Your Annual Members Magazine
for The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

February 2017

Urgent & Emergency Care Centre

Nurse celebrates 50 years in the NHS

Your choice
Welcome to the 2017 edition of Your Choice.

The past year has been both exciting and challenging for the Trust. Like most NHS providers of health care, we have experienced increasing demand, particularly over the winter period, and we face challenges around both service delivery and finance. We know that these pressures will continue into the future and have done a lot of work to determine how best to deliver care to Rotherham patients moving forward.

We are one of a number of partner organisations who are working together on the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan – a major piece of work involving local Trusts, commissioners and partners which aims to ensure the delivery of the right care in the right places to patients into the future.

We have already seen proposed changes to the hyper acute stroke services and children’s surgery and anaesthesia and we can expect to see more plans aimed at making services sustainable across the region.

We are also actively working with our partners in Rotherham to deliver care which is more coordinated and is delivered to people in their own homes or in the community. Our locality integrated care pilot is leading the way in developing these changes for the benefits of patients and their families.

Our aim is to remain a sustainable Trust providing outstanding hospital and community services in Rotherham whether at home, in our community or in hospital; but it is important to recognise that we will need to change in order to be able to achieve this.

Here in Rotherham, we have much to be proud of in the services we provide; we have high ambitions for the future; and we remain committed to excellence on behalf of the public, our patients and their families.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Trust and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

Martin Havenhand
Chairman
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

Sign up to our e-newsletters!

There’s a lot going on at the Trust! If you’d like hear our news, then why not sign up to our e-newsletter? Members will receive a free, regular e-newsletter with details about recent news, events and information about the Trust.

You can also follow us on Twitter and ‘Like’ us on Facebook.

It’s really important you also keep your membership details up to date so we can stay in touch.

Contact the Foundation Trust Office via telephone on 01709 427800 or email at foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk.
Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population we serve, building a healthier future together. To be an outstanding Trust, delivering excellent healthcare at home, in our community and in hospital. With your help, we have had some fantastic achievements over the past 12 months.

January – Hospital doctors, local GPs and partners gathered on the building site of Rotherham’s new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre to give the newly erected steel frame the seal of approval.

February – Breast Cancer specialists joined forces with charities Breast Cancer Now and Breast Cancer Care to pledge to ensure all those with secondary breast cancer get the best care and treatment possible at their local hospital.

March – The Trust’s Heart Failure Team celebrated its 10th anniversary. Since 2006, 8,500 patients have been treated by our cardiac rehabilitation and heart failure service.

April – Patients with Parkinson’s disease were joined by their family, friends, Trust colleagues and the former Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Maggi Clark, during National Parkinson’s Awareness Week.

May – The Stroke Team encouraged everyone to wear purple with pride for Stroke Awareness Month. They kicked off activities with an eight-mile sponsored walk around Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. They also held blood pressure checks, a patient coffee morning and a drop-in session to learn more about our specialist stroke services.

June – Colleagues across the Trust celebrated the valuable contribution of volunteers during Rotherham’s Volunteers Month. Some of our volunteers took part in ‘The Big Walk’ to Rotherham Minster where they joined hundreds of others for a huge celebratory event.

July – Kate Phillips, a Staff Nurse based at St Ann’s Medical Centre, celebrated an amazing 50 years working for the NHS. Congratulations Kate!

August – More than 50 people attended a Nurse Recruitment Open Day to find out about potential jobs and to hear from existing colleagues why the Trust is such a great place to work.

September – Workers’ union Unison donated 13 ‘dementia dolls’ to the Trust after hearing about their ability to comfort patients and reduce their anxiety. Thank you Unison!

October – Colleagues across the Trust made pledges for the year ahead as part of Fab Change Day. Our pledges included to use the stairs more, keep working as a team to provide excellent care, to see the best in everyone remembering we’re all human, and to make change happen.

November – We celebrated our inspiring PROUD Awards at the Carlton Park Hotel. We had an incredible response with 432 nominations. The Trust’s new in-house clinical IT system SEPIA won the ‘Enhancing Care By Sharing Data and Information’ Award at the National Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards, for helping transform the way colleagues provide patients with the right care at the right time.

December – International children’s charity Unicef awarded the Trust Baby Friendly status following backing from parents. The accolade recognises the hard work of colleagues in maternity services who have reached the high standards required by Unicef to encourage mums to breastfeed.

For more information and news from the Trust visit our website www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/news
Have you ever thought that you would like to be a member of our Council of Governors?

Make a difference today and put your name forward to be a Governor of the The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust.
Governors play an essential part in the Foundation Trust structure. They represent the interests and views of Trust Members and the general public within their constituency providing an opportunity to influence the future direction of the Trust.

Terms of office are for three years, at which point Governors are eligible to re-stand.

More information on the role, including essential reading documents are available on our website http://www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/Corporate_Governance_Information/Governors_Elections/

Alternatively please contact Dawn Stewart, Corporate Governance Manager on 01709 427022 or e-mail foundation.trust@rothgen.nhs.uk

Members living in all the constituencies where elections will be held will shortly be receiving information from the company who will be undertaking the election process on our behalf. Information will also to be provided on our website.

Perhaps becoming a Governor isn’t for you? If so you can still make a difference by voting to elect your local Governor.

The Constituencies where elections will be held in 2017 are:

**Rotherham North, 1**
Keppel, Rotherham West, Wingfield (Thorpe Hesley, Kimberworth Park, Greasbrough, Masbrough)

**Wentworth South, 2**
Rawmarsh, Silverwood, Valley (Klinhurst, Thrybergh, Hooton Roberts, Ravenfield, Dalton)

**Rother Valley West, 2**
Brinsworth & Catcliffe, Holderness, Rother Vale (Treeton, Thurcroft, Brampton, Aston, Aughton)

**Wentworth Valley, 1**
Hellaby, Maltby, Wickersley (Flanderwell, Bramley, Listerdale)

**Rother Valley South, 2**
Anston and Woodsetts, Dinnington, Wales (Kiveton Park, Todwick, Laughton Common, Laughton en-le-Morthen)

Additionally, elections will be held in the following colleagues constituencies (applications from Trust colleagues only):

- Professional Nurses and Midwives
- Medical and Dental
- Support colleagues to health professionals

Our Council of Governors meetings are open to Trust Members, the public and colleagues. There is an opportunity at the end of meetings to ask questions about any of the items discussed.

The dates of our meetings for the remainder of this year are:

- **Wednesday, 12 April 2017**
- **Wednesday, 19 July 2017**
- **Wednesday 11 October 2017**

These public meetings start at 5.15pm and are usually held in the PGME Lecture Theatre, D Level, Rotherham Hospital. All details are listed on our website at www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk and the agenda is available at the meeting.
Governor Profile:
Our Governor, Jan Frith (Rest of England)

Jan Frith first became a public governor in June 2008 and served three years until May 2011 after which she was re-elected and served from June 2011 to May 2014. Jan then had a break for a year and was once again elected from June 2015 to May 2018.

As the Rest of England Governor Jan represents anyone who is not as defined by the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council boundaries and so could represent anyone registered as a member who lives anywhere, including Kent, London or Scotland.

“I offered myself for election as a public governor as I thought that it would be a really interesting role to be involved with. I was right and have served for just over seven years to date.

“I really feel I am making a difference for people in South Yorkshire.

“As I’m from outside the area I feel I can understand their needs and give them a voice. It’s just lovely to be involved in such an important part of our community; working with the Trust to ensure patients get the treatment they need, where they need it, when they need it.

“People talk about change but the NHS is in constant change and what I really value at Rotherham is the way everyone just gets on with their job and provides the best care they can for their patients. It's a really vibrant organisation and I'm proud to be part of it.

“As a governor we’re not involved in the day to day operational matters of running the Trust, but we receive key information about activities and how the Trust is performing. It’s a widely diverse organisation and there is a lot of information to digest, but it is not daunting as there is lots of help available.

“You also gain an understanding of how the Trust is subject to external influences and how it has to work in partnership with colleagues, commissioners and the wider NHS. We also get the opportunity to talk to other governors within Trusts across England to share thoughts and ideas.

“I’ve learnt so much about the NHS through this role and feel proud to be a part of our future NHS. I would say to anyone considering becoming a governor to ‘go for it’ – I’m certainly glad I did.”

Valuing ambitious, caring colleagues

Thank you to our partners, colleagues, patients and their families who worked with us to shape the Trust’s new Values.

During Values Week in July, we received more than 2,000 ideas gathered in person and via 194 completed surveys to help us develop our core values. The suggestions from colleagues, partners, patients and their families were divided into themes from which we created our new Values:

• Ambitious
We set high standards for the services we deliver. We aim to be an outstanding Trust and are enthusiastic about delivering excellent healthcare for our patients. We have high expectations of ourselves and others.

• Caring
We embrace the importance of giving the highest possible quality of care for our patients. We also care for each other as colleagues and for the community, our resources, our environment and our future.

• Together
We value the importance of working together with patients, carers and families to ensure we provide high quality patient-centred care. We are committed to working together with partners and stakeholders across Rotherham, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw to develop sustainable services for the population we serve.

Following the development of the Trust’s new Values, we also organised our first Colleague Forum in October, which was attended by colleagues from across the Trust. The forum looked at how we could develop the Values into a behavioural framework, which the Trust will use to enhance appraisals and the recruitment process.

The Trust will continue to engage with the workforce through the Together We Can programme, which encourages colleagues to work together to develop services and improve care.

As part of the programme, a number of teams will be working to identify and make improvements. The teams will then start work in 24-week cycles followed by a celebratory event to showcase success and share improvements.
The red carpet was rolled out once again for The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust’s biggest celebratory event of the year – the PROUD Awards 2016

A dedicated nurse who celebrated 50 years working for the NHS was one of 15 amazing colleagues recognised during the Trust’s Long Service Awards in November 2016.

The Long Service Awards were held in the PGME Lecture Theatre as part of our PROUD Week celebrations.

Staff Nurse Kate Phillips celebrated a fabulous 50 years in the NHS and 14 colleagues achieved 40 years’ service.

Those attending (pictured) were:
Patricia Astbury, Peter Clarkson,
Julie D’Silva,
Julia Farrell,
Lindsay Haigh,
Ann-Marie Lunt,
Rose Yonec,
Kate Phillips.

Also celebrating 40 years but unable to attend were:
Nigel Cooper, Leslie Davies, Christopher Hughes, Anita Bennett, Carole Caldwell, Diane Hawley and Susan Jenkinson.

The awards were presented by Louise Barnett, Chief Executive, and Cheryl Clements, Director of Workforce.

Reflecting on her career, Kate Phillips said: “The Long Service Awards were lovely, really informal with a great atmosphere. It was a really nice surprise to get that recognition from the Trust. People will no doubt be working longer in future too, so it’s great for the Trust to recognise people’s dedication, whether they are nurses like me or others who don’t necessarily work in front-line roles.”

Thank you all for your service and commitment!

Our PROUD Awards celebrate dedicated and caring colleagues who ensure patients receive the best and most compassionate treatment they deserve.

The event was held at The Carlton Park Hotel with more than 150 colleagues attending to cheer on 62 amazing shortlisted nominees.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: “We had an incredible response to this year’s awards with 432 nominations being received from members of the public and colleagues across the Trust, including 137 for the Public Recognition Award.

“The awards ceremony was an inspirational and heart-warming event where we heard examples of the excellent work that goes on every day to care for our patients at home, in the community and in hospital. It was an absolute privilege to be there and to have the opportunity to recognise and say a huge thank you to all of our shortlisted nominations, runners-up and winners.”

Louise joined the Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley, the Trust’s Directors, Chairman Martin Havenhand and reporter Joe Cawthorn from the Rotherham Advertiser to present 21 awards at the ceremony.
The red carpet was rolled out once again for The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust’s biggest celebratory event of the year – the PROUD Awards 2016 Celebrating Your Awards

Please visit our website at www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/PROUDVideos2015 to see what colleagues said about each of our PROUD winners.

A specialist nurse who has dedicated more than 30 years to caring for patients, including those with Parkinson’s disease, won the Public Recognition Award at the PROUD Awards 2016.

The Public Recognition Award was once again run in collaboration with the Rotherham Advertiser with 137 nominations received from members of the public.

Colleagues from across the Trust were nominated with Parkinson’s Disease Nurse Specialist Joanne Rose being crowned the winner. Joanne was nominated multiple times by members of the public for caring for people with Parkinson’s disease.

Joanne has been the Trust’s Parkinson’s disease specialist nurse for eight and a half years. Her role involves running patient clinics and providing a telephone help-line for patients in the community who need advice about managing their own condition or someone they care for. She also reviews the medication and care of all in-patients at the Trust with Parkinson’s disease.

Joanne said: “After 31 years of nursing, winning a PROUD Award was a fantastic way to find out just how much of a difference I’ve made to people’s lives. The fact it’s an award from members of the public makes it extra special.

“I think the award is a great way of raising awareness of Parkinson’s disease and how important it is for patients to have a designated Parkinson’s nurse who can provide specialist care. We’re very lucky to have that in Rotherham.”

Public Recognition Award winner Joanne Rose is pictured with Advertiser reporter Joe Cawthorn, Chief Executive Louise Barnett and the former Mayor of Rotherham Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley.
Rotherham's new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre (UECC) is due to open its doors to patients this year after major milestones in its development have been achieved. These developments have included:

- Continuing to work on the structure of the building.
- Completing the upper floor of the building, including a staff room, desk and computer space, meeting rooms, a call centre and changing rooms.
- Introducing a boiler and air handling unit, which is now in place on the roof thanks to a 300-tonne crane. This means the new centre will have its own supply of heating, hot water and ventilation.
- Relocating the A&E/Fracture Clinic entrance so the new ambulance entrance and state-of-the-art resuscitation area can be completed. Ambulance crews and the public are now using some of the new corridors through the new building to access A&E. You can access the Fracture Clinic via the main entrance.
- Introducing new signage at the front of the building.
- A UECC Recruitment Open Day was held in February and was attended by more than 200 people, with 40 interviews held on the day.

Chris Holt, Chief Operating Officer for the Trust, said:

"We are really excited about the progress we have made building the new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre in 2016. There’s a lot to look forward to in 2017 with the centre opening in July.

"If patients do need to visit the centre, we want them to receive the right care, first time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The centre will bring modern, enhanced, expert healthcare to local people, enabling a range of medical and clinical staff to work together, share their skills and resources and ultimately provide the best care for patients in Rotherham."

When people arrive at the new Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, if their situation is life or limb-threatening, they will be directed to the emergency care team. Less urgent cases will be seen as soon as possible by the most appropriate clinician, to either treat people there and then, or direct them to the most appropriate place within the centre, the wider hospital or the community. They could even advise you to return to your GP, dentist or pharmacist for treatment, or self-care at home.

The Mental Health Liaison Team and Social Services will also be on hand within the centre to provide a fast response to those requiring support in emergency situations.

If you are unsure about whether you need to attend the Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, there are a number of ways you can ensure you get the right care, first time:

- You can treat most ailments and illnesses at home by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet.
- Your local pharmacist can give you expert medical help and advice.
- If your illness or injury won’t go away you should make an appointment with your GP.
- If you are unsure of where to go or how to treat your illness or injury, calling NHS 111 will give you confidential health advice and information over the phone.

For more information visit www.rotherhamemergencycentre.nhs.uk

"If patients do need to visit the centre, we want them to receive the right care, first time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."

Choosing the right care, first time

Health services are very busy at the moment. Help us to help those most in need. Follow these steps to use the right treatment:

**Self care**
You can treat most common ailments and illnesses at home by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet:
- Pain relief e.g. paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Children’s paracetamol or ibuprofen
- Cold relief products
- Rehydration mixtures to use if feeling dehydrated after a bout of sickness or diarrhoea
- Indigestion remedy
- A range of bandages, plasters, non-adhesive cotton wool, elastic bandages and dressings for minor cuts, sprains and bruises.

**Pharmacy first**
Many pharmacies are open early until late and on weekends and bank holidays. You don’t need an appointment, and can just pop in and get expert medical help from a qualified healthcare professional. Most pharmacies now have a private consultation area where you can discuss your issues and concerns without being overheard.

**Children**
All children get colds. This is a normal part of growing up and no medicines can prevent them. The best way to look after your child is to make sure they have plenty to drink and if they have a temperature some paracetamol will help. Most doctors don’t recommend cough medicines and antibiotics won’t help a cold.

**NHS 111**
NHS 111 offers confidential health advice and information by telephone. Ring 111 if you are ill and have questions about your health and where to get treatment.

**GP surgeries**
Make an appointment with your local GP if you have an illness or injury that will not go away.
In February the Chairman hosted a special thank you lunch for volunteers who continue to support the Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity.

Throughout the winter period alone, volunteers supported the charity by selling cards, merchandise and raffle tickets, raising £3,000.

Our charity volunteers give their time, not only to support the charity, but also to support colleagues and our various hospital and community services such as on the Welcome Desk and the Patients’ Library trolley which visits hospital wards.

Martin Havenhand, Chairman of the Trust, said: “The support our volunteers offer colleagues at the Trust and patients visiting both hospital and community services, is invaluable. They not only volunteer regularly as part of their day-to-day volunteer roles, but also support the Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity in raising funds for our charitable appeals.”

Marvellous murals help transform Rotherham Hospital

Coming into hospital can be quite worrying for some patients, but thanks to the Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity new ceiling and wall murals have been installed to make patients feel more relaxed.

The charity has donated £20,000 to fund 11 ceiling and wall murals throughout the Trust, which when combined with specialist lighting, reflect a calming glow. The CT scanning rooms have been transformed with woodland and cloud themed murals and the radiology waiting room and discharge lounge is now home to picture-perfect tropical fish and country landscape themed walls. Animal and cloud themed ceiling lights can be found in the children’s dental recovery rooms and waiting areas.

Helen Green, Head of Nursing – Operations said “These are lovely and really brighten up the room. We’re so grateful to the hospital charity for the funding. The feedback from patients and colleagues has been fantastic; they are clearly making a difference.”
Spending time in hospital during Christmas and New Year can be a difficult time for patients, their family and friends. But to bring a smile to people’s faces, we hosted some celebratory events and activities throughout December to help raise money for the Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity.

Festivities began in style on 8 December with a Christmas tree lights switch on. The Trust’s PROUD Outstanding Volunteer Award winner, Alistair Hammond, was joined by Joe Newell and Dominic Ball from Rotherham United Football Club to switch on the Christmas tree lights in Rotherham Hospital’s reception.

Children, whether naughty or nice, also had the opportunity to meet Santa at his Gala-sponsored grotto in Rotherham Hospital’s Community Corner.

The Christmas Fair was also a great success, raising more than £800.

A third Purple Butterfly room, which provides a ‘home from home’ for patients at Rotherham Hospital, has been opened thanks to generous donations and fundraising by members of the public.

The Purple Butterfly Appeal raises money to provide rooms within the hospital which help maintain patients’ dignity and provide privacy for their loved ones.

The new £70,000 suite is located on Ward A1/A2 and is equipped with specialised lighting, comfortable seating and essential facilities such as a kettle, microwave, private bathroom and a bed.

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer, said:

“Without dedicated volunteers and fundraisers we wouldn’t have three amazing Purple Butterfly rooms available at the hospital, which families tell us really do make a difference in very difficult circumstances.”

Thank you for your festive fundraising

Purple Butterfly room opens on ward A1/A2

Just what Dr Ted ordered

Sweet-toothed members of the Trust’s Pharmacy team raised more than £100 for the Rotherham Hospital and Community Charity.

The team hosted their own department bake off, raising a fantastic £123.22 for the charity’s Dr Ted’s Children’s Appeal.

Tracy Williams, Charity Development Officer, said:

“Thank you to all of the bakers in Pharmacy! We really appreciate your support and it’s great to see colleagues at the Trust supporting our charity.”
Taking the weight off our patients’ shoulders

Hundreds of patients have received revolutionary shoulder surgery at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust thanks to an innovative way of working.

It is the only Trust in South Yorkshire to consistently offer patients the opportunity to undergo shoulder surgery under regional anaesthesia alone, rather than a general anaesthetic. The surgery has been offered for the past four years at the Trust with an average 50 patients every year undergoing operations.

Dr Mario Shekar, an anaesthetist at the Trust, helped to introduce the new ‘awake shoulder surgery’ with consultant anaesthetists Dr Kim Russon and Dr Louise Maxwell.

Dr Shekar, who won the Chairman’s Award at the PROUD Awards 2016 said: “Patients already have operations under regional anaesthesia only for knee and hip operations, so they had come to expect the same for shoulder surgery. We asked patients whether this is something they wanted and we got some positive feedback. We then visited Nottinghamshire NHS Trust to see how the operations were carried out there.

“Patients benefit from this massively because they don’t need to stay in hospital for as long. It also benefits the Trust because with less people staying longer in hospital, we’re able to help more people get the life-changing surgery they need. It’s not suitable for all patients, particularly those who are anxious or who have complex surgical needs. But we are really proud to offer this innovative way of working.”

Patient feedback about the new procedure has been positive. One patient said: “I really enjoyed the awake operation and found it really fascinating to watch. I would definitely choose this option again and would recommend it to anyone considering having it.”

Innovative IT system wins national health award

The Trust’s new in-house clinical IT system has won a national award for helping transform the way colleagues across the hospital and community provide patients with the right care at the right time.

The SEPIA clinical portal achieved the ‘Enhancing Care By Sharing Data and Information’ Award at the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards.

Colleagues can now see patient demographics, including live views of Accident and Emergency attendees, lab results, admissions to hospital and discharge dates for patients across the community.

James Rawlinson, Director of Health Informatics at the Trust, attended the ceremony in November 2016 at the Riverside InterContinental 02 Hotel in London alongside colleagues Chris Holt, Richard Slater, Chris Birks, Joanne Mangnall, Helen Green and Andrew Clayton from Rotherham CCG.

Patient feedback about the new procedure has been positive. One patient said: “We developed SEPIA because community matrons told us they often spent a significant amount of time travelling to the hospital, visiting wards and making phone calls to help provide information to colleagues about patients. This new way of working means patients are treated more efficiently because they can see comprehensive patient information from any mobile device. We have been working with community nurses to develop SEPIA and they now say they couldn’t live without it.”

“It’s a real honour and we’re incredibly proud to win.”

Nurse celebrates 50 years in the NHS

One of our colleagues from the District Nursing team has recently celebrated 50 years working in the NHS.

Kate Phillips, a Staff Nurse based at St Ann’s Medical Centre, has been nursing since 1966. Starting her career in Doncaster, working at Montague Hospital and the Royal Infirmary, she had never considered working out in the community. It was when Kate was doing a conversion qualification that she first experienced what nursing in the community was like.

Realising how much she enjoyed it, she worked on the community nursing bank alongside her hospital role. In 1995, Kate made the move to St Ann’s Medical Centre in Rotherham to work as a Community Staff Nurse and she has been there ever since.

Kate said: “I always knew I wanted to be a nurse and I still enjoy it as much today as I did 50 years ago. I love meeting people and being able to care for them when they are unwell.

“The NHS has changed vastly over the past 50 years but no matter what changes, patient care will always be at the very centre of everything we do and that is why I love nursing. I always thought I would retire at 65, but it just never happened. I still enjoy the work I do, and I’m sure I will until the day I do retire.

“The team I work with are brilliant, we all support each other and work together – I couldn’t ask for better colleagues.”

Kate is planning to retire this year at the age of 69. Speaking about what she will do with her time once she has retired, Kate said: “I’ll make sure I enjoy myself – going on holidays and spending time with family and friends. I’ll probably look at doing some volunteering too.”
Since summer 2016, the Trust has been working in partnership with Rotherham Council, Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group and Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust to look at how we can ensure services across the town are patient-centred.

Together the organisations developed the ‘place plan’ - whose aim is to support people and families to live independently in the community, with prevention and self management at the heart of delivery and where patients would only have to explain their personal concerns once and information would be shared amongst relevant health and social care practitioners.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: “Often patients can find themselves going from one service to another and having to repeat information.

“It was decided to set up a pilot so we could see if this would work and so we launched the Health Village. We wanted to make it easier for patients and their families to get care in one place, at a time to suit them.

“Given the success we’ve seen already, we’re hopeful that the evaluation will be positive and we can start to roll out this programme across the whole of Rotherham.”

St Ann’s and Clifton GP practices in the centre of Rotherham were chosen for the pilot. The Health Village integrated project brings together local teams from health and social care to provide care closer to, or at home.

Whilst the focus is on prevention and self-care when a patient does need hospital treatment this is arranged in partnership with the local team.

The pilot is already showing signs of early success with reduced attendance and admissions to hospital, reduction in length of stay and increase in patients being treated in their own homes.

Mel Simmonds, Strategy and Transformation Manager, added: “It’s been a steep learning curve but we’re delighted with the progress being made and this is fundamentally down to the passion, dedication and hard work of the 40-plus plus colleagues who make up the locality team.

“They have transformed lives by helping people to stay in their own homes, made sure they have not just health care but social care such as going out to an activity for a few hours, having the right equipment, providing therapy. The list is endless. I’m so proud to be working with them.”

The team includes community matrons, mental health nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, community link workers, social prescribing, district nurses, voluntary sector colleagues and community physicians – all working together to provide a fantastic service to the community.

The current pilot will be evaluated in June 2017 and the findings will guide the next steps.