. To register email [trft.rhcc@nhs.net](mailto:trft.rhcc@nhs.net) or call 01709 426 821.

## Rotherham Polar Plunge

Date: 23 November

Location:  
Manvers Lake, Rotherham

There's still time to sign up to take an exhilarating plunge into the icy waters of Manvers Lake for Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity's Polar Plunge event. In partnership with cold water therapy experts at The Breath Connection.

Cold water immersion and breath work can help boost immunity, improve circulation, manage pain, stress and anxiety. Signing up to a cold water plunge and learning the benefits of breath work is a great way to combat the low mood that can come with the beginning of winter.

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Date: 26 November

Location: Dunelm Pausa  
Café, Rotherham

Time: 5pm – 8pm

To help you ease into the Christmas season, we'd love you to join us at our Charity Wreath Making Workshop hosted by the expert florists at Floral Expressions. Create a beautiful Christmas wreath while enjoying hot drinks and mince pies for a festive experience to remember – all for a great cause.

The price per person is £40 and includes coffee and mince pies for that extra special festive feeling!



To book your place, get in touch by calling 01709 426821 or email [trft.rhcc@nhs.net](mailto:trft.rhcc@nhs.net)

**Thank!  
You!**

Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity funds projects and equipment giving additional support to your NHS services. Caring for patients and families is at the heart of everything we do. We exist to give every patient the extra care they deserve, whilst supporting our colleagues to do what they do best.

The money we raise goes towards enhancing the health, happiness and wellbeing of our patients.



Make a donation  
However big or small,  
every penny counts.

-  [trft.charity@nhs.net](mailto:trft.charity@nhs.net)
-  [RotherhamHospitalCommunityCharity](https://www.facebook.com/RotherhamHospitalCommunityCharity)
-  [rhcc\\_charity](https://www.instagram.com/rhcc_charity)
-  [@RHCC\\_Charity](https://twitter.com/RHCC_Charity)
-  [The Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/The Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity)

