Rotherham Hospital scores ‘Excellent’ and ‘Good’ in Annual Health Check

‘...I can also confirm that, with the continued support of all our staff, we are on track to achieve a Double Excellent rating in next year’s assessment, if we can maintain our current high standards.’

Rotherham Hospital Chief Executive Brian James said, ‘Rotherham has significantly improved its rating in the Healthcare Commission’s Annual Health Check, scoring ‘Excellent’ for use of resources and ‘Good’ for Quality of Service (last year we scored good and fair respectively).

I can also confirm that, with the continued support of all our staff, we are on track to achieve a double Excellent rating in next year’s assessment, if we can maintain our current high standards’.

Locally, the other Acute Trusts in the region performed well in the ratings, gaining similar results to Rotherham Hospital. Overall the results of the Annual Health Check were encouraging with the number of NHS organisations in the Yorkshire and Humber region getting ‘Fair’ or ‘Weak’ scores reducing and the number receiving ‘Good’ or ‘Excellent’ scores increasing.

The national picture is very similar to the local picture with a general improvement in the ratings amongst the 394 NHS organisations. Nationally, 19 organisations managed to achieve a rating of ‘Excellent’ for both standards. Foundation Trusts have generally achieved very good ratings across the country in comparison to other health care providers.

Across South Yorkshire the other Acute Trusts also performed well with Doncaster and Bassetlaw and Barnsley also achieving scores of ‘Good’ and ‘Excellent’. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and Sheffield Children’s Hospital did very well achieving double ‘Excellent’ ratings.

Rotherham Primary Care Trust also performed well gaining a double ‘Good’ rating. Their performance along with our fantastic result means that Rotherham has one of the best performing health communities in the country.’
Rotherham General Hospital Chairman and Chief Executive welcomed the Earl of Scarbrough as the new Patron of the Hospital at an informal ceremony in November.

The Earl, who lives on the outskirts of the Borough, is demonstrating his support for the Trust’s continued work to provide high quality health services for the people of Rotherham.

On being asked to be Patron the Earl of Scarbrough said, “I was thrilled to be asked to be the Patron of the hospital. The hospital serves not only as an indispensable health service provider for the public of Rotherham, it is also a valuable employer within the local community. I hope that as Patron I will be able to lend my support to the Trust over the months and years to come”.

At the event Chairman Margaret Oldfield said, “A patron plays an important part in the championing of the organisation within the local community. He is an ambassador for the Trust, helping to support the excellent work that the staff do in providing the best possible health services for the local community”.

“I am also delighted that the Earl and Countess have agreed to be the joint patrons of the new Trust Gamma Scanner Appeal which will be officially launched on the 21st November”, added Margaret.

Meet the people who work to control infection at Rotherham General Hospital

The Infection Control Team at Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is a strong, multi-disciplinary team consisting of the Consultant Microbiologist, Associate Specialist Microbiologist, Clinical Scientist, Infection Control Nurses and Pharmacist.

The team, which is led and managed by the Director of Infection Prevention and Control, meets on a regular basis and is instrumental in influencing and implementing the Trust’s infection control strategy and programme.

The team works closely with the PCT, with the Directors of Infection Prevention and Control meeting regularly and the Infection Control Nurse workforce forming one integrated team. The Trust has also recently formulated a joint antibiotic policy with Barnsley Foundation Trust. On a regional level, Rotherham plays an active part in the Infection Control Doctors Network and Infection Control Nurse Network.

The team ensures that patient flow is safeguarded against infection and that the Trust has a good record in infection control. Its rate of MRSA bloodstream infections is one of the lowest in the country and it has reduced C. Diff. infections by more than 40%.

The Saving Lives programme is embedded within the organisation and there is a large amount of ongoing infection control work, including improving infection control signs, developing surgical site infection surveillance, training, deep cleaning and ensuring compliance with the Hygiene Code.

Walid Al-Wali, Chief of Medical Division, is the Director of Infection Prevention and Control and Consultant Microbiologist.

“The role of the Consultant Microbiologist is to oversee the whole programme of infection control and lead both the team and the Microbiology department. Walid Al-Wali
Other key members of the team include the Clinical Scientist, who manages the Microbiology Laboratory and ensures that the Laboratory Services are tailored to the needs of infection control, and the Medicines Evaluation Pharmacist, who plays an important role in assisting in the formulation and implementation of the antibiotic policy.

**Kathy Wakefield is an Infection Control Nurse at Rotherham Hospital**

“...The Trust currently employs two infection control nurses who have received specialist training in the prevention, control and management of infection. The Trust also has one nurse on a twelve month secondment to the Infection Prevention and Control team.

The Lead Nurse for Infection Prevention and Control manages the nursing element of the team and works strategically across the Foundation Trust, Rotherham Mental Health Services and the Primary Care Trust. In addition to this, the team provides specialist support and advice to the Mental Health Services within Rotherham.

As a team we work very closely with other healthcare professionals, including the Consultant Medical Microbiologist, Associate Specialist in Microbiology and the Clinical Scientist. We also work closely with the Pharmacist, who has a key role with regards to antibiotic prescribing, Domestic Services and the Modern Matrons on cleanliness issues and with Estates and Facilities on new builds, refurbishment plans and waste management.

One of our main roles is to provide specialist advice and support on appropriate clinical management of patients with infections, the suitability of specimen collection and notification to external bodies such as the Health Protection Agency, TB Specialist Nurse or Neighbourhood Services when necessary. We also review infection control policies; manage the movement of patients with infections (including giving advice on the need for isolation); identify and curtail outbreaks; and carry out ongoing monitoring of significant infections such as MRSA and C. Diff which are reported as part of the national surveillance programme.

We supply infection control training to all staff at their induction and as part of an ongoing programme of mandatory training. We also supply more specialised training within departments on request, helping to ensure that all members of staff can play their part in maintaining good infection control practices throughout the hospital in order to reduce the risk of Healthcare Associated Infection.

Working in infection prevention and control is both challenging and rewarding. We strive to make an important contribution to infection prevention and control at Rotherham General Hospital and make a difference for the people of Rotherham.”

**Donna Jones, Facilities Manager, oversees all cleaning at Rotherham Hospital**

“...Cleaning is a recognised way of assisting in the reduction of hospital acquired infections and preventing cross contamination from one area of a hospital to another.

We take cleanliness very seriously at Rotherham Hospital, and our in-house domestic teams are given specific training in basic infection control and cleaning techniques. In addition to this, cleaners must learn about the various different chemicals which are used for different types of cleaning.

The domestic teams then work on their designated areas to provide a clean environment and support the delivery of quality clinical care. The Trust also has a dedicated isolation cleaning team who attend after there has been a patient with an infection.

Last year, the Trust moved to the National Colour Coding Scheme issued by the NPSA to support patient safety. This means that different areas of the hospital are allocated specific colours so that cleaning equipment is not used in toilets and then used to clean a kitchen.

All patients and visitors have a role to play in helping to keep the hospital clean, by using the alcohol hand gels around the hospital and by not bringing too many items into hospital, as it is difficult to clean around a bed area when there are lots of cards or flowers.”
What is a Gamma Scanner?
This special type of scanner can be used to detect and assess a wide range of illnesses including cancer, heart disease, kidney disorders and brain disorders like Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s and dementia. The scanner is used in the Medical Physics Department and is part of a process known as molecular, or sometimes nuclear imaging.

Gamma Scanners are used in approximately 700,000 procedures a year in the UK and the Trust performs around 2,100 scans a year for the people of Rotherham. The three most common scans are to establish the function and condition of bones, hearts and kidneys.

How much are we trying to raise?
£350,000 will help the Trust buy an additional scanner, which means that local people can be seen more quickly and then receive the most appropriate treatment for their condition.

Medical Physicist, Mike Smith said, “An additional Gamma Scanner will mean that we can speed up how quickly we can see patients and determine what treatment we can offer them. Obviously I am really pleased that the Trust has decided to choose the Gamma Scanner as the focus for its latest appeal”.

You may have seen posters going up around the Trust about the appeal and over the months to come more information and updates about the progress will be circulated through future issue of Your Choice.

Trust Secretary Kerry Rogers said, “We want as many people as possible to get involved in raising money for the appeal. We would welcome any ideas (within reason) that you might have for fundraising events, however big or small. If you want to organise something or if you want advice on what you can do to help us raise the £350,000 we’d need for an extra scanner then get in touch with the Foundation Trust Office for more information”.

“It is a while since the last fundraising appeal was underway at the Trust and I want to appeal to the community to get involved. Every pound really counts so no matter how big or how small your fundraising idea, we want to know it. It could be anything from a sponsored parachute jump through to not sending greetings cards and donating the money instead”.

“We selected the Gamma Scanner as an appeal because an additional scanner at the Trust will really help us to see patients more quickly, and it can be used to diagnose a wide range of medical conditions. However this is the first appeal under the Hospital Medical Equipment umbrella and it is hoped that in the future we will hold appeals to buy equipment for other departments at the Trust”, Kerry added.

The appeal has joint patrons in the Earl and Countess of Scarbrough and it is hoped that the local community will get involved in raising cash for the appeal. Remember that all help to raise money for this appeal will be gratefully received and every pound counts! If you want to get involved please contact Maria Dixon on 01709 307800 or foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk.

Since the official launch of the Gamma Scanner Appeal on Wednesday 21st November, Rotherham Hospital has already raised over £25,000 towards an additional Gamma Scanner.
DIARY OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS

19 March 2008
Easter Raffle, to be drawn on 19 March 2008. Tickets on sale in Rotherham General Hospital

9 April 2008
Chinese Evening to be held at the Shining Star Bramley. Tickets are on sale at £23 per head

4 May 2008
Rotherham Roundwalk organised by Rotherham Rotary Club (proceeds are to be shared with the Rotherham Hospice).

June 2008
Car Boot Sale in the Rotherham Hospital Car Park.

June 2008
Coffee Morning at the home of Giles & Liz Bloomer, Lindrick

July 2008
Tea Party at the home of June Bentley (& Dorothy Thickett), Queensway

August 2008
Garden Party at the home of Margaret Oldfield, Trust Chair

September 2008
Rotherham Show Raffle and other fundraising activities

September 2008
Car Boot Sale in the Rotherham Hospital Car Park

November 2008
Ladies Luncheon at the Consort Hotel

If you would like to find out more about how you can participate in, help organise or gain sponsorship for any of these events or anything else you would like to do for the appeal, please call Maria Dixon on the number below for more information.

01709 307800

Six ways for YOU to get involved and help raise £350,000

ONE
Host a coffee morning and cake sale
Get all your friends together and have a coffee and cake sale in your home or work canteen. You can also hold a raffle or a ‘guess the number of coffee beans in the jar’ competition.

TWO
Hold a sweepstake / lottery
Run a sweepstake for the Grand National or the football.

THREE
Hold a book and CD sale
Ask your friends and colleagues to donate unwanted books and CDs for a book sale at home or at work.

FOUR
Organise a party
Have a band, good food, organise a raffle and/or an auction.

FIVE
Organise a competition or quiz
Quizzes are always a favourite whether at home, at work or in your local. Ask your colleagues to bring in their pet or baby photos. Charge people £1 a time to match up the photographs to the person.

SIX
Get sponsored!
Enter a race, organise a sponsored walk or hold a five-a-side football tournament. Alternatively, see if your local gym would like to get involved and organise a spinathon or stepathon.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but is intended to give you some ideas of ways to raise money for the Gamma Scanner Appeal. If you have an idea for an event and would like to get involved with fundraising, please call 01709 307800.

If you are holding a public event in aid of The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust Gamma Scanner Appeal you are responsible for ensuring that it complies with the law, is safe for all concerned and that appropriate insurance has been obtained. The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust does not accept liability for your events or responsibility for accidents. For further information on fundraising issues please see the website below.

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk
To donate money to the Gamma Scanner Appeal*, please complete and return this form along with a cheque or postal order to:

Gamma Scanner Appeal  
Rotherham General Hospital  
Moorgate Road  
Rotherham  
S60 2UD

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to:

RGH Gamma Scanner Appeal

I wish to donate the enclosed cheque to the value of £        to the Rotherham General Hospital  
Gamma Scanner Appeal.

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
Postcode: __________________________ Signed: _______________________

Date: __________________________

If you are a UK taxpayer you can Gift Aid your donation to make it worth more**.

For every pound you give to us we will receive an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue. If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, please sign below:

“I wish the Charity to treat the enclosed donation as a Gift Aid donation."

Signed: __________________________
Date: __________________________

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* Funding, technology and other circumstances can change. For this reason the Trust, as trustee of the Appeal, needs to retain some flexibility concerning the most effective use of Appeal funds. The Trust therefore reserves the right to use funds from this appeal to purchase other medical equipment for Rotherham General Hospital if, in its judgment, circumstances are such that this would be a more effective use of these funds.

** You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give). If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid relief, ask the Charity, or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR65.

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The Primary Care Trust stop smoking centre opened in January on the hospital concourse.

A new higher visibility support service for those wishing to stop smoking has been established with a centre offering an advice service and information about the range of help available to those who wish to quit smoking.

The new centre will be run by Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service staff and is available for patients, visitors and staff to get support or simply find out more. The centre is an excellent new facility that will also enable staff to point patients in the direction of help.

Stop Smoking Specialist for Rotherham PCT, Zahra Velji said, “The opening of the centre is another step forward in tackling the problems that smoking causes. Smoking remains the biggest single cause of preventable illness and death in the UK and this new facility will help us to reach those people for whom stopping smoking can make a massive difference”. “We have been working hard on promoting the ‘Stop before your Op’ campaign, encouraging patients to quit before surgery to reduce their chances of post operative complications and increase the healing process. I am hopeful that having a centre here will help us to reach more people and make a difference in their lives”, added Zahra.

The Stop Smoking Centre will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and to make it easier to access the service, people can call in without an appointment during that time.

A member of the stop smoking team will be on hand to provide support to patients, visitors and staff.

OPEN 9.00AM – 5.00PM MONDAY – FRIDAY
Belinda Loftus, Nurse Practitioner, tells us what her day is like in GU Medicine

I trained as a nurse in the British Army and spent ten years in the Queen Alexandra Royal Army Nursing Service serving in the UK and overseas. I spent most of this time as a sexual health practitioner, looking after soldiers and their families.

My role at Rotherham Hospital is extremely varied. The sexual health service looks after people from all walks of life, from young adults through to older generations. A big part of my role is providing reassurance to people who feel they have put themselves at risk of a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and want to be tested to ensure they are free of infection.

My daily routine usually involves working on a clinic, where I see patients and investigate any evidence of infection. Once I have informed patients of their likely diagnosis, I give them appropriate treatment, arrange follow up if required and refer them to other members of the team, such as the Health Advisors. I also discuss risk, safer sex and what to do about their partners.

Genito-urinary Medicine is an area which people feel reluctant to attend because of embarrassment. Part of my role is to raise the profile of the clinic and help people feel that attending this clinic is just like any other in the hospital. I also spend time liaising with other healthcare workers trying to achieve improved access to services.

The Sexual Health Service at Rotherham

People who are worried but have no symptoms can come to general clinics or access a service called ‘Fast Track’. This is a quick check up service, testing for 4 infections which can often go without symptoms: Chlamydia; Gonorrhoea; Syphilis and HIV.

Anyone who is sexually active can be considered at risk of infection, even if they have been with a partner for a long time. Many STIs, including Chlamydia which can only be detected by a specific test, can be in the body for a long time without displaying any symptoms.

STI testing has come a long way: men provide a urine sample and women have a test similar to having a smear. Some people are put off visiting a sexual health clinic by their fear of the ‘umbrella’ test, but this is an urban myth and does not happen.
Men and women are seen in separate clinics, and staff are used to helping to put nervous, embarrassed patients at ease. GUM is a confidential service and we take that very seriously. We do not inform anyone of your attendance, even your GP. We encourage patients aged under sixteen to tell their parents or a trusted adult, but their confidentiality is always respected.

When we see patients with symptoms, they are not always related to STIs. We often see people who have a general complaint such as eczema which happens to be in the genital area. Also, women sometimes suffer from non-sexually transmitted infections such as Bacterial Vaginosis, which usually occurs because someone is “too clean”. This condition can be distressing, but is easily treated with antibiotics.

However, we do also see patients who have acquired an STI. Most of these can be treated or managed, but every time a person is diagnosed with a curable STI, they have potentially been exposed to an incurable one such as HIV, Warts, Herpes or Molluscum.

You don’t need to ask your GP to get an appointment with the Sexual Health Service. Simply call the clinic on 01709 307777 or contact us at Genito-urinary Medicine, Level C, Rotherham Hospital, S60 2UD.
We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contacted the Foundation Trust office in the last 6 months and all those who responded to the last two surveys.

In September, we asked what you would like to see in your ideal Future Ward and received a total of 549 responses. Several key themes were highlighted by this survey, among the most important being patient privacy and communication. Using the results of the survey as a starting point, the Trust has recently conducted its first privacy and dignity audit to assess our current performance and look at how we can improve privacy and dignity for our patients. We feel that working on patient privacy is fundamental to achieving the Trust’s core value, “We will treat everybody as we wish to be treated ourselves, showing dignity, kindness, respect and compassion”.

The results of the survey were presented at the last Council of Governors meeting in order to keep your Governors informed about the issues that matter to their constituents. In addition to this, they have been passed to the Estates and Facilities department who will take Member’s suggestion and comments on board when new wards and clinical areas are developed.

In our last survey we asked whether you felt that the use of the word “elderly” was appropriate in relation to the Medicine for the Elderly department. We received over 200 responses, which we are currently evaluating. We will keep you informed of the results of this survey in the next Member newsletter.

£1.89 million granted to fund new power plant

The Trust has been successful in obtaining £1.89 million for the provision of a combined heat and power plant for the hospital site.

The funding has been given through the Department of Health’s £100m Energy and Sustainability Fund that was established to reduce the environmental impact of health service provision in the UK.

The new plant should be ready to come into service in January 2009 and will be able to provide the base electricity demand required for the hospital. The waste heat generated from the plant will then be used as a source for the hospital’s heating and hot water systems.

Director of Facilities, John Cartwright said, “Successfully gaining funding for this project is a great result for the hospital. The new power plant will be providing electricity, heat and hot water using a more economical and efficient process”.

“This scheme, in particular, will enable the Trust to meet the NHS target of reducing primary energy consumption by 15% by 2010 from a year 2000 baseline as well as helping to reduce its overall carbon footprint”, added John.

The Trust is making a concerted effort to reduce its impact on the environment and this is one of a number of measures and developments at the Trust.

Please play your part by turning off electrical equipment when it is not in use, turning off lights, conserving water and not printing documents that do not need to be printed.

For more tips on how you can reduce your impact on the environment, turn to ‘Small Steps, Big Change’ on page 11.
The new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) was officially opened by Trust Chairman Margaret Oldfield in October.

The Centre is designed to treat children who are 17 years or younger, in a safe and caring environment. The facility will be known as the Artemis Centre, named after the Greek Goddess, who is known for, amongst other attributes, being a guardian of young children.

On average there are between 750 and 900 referrals a year from the Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley Districts, accounting for 70% of the referrals in South Yorkshire. The other 30% are seen at the facility provided by Sheffield Children’s Hospital.

Rotherham Hospital Business and Services Manager for A&E and Child Health Carole Pridmore said, “The Trust is very proud to be hosting the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre for South Yorkshire. The Artemis Centre is specifically designed to be a dedicated emergency examination, consultation and interview facility. The facility offers a safe environment for children where they can be looked after by health professionals and sexual offence trained police personnel.

Working in conjunction with our colleagues from South Yorkshire Police we believe that the Artemis Centre provides a valuable additional resource in South Yorkshire alongside the only other regional facility based at Sheffield Children’s Hospital. It is sad that a facility like this has to exist in society but we hope that we can provide the very best of care and comfortable investigation facilities for those unfortunate children affected by sexual assault”, added Carole.

Margaret Oldfield praised a number of staff from both Rotherham Hospital and South Yorkshire Police for their combined efforts in helping to secure funding from the Home Office and Department of Health and for their efforts in developing a valuable new facility for the South Yorkshire region.

In addition to the Children’s SARC funding has now been secured for the development of a much needed Adult SARC and plans are now underway for this facility to be built within the existing hospital buildings.
Over the past two years, Rotherham General Hospital has held a series of talks on health related topics. Over 40 Members attended a talk in October 2007 on the subject of Coronary Heart Disease, which included presentations by speakers from our Angiography team, A&E department and Cardiac suite. The presentations were very well received and Members had the opportunity to question staff about issues relating to Coronary Heart Disease treatment and prevention.

More recently, over 60 Members attended a presentation titled: "Healthy Living: Diet and Exercise" on 20th February 2008. The presentations, delivered by staff from the hospital's nutrition and dietetics and physiotherapy departments, gave advice on how to increase activity levels and eat a healthy, balanced diet. In addition to this an overview of the importance of a healthy lifestyle was provided by Walid Al-Wali, the Trust's Medical Director.

Further presentations are being scheduled to take place at Rotherham General Hospital over this spring and summer. Details will be available on our website or from the Foundation Trust Office later this year, so please get in touch if you'd like us to keep you informed of future talks and events.

It’s been a while since we asked you what subjects you’d like us to give talks about. We’re keen to find out what sort of events our members would most like to attend, so please get in touch with any suggestions or ideas you have for future events. If you can think of any subjects you’d like us to hold a talk about or would like to be kept informed of future talks at Rotherham General Hospital, please contact Maria Dixon at the Foundation Trust Office on 01709 307800 or foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk

Alternatively, write to us at FREEPOST RLXB-HECA-KEBX
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Moorgate Road
Rotherham
S60 2UD ●

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is currently making a concerted effort to reduce its impact on the environment. It is down to all of us to recognise that the world is changing and change our lives, both at home and at work, accordingly. We can reverse the trend in extreme weather conditions if we all start to take action now.

If we all make small changes to our lives we can make a big difference to the environment. Martin Aizlewood is the Trust Energy Manager & Environmental Officer and here are his quick and easy suggestions for how we can all be greener at home:

● Take a shower instead of a bath
● Fit a water saving “hippo” device in your toilet cistern
● Re-use carrier bags or buy a “bag for life”
● Turn off the lights when you leave the room
● Turn the TV off instead of leaving it on standby
● Dry your clothes on a washing line instead of the tumble dryer when you can
● Run the washing machine or dishwasher with a full load
● Switch your hot water heater off when you go on holiday
● When boiling vegetables, use only enough water to keep them covered
● Make use of energy efficient cooking appliances like toasters, steamers and grills

Recent popular Top Ten Talk “Healthy Living: Diet and Exercise”
Every year the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust issues an Annual Report titled *In Good Hands* summarising the Trust’s work and progress during the previous year. You may have seen a copy around the hospital. If not, the report can be viewed online at the Trust website* or copies can be requested from the Foundation Trust Office.

We’d like to know what you think of the Annual Report and how we can improve it. Is it easy to read and understand? Is the layout appropriate? Does it include all the information you’d like to see? If you have any comments or suggestions, we’d like you to get touch using the contact details opposite. The Annual Report is produced for you, and with your help we’d like to make it as good as it can be.

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Cancer poster wins praise

Helen Tuck, the Cancer Service Improvement Facilitator, won first prize in the poster competition at the North Trent Cancer Network Annual Conference.

The poster depicted the work the Haematology and Surgical team have done to streamline patient pathways for patients requiring lymph node biopsies. It also demonstrated the significant service improvement that had been achieved at the Trust.

Helen Tuck said, ”It was fantastic for Rotherham Hospital to be named the winner in the poster prize competition especially as the poster demonstrates the significant changes that have come about for patients”.

“The service improvements in Haematology have resulted in a shorter patient journey, quicker treatment and reduced incidence of return visits. It also helps to sustain the cancer waiting time target for the Trust”, added Helen.

If you would like a copy of the 2006/7 Annual Report, or wish to be sent a copy of the 2007/8 Annual Report once it has been produced, please contact Maria Dixon at the Foundation Trust Office on 01709 307800 or foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk.

Alternatively, write to us at FREEPOST RLXB-HECA-KEBX
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
Moorgate Road
Rotherham
S60 2UD

We are pleased to report that the Trust’s financial position at the end of December is better than planned, with a surplus of £1.75 million and over £9 million in the bank. This reflects a lot of hard work by staff here at the hospital.

This surplus will be reinvested into the hospital in order to improve patient services. A proportion of the surplus will be returned to those areas of the organisation generating it, for them to determine how best it can be used.
The Rotherham Hospital Osteoporosis and Bone Health Service was officially opened by National Osteoporosis Society (NOS) Patron Trudie Goodwin on the 16th November.

The afternoon event was an opportunity for those who have worked hard for many years to establish a service for the people of Rotherham to celebrate their achievement and the benefits that it will bring.

Actress and patron of the NOS Trudie spoke of how Osteoporosis has impacted on her family and reflected on the recent improvements in treating those diagnosed with the disorder. She also congratulated Dr Mary Holt for her dedication to establishing a service for Rotherham and to the rest of the team who are working hard to make the service a success.

After Trudie had unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion Dr Holt said, “A number of people have worked extremely hard to secure funding to provide a bone density scanning service here at the hospital. This day marks the end of one journey and the beginning of another.”

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The Bone Mineral Density Scanner

Trudie signs the Visitors’ Book
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- Boxing
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Condition Management Programme
Are you receiving Incapacity Benefit?
Do you want help to return to work?

What is CMP?
The Condition Management Programme (CMP) is a voluntary programme, developed to help people better understand and manage their health condition and develop self-confidence and practical skills to help them back towards returning to work. The scheme is delivered by NHS health practitioners and is a significant part of the Pathways To Work initiative provided by Jobcentre Plus which offers support to people who are out of work and are on incapacity benefits, to help them look at returning to some form of employment now, or in the future. Attending the programme does not affect your benefits in any way whatsoever.

Why should I join?
From a health point of view, we know that being in work is good for your physical and mental health, boosting self-esteem and quality of life for you and your family. CMP is an innovative project demonstrating a successful partnership between the NHS and Jobcentre Plus. Through CMP we are helping local people understand and manage their health in relation to their own individual capabilities and abilities to work. CMP has already had many successes, with more than 3000 people across South Yorkshire having volunteered since the programme started and more than 600 in Rotherham. Many of those people are now either back in work or well on the way to improving their lives by better understanding their health condition.

I'm interested...
What do I need to do now?
All CMP volunteers attend an initial assessment at the Jobcentre, and then you’ll join a seven week core programme at a community venue very close to where you live. All travel expenses are paid for, all childcare provision / carer responsibilities will be paid for and each participant receives a three-month leisure pass to their local leisure facilities to encourage participation in a range of healthy activities as part of the programme.

Free three month leisure pass for all volunteers!
This is the Membership calendar of events for 2008. We would like to meet with Members and hear your views, so please feel free to come along to any of the events listed.

In addition to the events listed below, we will also be holding talks and presentations on subjects of interest to our members. If you are interested in being kept informed of these, please contact the Foundation Trust Office on 01709 307800 or foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk

2008

Council of Governors meeting
Wednesday 16 April 2008
5.00pm

Council of Governors meeting
Wednesday 9 July 2008
5.00pm

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 17 September 2008
5.00pm

This year the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust will be holding a stall at the Rotherham Show in September. If you have any questions for your Public Governor, or would simply like to meet them, this is an opportunity to introduce yourself and have a chat. We hope to have a variety of interactive displays and will also be signing up new Members, so if you have any family or friends who are interested in becoming a Member then bring them along!

All members of the public are entitled to attend the Rotherham Hospital Annual General Meeting. In addition to the AGM, the Council of Governors holds meetings every three months to discuss Trust issues. Public members are entitled to attend these meetings or alternatively you can write down your thoughts or suggestions about changes at Rotherham Hospital and send them to your Governor care of:

Foundation Trust Office
Level D
Rotherham General Hospital
Moorgate Road
Rotherham
S60 2UD

It's nearly election time again, and this spring there are seven Public Governor posts coming up for election in Wentworth South, Wentworth North, Rother Valley West, Wentworth Valley, Rother Valley South, and Rest of England constituencies.

Would you like to get more involved with the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as a Governor?

You don't need any special skills or qualifications to be a Governor. The most important requirements are enthusiasm and the willingness to put forward both your own views and the views of the people in your community. You also need to have the time to attend the AGM and 3 Council of Governors meetings a year as well as sitting on a hospital committee.

We provide training to all Governors, and there is always someone on hand to offer advice and support. The Foundation Trust seeks to encourage Governors from all sections of society and the Foundation Trust Membership office will provide appropriate support to all Governors and Members, including those with special needs.

If you are interested in standing for election this May, please contact the Foundation Trust Office for further information and nomination forms on 01709 307800 or foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 16th April 2008.

We asked our Governors why they chose to become a Governor:

✓ “I wanted to contribute to the benefit of the community”
✓ “As an NHS employee for many years, I felt that I had something to offer the Trust”
✓ “I wanted to support and help Rotherham General Hospital”
✓ “I have had a life-long interest in the NHS”
✓ “I wanted to become involved with decision making at a local level and bring patients’ queries to the attention of the Trust”
✓ “I wanted to further my commitment to Patient and Public involvement and help improve the patient experience”
✓ “I wanted to benefit patients by being involved in decision making”