



Community appointment day hailed a success

Community Appointment Day was a musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapy waiting list initiative. 150 patients waiting for a first appointment were invited to attend, with 104 patients attending Park Rehabilitation Centre for the day, which was a 'one-stop shop' for those who came along.

It provided an initial appointment with an MSK physiotherapist, as well as access to other support services, including mental health and financial support from local services.

Almost half of the attendees did not need to access the service further. All attendees had an assessment by an experienced physiotherapist which gave them resources and new knowledge about how to manage their condition.

Becky Fletcher is the Clinical Lead for MSK and Orthopaedic Therapies and organised the event: "After the Community Appointment Day, we surveyed our attendees.

"94% of responders felt it addressed their needs and 97% felt informed, clear on their next steps and that they had been involved in decisions about their care. 91% of respondents shared that they found our colleagues friendly and helpful.

"It pleased us to be able to deliver a much more patient centred assessment during the day. Conversations with patients were broader and covered the aspects that mattered to them. It was good to be able provide an opportunity for patients to access other services they may need as well.

"For our service, it meant we managed to reduce time our remaining patients spend on a waiting list. This fell by 10 days altogether, from 37 to 27 days, following the event. All attendees also came off our waiting list as well."



Becky shared plans for more Community Appointment Days for patients on an MSK physiotherapy waiting list: "We plan to host Community Appointment Days at Park Rehabilitation Centre every quarter. We based this on feedback from patients who responded to the survey."

She added: "In December, new national best practice guidance for Community MSK Services on Getting It Right First Time was released. It included the suggestion of holding community appointment days. We are proud to be ahead of this in Rotherham."



Inside this issue

Children's virtual ward pilot
pages 3



Future plans for hospital
page 4



Who is your healthcare hero?
page 6



Free 'baby packs' for newborns
page 7



Welcome from our Chief Executive



Once again, it has been a difficult and challenging winter for the NHS. The winter months see a rise in illnesses and attendances at the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC). While we do our utmost to provide timely care to everyone who attends, there can be some long waits. As we announced in the previous edition of *Your Health*, we are investing £7million in enhancing a number of services. This will include increased

capacity within the UECC, with minor injuries and urgent primary care getting their own dedicated space alongside a new purpose-built medical same day emergency care (SDEC) unit. More information on this investment is available in the next few pages.

Of course, while we can increase our capacity to help deal with the demand for emergency care, we continue to need your support too. Attending the UECC should be for those in emergency or life-threatening

situations, or those who have been told to attend by a healthcare professional. This helps us to care for those who are most in need. Other healthcare services and professionals are available throughout the local area to help with minor illnesses and ailments that don't need urgent medical attention. Pharmacists, GPs and NHS 111 online can provide professional advice and direct you to other appropriate services.

Dr Richard Jenkins
Chief Executive

Nominate your healthcare heroes

www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/proud-awards



A message from our Chair



As a Foundation Trust, we have a Council of Governors who are made up of members of the public and staff. They play a crucial role in representing your views, influencing decisions made by the Board and the future direction of the Trust. The Governors appoint our Non-Executive Directors and hold them to account for the performance of the Board.

We are coming up to the latest Governor elections and I encourage anyone who has a keen interest in local health services to sign up as a Foundation Trust Member, and put themselves forward for election to represent the views of local people. You can sign up to be a Member for free. You don't have to stand for election, but by being a Member you will be able to vote for your new Governors. More information about Membership and the Council of Governors is available on our website.

There are other ways you can put across your views too. We hold regular Public Panels, each around a specific topic, where you can put forward your thoughts and lived experiences to help shape our future development. Our next Public Panel is being held on 2 April and focusses on dementia. Further details are available in this edition of *Your Health*.

Dr Mike Richmond
Chairman

There have been a lot of announcements in recent weeks about the future direction of the NHS across England. The changes are likely to have an impact on local health services here in Rotherham, but at this stage we're not sure what form this is likely to take. One thing that will remain a priority is the quality of patient care we provide to Rotherham residents. We have many talented and hard-working professionals, on the frontline and behind the scenes, who are dedicated to ensuring our services are continually improving.

Notice of election for Council of Governors of The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is seeking members of the public, patients and their families, to play a part in the organisation's ongoing transformation, by becoming a Public or Staff Governor.

If you want to support healthcare in the region and the future of your local Trust, we encourage you to consider becoming a Public Governor or Staff Governor.

The constituencies where elections will be held are:

- Rotherham-wide 6 seats
- Staff 2 seats

All nominations should be received by the Returning Officer, Ciara Hutchinson, at the address or website as detailed above, by 5pm on Wednesday 9 April 2025.

Should any nominee wish to withdraw their nomination, they must put this in writing to The Returning Officer by 5pm on Monday 14 April 2025.

For all contested constituencies, voting will open on Thursday 1 May 2025.

Voting will close at 5pm on Thursday 22 May 2025.

The Returning Officer for these elections is Ciara Hutchinson, Civica Election Services (address, right).

Further details on the elections and constituencies can be found on our website www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/governors/



A nomination form to stand for election to these positions will be available from Tuesday 25 March 2025 and can be obtained from The Returning Officer:

Online:
www.cesvotes.com/rotherham2025
Telephone:
0208 889 9203
Email:
ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com
Post:
Civica Election Services
The Election Centre
33 Clarendon Road
London, N8 0NW

Children's virtual ward pilot planned

A children's virtual ward pilot launched on Monday 3 March. The pilot, supported by the Village GP Surgery in Thurcroft, will last for 12 months.

The virtual ward will have five beds, supporting children aged 5 or under with referrals made by GPs.

The children's virtual ward will be used as a 'step up' by the surgery. It aims to reduce hospital admissions for poorly patients who could instead be cared for at home where they are most comfortable.

In a first for the region, monitoring on the children's virtual ward will be tech assisted. Parents will be trained to use equipment at home which will monitor their child's vital signs.

Using an electronic tablet, parents can then upload data which nurses from the children's virtual ward team will see. Data shared will include a patient's temperature, oxygen

saturation, heart rate and - depending on their age - rest time.

Before piloting the children's virtual ward, NHS colleagues sought public engagement from possible service users to ensure as many possible views and needs were considered as it was developed.

The children's virtual ward pilot follows the successful introduction of our adult virtual ward, which launched in 2023.

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's children's community nursing team have been working with the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Acute Federation to launch the virtual ward, with support provided by Health Technology Acceleration Funding.



You're invited to our next Public Panel dementia care

We're holding a Public Panel to gather your feedback and lived experiences to help improve the care we provide to people living with dementia.

If you are interested in dementia care, or have experience of living with or caring for someone with dementia, we'd like to hear from you.

The meeting will be held in the **Lecture Theatre at Rotherham Hospital**
Wednesday 2 April
6.30pm - 7.30pm

You can also join remotely on Microsoft Teams
email: rotherham.patientengagement@nhs.net for the link

Nationwide patient safety pilot Call4Concern[®] (Martha's Rule) launches at Rotherham Hospital.

In January, Call4Concern (Martha's Rule) – a new nationwide patient safety pilot – was introduced at Rotherham Hospital.

With Call4Concern (Martha's Rule), hospital inpatients, families or carers are able to call for immediate help and advice if they feel concerned the health care team has not recognised their own, or their loved one's, deterioration.

Calls are answered by the hospital's Acute Response Team, who will visit the patient on the ward to discuss their concern and assess them if needed.

The team is made up of advanced clinical practitioners and specialist nurses experienced in the management of very unwell and deteriorating patients.

Call4Concern (Martha's Rule) is being trialled in all inpatient areas of Rotherham Hospital. The Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC) and Outpatients are not covered in the national scheme. In these areas, concerned patients and families are encouraged to speak to the Matron.



Rotherham Hospital

Investing in our services

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust has received £7million of government funding to increase the capacity of our urgent and emergency care services provide a dedicated medical Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) unit. This will help us to make sure those attending the UECC will have access to timely treatment, supporting the Trust's improvement journey towards achieving the national four-hour emergency care standard.

To make room for this expansion, we're also moving some of our other services into newly renovated areas with dedicated facilities, helping to improve the environment and experience of our patients, visitors and staff.

Pre-assessment centre

A new facility for our pre-assessment centre located close to Day Surgery.

Expected to open April 2025.

Urgent primary care, minor injuries and medical Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC)

We're creating more space in our Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC) by moving our minor injuries and urgent primary care services to a new area of the department.

Our medical SDEC unit is also moving into a brand new purpose-built space located beside the UECC.

Expected to open June 2025.

Sexual health

Our sexual health service is moving to a new location beside the main entrance of the hospital.

Expected to open in summer 2025.

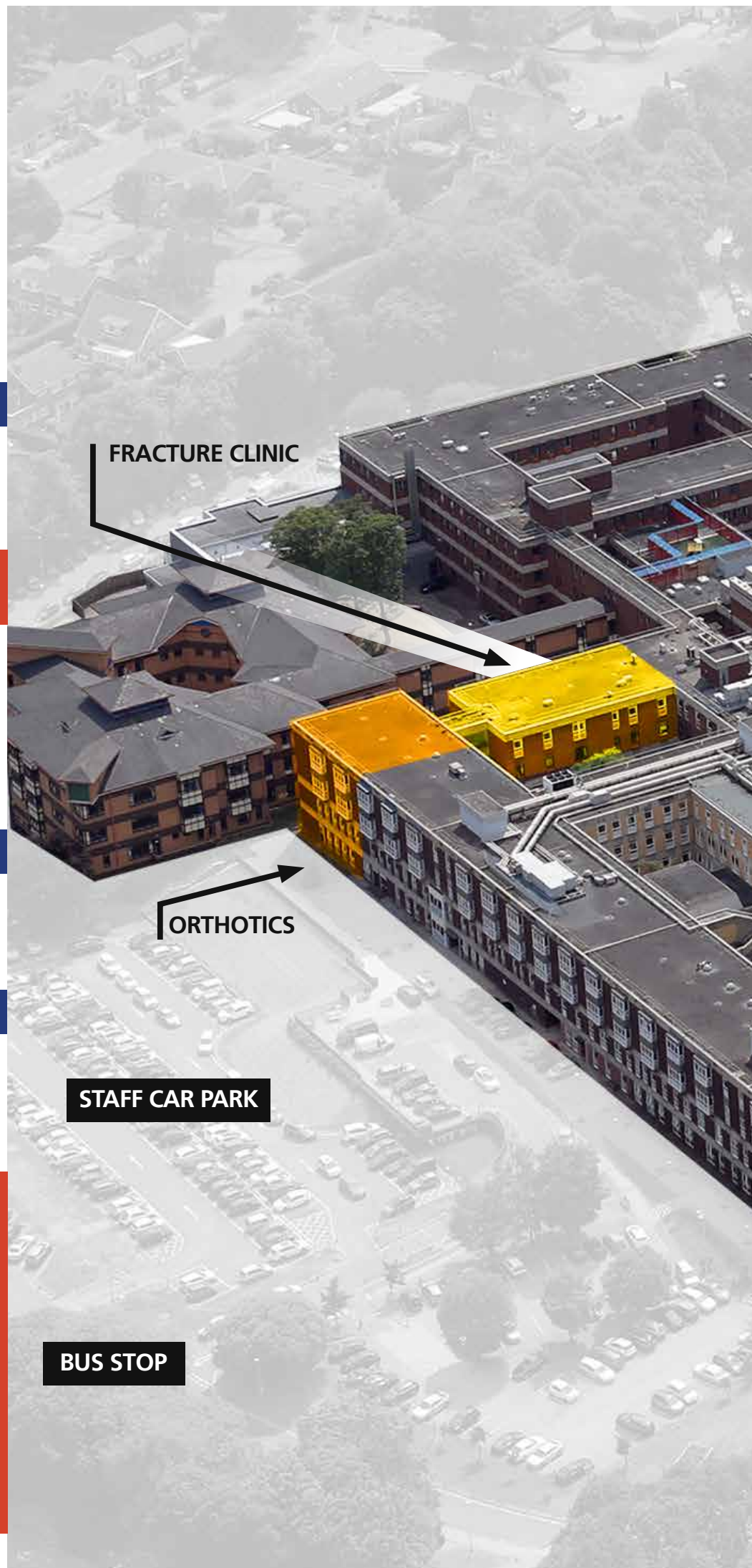
Fracture clinic and orthotics

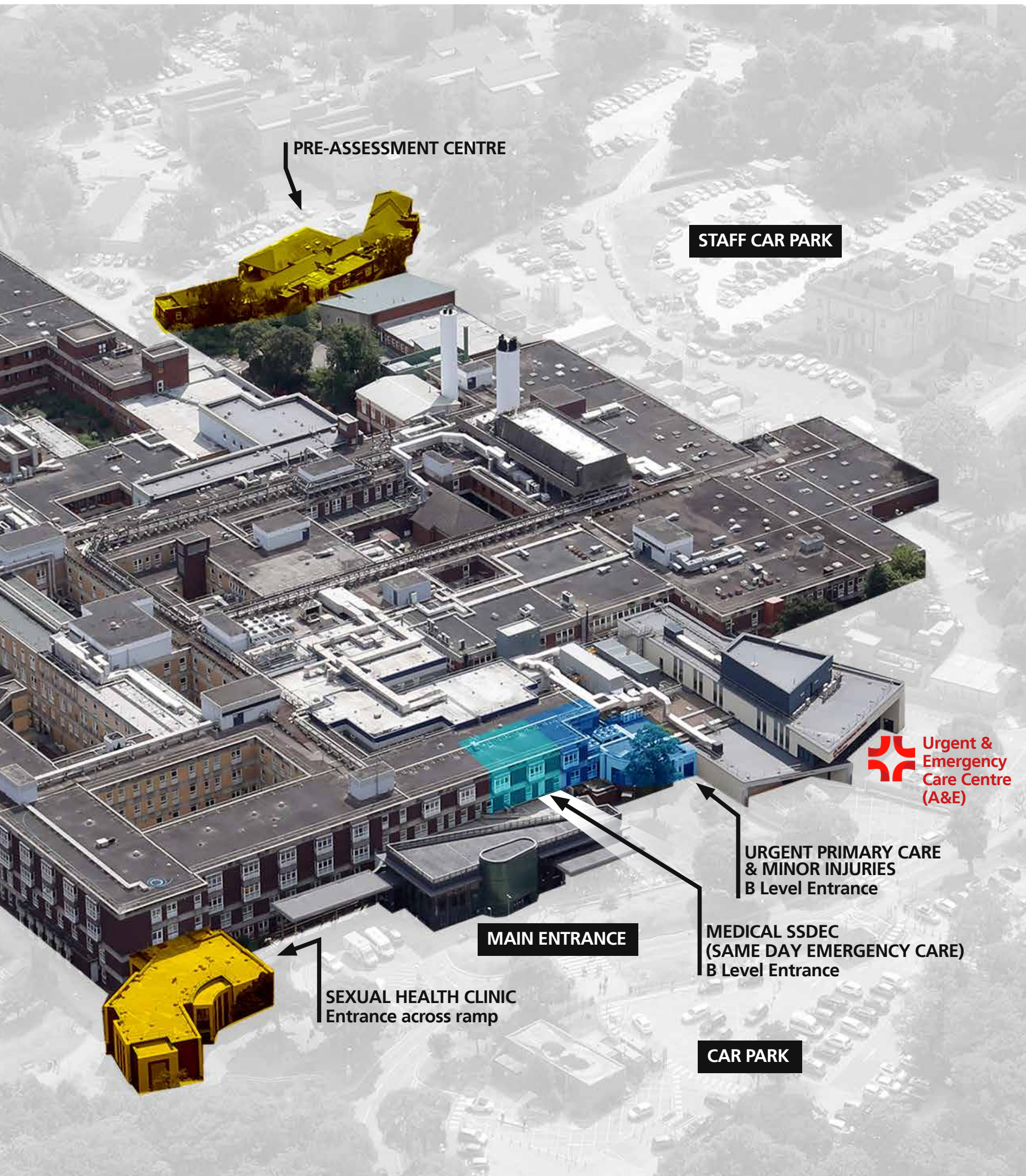
Our brand new fracture clinic will feature its own dedicated x-ray facility. Our Orthotics department will also be refurbished with updated facilities.

Expected to open in winter 2025/2026.

Use of urgent and emergency care services

Despite these works to increase the size of our Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC), it remains important that the service is used appropriately. Only attend the UECC in an emergency or when advised by a healthcare professional. This helps us to care for those in the most urgent need of medical attention. Pharmacies, GPs and NHS111 should be the first port of call for any common or minor illnesses and ailments.





PRE-ASSESSMENT CENTRE

STAFF CAR PARK

 Urgent & Emergency Care Centre (A&E)

URGENT PRIMARY CARE & MINOR INJURIES
B Level Entrance

MEDICAL SSDEC
(SAME DAY EMERGENCY CARE)
B Level Entrance

CAR PARK

MAIN ENTRANCE

SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC
Entrance across ramp

Who is your healthcare hero?



www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/proud-awards

Patients and members of the public are being given their chance to nominate their healthcare heroes in The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's annual Proud Awards.

The Proud Awards are an annual highlight in the Trust's calendar, recognising and celebrating the people who are dedicated to providing the best care possible for patients. Whether that is on the wards or in community settings, in patients' own homes or behind the scenes.

For the third year, the Public Recognition Award is supported by Hits Radio. This award is an opportunity for patients and their loved ones to nominate an individual or team who have helped to deliver outstanding healthcare.

In recognition of the impact they have on patients and their families, members of the public are also able to nominate members of the Trust's army of volunteers, easily

identified by their blue t-shirts, for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Trust colleagues are also able to nominate across 10 categories, including Unsung Hero, Clinical and Non-Clinical Team of the Year and Inspiring Leader.

In 2024, the Public Recognition Award was presented to the Dermatology team, while our volunteers on Ward B5 took home the Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Trust's colleagues eligible to be nominated for awards deliver services at Rotherham Hospital, Rotherham Community Health Centre, Kimberworth Place, BreathingSpace, Park Rehabilitation Centre and at health centres across the borough.

To nominate a member of staff or team for the 2025 Public Recognition Award, or one of the volunteers for the Volunteer of the Year Award, complete the online nomination form on the Trust's website: www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/proud-awards. or scan the QR code below.

This includes those working in people's own homes and communities, such as school nurses and district nurses.

Please include as much detail as possible, providing the name of the individual or team, where they work, and specific examples of your experience. The closing date for nominations is Monday 21 April 2025.

Winners will be announced on the evening of Friday 20 June at Magna in Rotherham.



Public Recognition Award
Vote now!



RMBC's free Rotherham 'baby packs' will provide newborns with essential items



New Rotherham 'baby packs' started to be delivered to pregnant women this week. The packs aim to provide essential items to families with newborns. Each pack will include clothing, a toy, a book and other useful items for their first six months of life. The items will be packed in a sturdy storage box that can later be used as a memory box.

On average, there are 2,740 babies born each year who live in Rotherham. All will be eligible to receive a pack.

Registration for baby packs opened on Monday 6 January. Since then, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust's midwives have been discussing the scheme with and registering pregnant women at their 25-week appointment.

The packs were made possible by a £360,000 investment by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as part of its family-friendly budget.

Sarah Petty, Director of Midwifery at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are excited to be involved in this project supporting all families to give

their newborns the best start in life."

Cllr Joanna Baker-Rogers, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Public Health said: "We believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life. The Rotherham Baby Pack scheme is a significant investment in our community, ensuring that new families have access to essential items right from the beginning of their child's life."

Cllr Victoria Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young Peoples Services said:

"Providing all children with the best start in life means starting from the beginning. That's why I'm so pleased that we are going to be able to support new parents with these products, as well as ensuring that they get timely help and support from our local services."

The baby packs are being delivered by FMI on behalf of RMBC.

Supporting patients and staff during Ramadan

Ramadan is a holy month observed by Muslims around the world. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast each day between dawn and sunset.

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust has been supporting its Muslim colleagues, patients and visitors during Ramadan to observe their fast. Some of the support put in place includes:

- 'Ramadan packs', have been made available to colleagues who may not be able to leave wards to break their fast. These have been delivered by the Wellbeing Team as part of usual ward rounds which serve all colleagues.
- Rotherham Hospital's female and male Muslim prayer rooms have been supplied with water bottles and dates for colleagues, patients and visitors to take. The prayer rooms are part of a wider, multi-faith chaplaincy offer.
- Visiting hours have been extended until 10pm throughout the month of Ramadan for all visitors. The extended visiting hours ensure that families observing Ramadan can visit their loved ones after Iftar - the meal that breaks the fast at sunset.

Ramadan is expected to end on Sunday 30 March. The exact dates of Ramadan change every year depending on the cycles of the Moon.

Following Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr (the festival of breaking the fast). This is one of two Eids celebrated by Muslims. Later in the year, Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) is celebrated from Friday 6 June to Tuesday 10 June.



Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity enhances end-of-life care with Purple Butterfly room upgrades



Thanks to the public's donations to Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity's Purple Butterfly In-Memory Giving Fund, the charity has recently been able to enhance and maintain the four beautiful Purple Butterfly end-of-life rooms at Rotherham Hospital.

Kind donations are helping to ensure families can spend precious moments together in a comfortable, peaceful space during difficult times.

As these rooms are always in use, everyday items naturally become worn over time. Donations to the Purple Butterfly In-Memory Giving Fund allows the charity to keep the rooms in top condition for families when they need it most.

Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity are proud to have funded brand new enhancements in the end-of-life rooms, including:

- Smart TVs for entertainment and comfort
- Microwaves and lamps for convenience
- Sofa beds and day beds to allow families to stay close to their loved ones
- Kitchen essentials – plates, mugs, cutlery
- Plants to create a calming atmosphere
- Games and radios for cherished moments together
- Sensory night light projectors and bubble tubes for relaxation
- Diffusers to bring calm

Rotherham Hospital and Community charity are here to make sure that the care you and your loved ones receive is the best it can be.



Join the fun and make a difference for your local NHS charity!

If you're feeling inspired to get out and do something amazing, why not sign up for a fundraising event for Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity?



SPRING FAIR  We'll be hosting our annual Spring Fair in the hospital entrance. Rotherham Hospital main entrance	SKYDIVE APR & SEPT  Always wanted to tick skydiving off your bucket list? 2025 is your year! At Hibaldstow Airfield	YORKSHIRE 3 PEAKS  Could you take on this unforgettable challenge in 2025? Get in touch for details. At Horton-in-Ribblesdale	TOTAL WARRIOR  Do you have what it takes to tackle 12km of ice, water and mud? The ultimate 2025 challenge. At Bramham Park, Leeds
THE BIG CHARITY BATTLE  Fancy some mad moments, belly laughs and nostalgia? There's no better event than our It's a Knockout! At Hooton Lodge Farm	GREAT NORTH RUN  Take on the iconic Great North Run for your local NHS charity. We have exclusive packages. Get in touch to secure your spot!	GOLF DAY  A great team building day, or just an excuse to get on the green for a good cause! Held at one of the region's most prestigious courses. At Rotherham Golf Club	
WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS  Join our Autumn Wreath Making or Festive Wreath Making Workshops to create a beautiful wreath with natural materials, guided by the experts from Floral Expressions. At Dunelm, Pausa Cafe, Rotherham	ROTHERHAM POLAR PLUNGE  A thrilling dip into icy waters with a breath workshop to learn the skill of breath-work and cold water dipping! Hosted by The Breath Connection. At Manvers Lake		

Pop in and say



Charity hub, Rotherham Hospital, opposite Boots. Make a donation However big or small, every penny counts.

-  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/RotherhamHospitalandCommunityCharity)

