

Choose members newsletter 2017



Could you stand to be a Governor?

An exciting opportunity is available for people with an interest in health to join the Council of Governors of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust. Vacancies currently exist for public Governors to bring their experience as a member of the local community to Council discussions and to help shape the future of healthcare in the Borough.

The Trust provides hospital services in South Tyneside and health services in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland and requires governors in the following areas:

South Tyneside – 2 seats

Sunderland – 2 seats

Gateshead – 1 seat

Rest of North East

England – 1 seat

Only Trust members are eligible to stand as governors. The deadline for nominations is Monday 23rd October, and the results will be declared at the Council of Governors meeting in December.

Special sessions have been arranged for those interested in standing for election to find out more about the role and we would encourage anyone expressing an interest to attend.

The awareness sessions are as follows:

- Tuesday 26th September, 3.30pm, Committee Room, Education Centre, South Tyneside District Hospital, Harton Lane, South Shields, NE34 0PL
- Thursday 28th September, 3.30pm, Meeting Room L2-057, Felling Health Centre, Stephenson Terrace, Gateshead, NE10 9QG
- Monday 2nd October, 3.30pm, Health Education Room, Riverview Health Centre, Borough Rd, Sunderland SR1 2HJ

All members will receive a Notice of Election letter from Electoral Reform Services in early October telling them how to apply. Further information about the Council of Governors is available on the Trust website at www.stft.nhs.uk/about/council-of-governors or you can ring the Membership Office on 0191 202 4121 or email MembershipOffice.STFT@stft.nhs.uk

If you have any queries about the election process, please contact Electoral Reform Services on 020 8365 8909 or email Ciara.norris@electoralreform.co.uk



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"The new MRI scanner signals a £1.5million investment in South Tyneside"
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Lead Consultant for Radiology Dr Richard Cooper, foreground, and radiographers Scott Currell, Laura Langley and David Barlow, with the MRI scanner which will be replaced this winter

A new, state-of-the-art MRI scanner - the first of its kind in the UK - will revolutionise treatment, care and experience for patients from South Tyneside and Sunderland.

The scanner, which signals a major £1.5 million investment at South Tyneside District Hospital, uses some of the most sophisticated technology in the world and will enable doctors to diagnose more diseases and conditions, from cancers to sports injuries, in more parts of the body, more quickly.

The scanner will be up and running this winter, replacing equipment which has been in use since 2004. The transfer from old to new is expected to start this autumn but there will be no disruption to the service for patients as a mobile unit will be brought on site while the necessary building work is carried out.

Lead Consultant for Radiology, Dr Richard Cooper, said: "The new scanner is a very exciting development for local patients. It is much more efficient; the image quality it provides is fantastic and results are available much faster. It has amazing potential: for example, it will allow the visualisation of tumours in more detail, allowing an improvement in their staging, and we are already looking at how we can use it in more fields in the future, such as cardiology."

MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) involves taking very detailed images of the inside of the body. It uses a powerful magnetic field and radio waves, together with an advanced computer system to build up a series of images through the area under

examination. Patients lie within the tunnel or 'bore' of the MRI scanner. The results of the scan can be used to help diagnose conditions, plan treatments and assess how effective previous treatment has been.

The scanner can be used to examine almost any part of the body including:

- the brain and spinal cord
- muscles, bones and joints (musculoskeletal)
- heart and blood vessels
- internal organs, such as the liver, womb or prostate gland.

The tunnel of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's new scanner will be shorter, wider and better lit, making it more suitable for claustrophobic patients who previously have had to be referred to an off-site 'open' scanner. The wider tunnel will also be more suitable for patients larger than those which the current scanner can accommodate.

The existing scanner has different pieces of equipment for scanning different parts of the body, sometimes requiring patients to be moved if multiple areas of the body are to be scanned. The new scanner will incorporate more of these pieces of equipment together within the patient table. Therefore, once the patient is on the scanner table less movement will be required if more than one body area is being scanned. This is particularly important for the comfort and care of patients who are very ill.

An investment of more than £200,000 in cutting edge ultrasound technology is improving patient care and experience at South Tyneside District Hospital by enabling quicker, more reliable diagnosis.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is one of the first in the country to have bought the very latest ultrasound machines, which are smaller and more manoeuvrable than the older models, making it easier for staff to operate them.

The four new machines are being used throughout the hospital, including radiology, the Intensive Therapy

Unit (ITU) and the ante-natal department. One is a mobile unit which can be taken to the patient and is, therefore, of particular benefit in ITU as it prevents the need to move more seriously ill patients. In the radiology department, it is used by doctors to

help guide certain procedures which entail only a very small incision, reducing recovery time and the risk of infection.

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“Our new ultrasound machines provide us with images of superb quality.”
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The two machines used in the ante-natal department monitor the unborn baby and aid in the detection of abnormalities. The fourth machine is in the radiology department where it is used for investigating undiagnosed ‘lumps and bumps’, which cause many patients anxiety and distress, and for musculoskeletal conditions, which affect the joints, bones and muscles.

Lead Consultant for Radiology Dr Richard Cooper said: “It is important that we take advantage of ever-improving technology for the benefit of our patients.

“Our new ultrasound machines provide us with images of superb quality. They are extremely sensitive and allow us to see parts of the body in fine detail, including the brain and heart of the unborn baby. These very detailed scans can help us to arrive at a reliable diagnosis more quickly.

“Whenever possible, we try to put our patients’ minds at rest by giving them the results of their scan immediately and the enhanced images can help us to do this in more cases.”



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Ultrasound lead Jayne Richardson, Lead Consultant for Radiology Dr Richard Cooper and radiology registrar Dr Peter Hewitt pictured with one of the new machines
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Committed to high quality services



Despite the unprecedented financial pressures facing the NHS, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust is putting major investment into the South Tyneside District Hospital site.

The acquisition of a new MRI scanner and ultrasound machines are just the latest examples of the trust’s intention to continue to provide local services of the highest quality in South Tyneside in the future. Other recent developments include the opening of Haven Court, the £9 million centre of excellence for integrated

health and social care for older people in South Tyneside, and a £1.4 million Surgical Centre, which is improving patient experience and access to surgical services.

The trust also hopes to start work early in 2018 on a new energy centre, which is expected to cost in excess of £5m.

Medical Director Dr Shaz Wahid said: “This is all part of our commitment to not only improving the quality of our existing services but continuing to provide safe, high quality, sustainable hospital services in South Tyneside in the future.”

Dates for your diary...

Annual Members' Meeting/ Annual General Meeting – 25th September 2017

The next South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Annual Members' Meeting/Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 25th September 2017 at 3-5pm in Cleadon Lounge, Quality Hotel, Witney Way, Boldon, NE35 9PE. The meeting will be an opportunity to hear about the Trust's journey over the last 12 months from our Chief Executive and Director of Finance. Members will also have the chance to hear from our Community Integrated Team who will give a presentation on how Health and Social Care are working together to support people to remain well in their own homes.

The event is open to our foundation trust members, staff and the public. We hope to see as many of our members there as possible. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of our governors and directors.

Book your place

Places are free but limited. To avoid disappointment and to help us plan for the event, please register before 21st September by emailing membershipoffice.stft@stft.nhs.uk or telephone 0191 2024121

Medicine for Members Event – 19th October 2017

Management and Latest Innovations in Knee Surgery at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust: Developing a Centre of Excellence

The event starts at 2.30pm in the Lecture Theatre in the Education Centre at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Refreshments will be available from 2pm

Book your place

Places are free but limited. To avoid disappointment and to help us plan for the event, please register by emailing membershipoffice.stft@stft.nhs.uk or telephone 0191 2024121

Council of Governors (held in public)

- Thursday 2nd November 2017
- Tuesday 5th December 2017

Both meetings will be held at 3-5pm Hebburn Central, Glen Street, Hebburn, NE31 1AB

Board of Directors (held in public)

- Wednesday 27th September 2017
- Wednesday 29th November 2017
- Wednesday 24th January 2018

All meetings will be held at 3-5pm Community Room, A&B First Floor, Cleadon Park Library, 10 Prince Edward Road, South Shields, NE34 8PS

Book your place

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