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North Tees and Hartlepool
NHS Foundation Trust

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**NORTH TEES +
HARTLEPOOL
TOGETHER**

Ukraine appeal – vital medical supplies collected and money raised

A doctor from Ukraine has teamed up with his health trust – smashing a fundraising target and collecting a haul of medical supplies. Page 2

Ukraine appeal – vital medical supplies collected and money raised

A doctor from Ukraine has teamed up with his health trust – smashing a fundraising target and collecting a haul of medical supplies.

Vladyslav Vovk has been working with the Trust to help relief efforts in his war-torn homeland.

The organisation has collected items desperately needed in field hospitals including beds, swabs, catheters, breathing equipment, sutures, dressings, bandages, gowns and cutters.

The Trust has also raised nearly £10,000 since launching a fundraising page.

Vladyslav, a foundation doctor, lived in Ukraine as a young child and has family living there – including an elderly grandmother and a cousin who is a doctor in a children's hospital in Kyiv.

He said: "Thank you to everyone who has helped so far! It means so, so much.

"All of these supplies will go towards helping those who desperately need it.

"It is distressing to see the situation the country is in – my grandmother lives alone, my cousin works in very dangerous conditions in a hospital, innocent people all over the country risk their lives every day.

"And the situation continues to escalate – tragically I fear our help will be needed for a long time to come.

"Our response so far makes me so proud to work at North Tees and Hartlepool and live among such generous people."

Vladyslav is working as part of a regional group of doctors – Medical Aid Ukraine North East – to raise funds and supplies to transport to the Polish-Ukrainian border.

The group is a local branch of the Medical Aid Ukraine charity.

The Trust's subsidiary company, NTH Solutions, has organised the delivery and collection of supplies.

Katherine Chapman, trauma and orthopaedic supplies lead, said: "At times of tragedy it is so easy to feel helpless.

"Seeing what was happening, I knew there must be more we could do to help and support the people of Ukraine.

"By sourcing medical equipment, bandages and PPE, we have managed to provide a large amount of items we hope can help."

To donate to the Trust's fund, visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/UkraineNTH



Coaching can benefit you, your team and your patients

Kris Bell, a people development practitioner, is also a registered ICF coach (International Coaching Federation) which is for trained professional coaches and recognised for representing the highest quality in professional coaching

Part of his role includes carrying out coaching sessions with staff from across the organisation – both on a one-to-one and a group basis.

He said: "Coaching can unlock some amazing benefits for you, your team, individuals and the organisation.

"The coach will work with you on a one-to-one confidential

basis at a time agreed by both the individual and the coach (unless it is team/group coaching that is requested).

"The coach will use strategies to help you (or your staff) increase resilience and overcome personal fears, help discover capabilities, help develop a positive mind-set and channel new behaviours in line with the Trust's values."

Coaching can help in many areas of work, professional and personal life.

If you are a staff member and would like to book some coaching or would like further information, please contact:

Kristopher.bell@nhs.net



Chief exec issues Tees-wide call to work together

Our chief executive Julie Gillon spoke about her ambitions to ensure that the Tees Valley is 'levelled up' to 'ensure a future befitting to the populations that live here'.

Speaking about her time working in the Tees Valley, she said: "I have been a part of this community for over 20 years. I have seen some significant change, and the drive of the staff, patients and partners we work with to be more aspirant for the region is unwavering."

Ms Gillon, appointed to the role of Senior Responsible Officer for the North East and North Cumbria Health Inequalities Advisory Board 2021 spoke of her ambitions for the Tees Valley, and how working together will make 'changing our narrative' a faster, more impactful process.

"Speaking as the Chief Executive of one of the best performing trusts, not only in the region, but across the country – I can wholeheartedly say, it is owing to solid collaborative partnerships with neighbouring trusts, local authorities, specialist agencies and other key partners that we are able to deliver a high standard of care to our patients and their families."

Recent investments and partnerships formed with Hartlepool College of Further Education and Hartlepool Borough Council to create a 'health and care' education hub at University Hospital of Hartlepool as part of the government's Towns Fund Deal, she says, is one of the key steps to moving the area forward.

Our contribution to research and development during the height of the pandemic was unrivalled – as part of the Durham Tees Valley Alliance, working with our colleagues at South Tees and Darlington and Country Durham – we shone a light on the North East.

It is these partnerships she says, that will lead the Tees Valley into a future focused on 'levelling up'.

"we are able to deliver a high standard of care to our patients"

New medic roles to help emergency departments across Teesside

Two doctors are now working across emergency care departments in two health trusts – helping improve and integrate healthcare across Teesside.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have appointed a senior and a middle grade doctor.

The two roles – a senior consultant and a registrar – are working at both the University Hospital of North Tees and the James Cook University Hospital.

Kevin Moore, clinical director of emergency care at the University Hospital of North Tees, said: "These new roles are a fantastic opportunity to improve healthcare for our community across the Tees Valley.

"While the two trusts' emergency care departments already work together very closely, these new roles strengthen these links even further.

"These doctors help plan future developments to ensure the highest standard of patient care across the region.

"They experience working in two departments which are closely aligned but have their own unique challenges.

"We want to provide the very best care for our community across the Tees Valley – these roles are allowing us to do that."

Karin Duckett, the new joint emergency consultant, has already worked at both trusts' emergency departments in previous roles.

Michael Davison, the new cross-site registrar, also has previous experience working at both sites.

"fantastic opportunity to improve healthcare"



Karin Duckett - Emergency Consultant



Michael Davison - Registrar

New vaccine trialled in Hartlepool is approved

A new vaccine for COVID-19 trialled by NHS staff has been given the go-ahead for use – leading to praise for the team involved.

The Novavax vaccine, trialled by staff from three local health trusts, was given official approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority.

The research alliance consisting of South Tees Hospitals, North Tees and Hartlepool and County Durham and Darlington have all contributed to this research and have thanked every member of the community who volunteered to take part.

Jane Greenaway, associate director, said: "We are delighted to finally be able to celebrate this fantastic achievement.

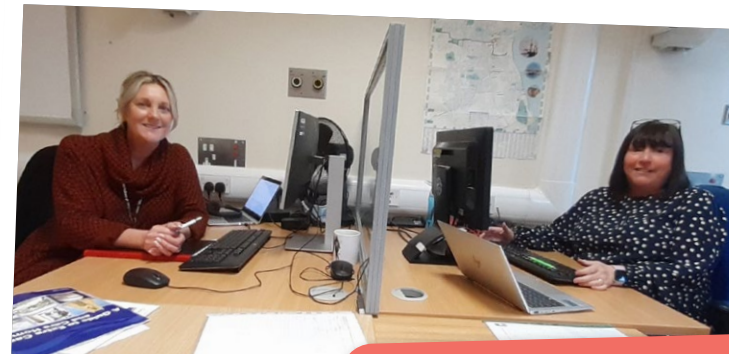
"The success of the trial has been down to two things – the staff involved and all of the participants.

"Staff from three individual trusts have collaborated and worked together seamlessly. Without this fantastic alliance already in place, we simply would not have been able to host such a high profile trial from Teesside, Durham and Darlington.

"And without all of our volunteers, we couldn't have played the significant role we have."

The Novavax study is the largest ever double blind, placebo-controlled trial to be undertaken in the UK.

It recruited over 15,000 participants from 35 UK research sites – including more than 500 from the Durham Tees Valley area.



Karen Flounders and Angie Caswell are principal practitioners, employed by Hartlepool Borough Council

Patient care boosted by partnership working across Tees Valley

"Being here in Hartlepool hospital with the whole team has transformed the care and support we can provide to our community."

That is the view of staff from Hartlepool Borough Council who work closely with teams at the Trust.

The integrated single point of access (iSPA) service, based at the University Hospital of Hartlepool, makes access to health and social care for adults in the community a straight-forward and simplistic process.

Karen Flounders and Angie Caswell are principal practitioners, employed by Hartlepool Borough Council and working as part of the iSPA team.

Karen said: "One of the many advantages of being here with the whole team is the joined up approach.

"We can literally turn around and have a conversation with a colleague from the Trust, which aids communication in a multi-disciplinary setting, and ensures that we are making informed decisions on the responses required for each individual person.

"We are also able to share the same systems so we are in a fantastic position to help patients and support them home from hospital. Our joined up approach has massively reduced hospital discharge delays.

Angie added: "We also have staff based in North Tees Hospital who work within the discharge liaison team, this improves discharge planning for people, enabling people to get home safely and quickly and help prevent readmission.

"Being here in Hartlepool hospital with the whole iSPA team has transformed the care and support we can provide to our community."

The team includes experienced professionals from nursing, social care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and a mental health practitioner is due to commence working with the team.

transformed the care and support



Rare blood donation finds its way home to Teesside from Crewe

A blood donation found its way home to Teesside after a Billingham-born woman made a donation more than 160 miles away.

When 51-year-old data manager Michelle Medford, born and raised in Billingham, made her usual blood donation at her home in Crewe, she thought nothing of it.

But she received a nice surprise when she got a text saying that her B negative blood – a rare blood type – had been sent all the way to Teesside to the University Hospital of North Tees to help save or improve someone's life.

Michelle said: "My blood has definitely made its way home this time!

"I'm so used to donating over this side of the country – it usually goes to Manchester. Then I got the latest text saying that it had gone all the way to Teesside.

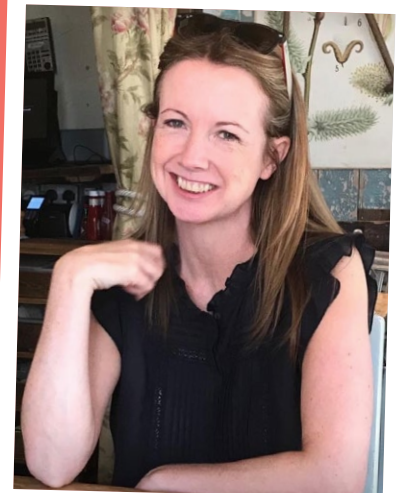
"It's really special for a little piece of me to find its way back home."

Michelle lived in Billingham for more than 20 years before

eventually moving to Crewe in 1990 where she has resided ever since with her husband Paul.

When asked why she regularly donates blood, Michelle said: "Giving blood is just such a wonderful thing to do. It helps to save lives and your blood replenishes so there's really no harm in donating."

To find a donor centre near you, please visit myblood.co.uk



Chinese New Year COVID appeal

Leung Yu Wu, a pharmacist based at the University Hospital of North Tees, lent his voice to a series of filmed videos on behalf of the NHS appeal for members of the UK's Chinese community to celebrate the Year of the Tiger in safety and to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Leung, 40, is originally from Hong Kong and has lived in the UK for 16 years. He lives in Newcastle with his wife Mia and their two children, a son aged three and a one-year old daughter.

An experienced pharmacist who has worked at the Trust since 2009 recorded appeals in Mandarin, Cantonese and English, Leung said:

"Chinese New Year is a time of family celebration and fun.

"I'm a pharmacist and I know the vaccine is safe and effective. I've had it and I would recommend it to any of my family and patients.

"Please, protect yourselves and loved ones and begin the Year of the Tiger vaccinated and safe from COVID-19."

Leung's video will form part of a series of films issued by the NHS and are available to view on the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust YouTube page.



Teesside bus drivers raise money for local NHS trust in memory of their friend

A Teesside bus team has donated £500 worth of goods to a critical care ward after their colleague and close friend sadly died after contracting COVID-19.

Bus driver Garry Richardson spent 28 days at the University Hospital of North Tees. Described as a 'good work friend and colleague' and 'popular with passengers', Garry sadly died on 17 November 2021 on the critical care ward.

In memory of their friend, the team at Stagecoach's Teesside branch took it upon themselves to raise money.

Driver and a close friend of Garry's, Neil English said: "Garry was a great friend and colleague.

"He was well respected throughout the company with work friends and colleagues and very popular with passengers. He was always smiling.

"For Christmas we decided to raise funds for our local hospitals. It's something close to our hearts because of Garry."

Rather than donating the money raised, the Stagecoach team – consisting of drivers, managers and admin support – opted to buy supplies for the hospitals, including a new radio and some hampers for critical care staff.

Helping patients say 'I can do that' to physical movement

Being more active can have huge benefits for anyone's health, especially patients in hospital.

That's why we have introduced our new 'I can' boards above patient beds which include a simple tick-list of everyday activities the patient can carry out, including dressing or bathing themselves or going for a short walk.

Leanne Mitchell, Active Hospital clinical delivery manager, said: "The 'I can' boards are a simple way the patient and their carers can agree on levels of activity they can carry out to aid their recovery. It's not about exhausting routines, its simple things like taking a stroll or doing simple bed or chair-based exercise in order to retain, where possible, their independence.

"We're also encouraging patients to bring normal, day clothes with them to hospital, not just bed clothes. Wearing daytime clothes helps people get into a better mind set to be more active than when wearing nightwear. It is often jokingly referred to as 'pyjama paralysis' but it's a real thing; there's something about spending all day in bed clothes that makes people less willing to be active."

We are proud to be an Active Hospital.



Date: Initials:

I CAN

- Move around using: ☐ No aid ☐ Frame ☐ Stick ☐ Rotatand ☐ Hoist ☐ Other
- With: ☐ Help of 2 ☐ Help of 1 ☐ Independent
- ☐ Volunteer team ☐ Family/visitors
- A distance of: ☐ less than 1m ☐ 1-5m ☐ 5-10m ☐ 10m+
- Wearing: ☐ Grip soles ☐ Own footwear
- Get Washed and dressed: ☐ Independently ☐ Top half only ☐ With help
- Clean teeth: ☐ With help ☐ Independently
- Practice exercises: ☐ Bed exercises ☐ Chair Exercise ☐ Standing Exercises
- With: ☐ Volunteer team ☐ Family/visitors
- I Use: ☐ Hearing aid ☐ Glasses



David Waite, Kennedy Henry and their baby daughter Ivy

Couple get engaged at hospital to share special moment with their baby daughter

A Thornaby man proposed to his partner on the children's ward at the University Hospital of North Tees so that their daughter could share in their special moment this Valentine's Day.

39-year-old scaffolder David Waite had planned on proposing to his partner Kennedy Henry, a 26-year-old retail worker, during a trip away.

But when their five-month-old daughter Ivy became poorly and was admitted to hospital, their trip was put on hold.

Eager to pop the question, David asked Kennedy to marry him alongside Ivy's cot on the ward.

David said: "We were looking forward to going away at the weekend and I was going to propose to Kennedy then – I'd been telling Ivy about it all week.

"But with everything we've all been through with Ivy being poorly, it just felt right today."

Kennedy said: "I'm over the moon. I really didn't expect it – it's such a lovely surprise and I'm so glad it happened while we were with Ivy."

The pair are looking forward to an engagement party with their family and friends in July once the weather has picked up. They are hoping to be married in 2024 when Ivy will be two-years-old.

To celebrate the newly-engaged couple, the team in the children's ward at the University Hospital of North Tees showered Kennedy and David with gifts, including sweet treats and balloons.

Staff on the ward also made a special Valentine's Day card for the couple using Ivy's footprint to make a heart.

Huge foodbank collection for people most in need in Hartlepool – after hospital and power station partnership

Staff at the University Hospital of Hartlepool and Hartlepool Power Station joined forces to help deprived people in the town.

The two organisations are linking up over a number of joint initiatives in the town – already helping some of the poorest people in the town by organising a combined foodbank collection.

Macmillan lung cancer nurse Moira McHugh is among several staff across the hospital who run collection points to go towards the Hartlepool Foodbank.

She said: "Staff at the hospital have come together to collect funds for those most need in Hartlepool.

"It is even more special that we have been able to work with one of our neighbours at the power station to give even more back.

"Together, we have helped more people at such a challenging time of year for so many."

Craig Dohring, director of Hartlepool Power Station, said: "Hartlepool Power Station has long been a proud supporter of the local foodbank, and we have now joined a partnership.

"The foodbank, as we know, is a lifeline for many families in this area and so it's right that we are part of this important partnership, not just over Christmas but throughout the year"



Hannah Conway from Hartlepool Power Station (centre) with Hospital Staff

National accolade for the University Hospital of Hartlepool

A commitment to patient safety has seen the University Hospital of Hartlepool receive a national accolade.

The National Joint Register (NJR), which monitors the performance of hip, knee, ankle, elbow and shoulder joint replacement operations to improve clinical outcomes, has awarded the hospital its Quality Data Provider certificate.

Only hospitals that achieve the NJR's ambitious targets of providing evidence to support patient safety, standards in quality

of care, and overall cost-effectiveness in joint replacement surgery, can achieve the prestigious award.

Chris Tulloch, deputy medical director and orthopaedic surgeon, said: "Anything that improves patient safety is to be welcomed and we enthusiastically share our information with the NJR.

"The NJR collates and uses the data

to draw conclusions and improve orthopaedic procedures so it's essential that we provide the correct information in a timely manner.

"We're thrilled to receive the Quality Data Provider certificate."

The team at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust who made this accolade possible includes The Homeward

Team, Ruth Allan, theatre support worker, Deborah Race, healthcare assistant, and Carolyn Brown, administration services manager, and clinical quality and data management leads Sue Waller and Linda Wildberg.

Full details about the NJR's Quality Data Provider certificate scheme can be found at:

www.njrcentre.org.uk.



National Joint Register Date Certificate - Chris Tulloch, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust



National Joint Register Date Certificate – the team who provided the quality data: Carolyn Brown, admin services manager, Sue Waller, clinical quality and data management lead, and Linda Wildberg, clinical quality and data management lead



David Cook

New chief pharmacist appointed

David Cook, previously the Trust's regional pharmacy procurement specialist, is keen to develop team members and further advance the Trust's use of high-tech automation.

David, 62, who lives in Stokesley, said: "I hope to see the team continue to develop and embrace their full potential.

"I'm also keen to continue with our automation process, adding to our robot pharmacy assistant, with improvements to the on-ward automated medication cabinets and to further our collaborative work with local partner organisations."

An interest in chemistry while at school in his native Brighton led to David, now a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, beginning his professional career in 1981.

With previous employments including Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary, the National Care Standards Commission and hospitals in Northumbria, Kent and Norfolk, David, who joined North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust in 2011, brings with him a wealth of professional experience.

Married to Jane, a retired physiotherapist with whom he has three grown up children (two daughters, an intensive care nurse and a GP respectively and one son, a professional chef), David also enjoys spending time with his three grandchildren.

The Trust wishes David every success in his new role.

Improvements continue at the University Hospital of Hartlepool

Patients and staff are asked to follow any diversion signs and safety advice as significant investment continues to upgrade and improve the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has announced several major projects to ensure the hospital continues to provide the highest standard of care.

Improvements, in addition to a new roof on the main section of the hospital, include:

■ Endoscopy unit upgrade

The hospital's endoscopy unit will soon have an additional procedure room.

Nearby rooms, including a procedure room, staff rooms, patient toilet and changing facilities, a sister's office, patient admitting room and equipment storage, will also be re-configured.

■ CT scanner room installation

In March, a five-week project to create a new CT scanner room will commence. The new scanner room will help the Trust to reduce patient waiting times.

■ X-ray refurbishment

A full room refurbishment and installation of a new X-ray machine will be completed by May.

■ Passenger lift upgrade

An eight-week project to replace passenger lifts is underway.

■ Fire alarm upgrade

Work is currently in progress to install a new, more advanced fire alarm system throughout the hospital.

Deepak Dwarakanath, medical director, said: "We know how much people in Hartlepool value their local hospital.

"We're proud to invest in the University Hospital of Hartlepool as we are committed to making sure it continues to provide the best possible healthcare for our region.

"Please keep an eye out for any safety signs so all this work can be carried out safely and on time."



International lawyer Cherie Blair pays tribute to Teesside breast unit 20 years after its official opening

Human rights lawyer and wife of the former Prime Minister Cherie Blair CBE, QC is just one of many people who paid tribute to the breast unit as it celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Around a decade after the breast service was implemented, the dedicated breast unit at the University Hospital of North Tees was officially opened on 20 December 2001 by Mrs Blair herself.

The multidisciplinary team in the unit diagnoses around 360 cancers per year – almost one a day – through their mobile asymptomatic breast screening service and carries out around 180 symptomatic appointments (referred by GPs) per week across their North Tees and Hartlepool sites.

Mrs Blair, barrister and wife to Tony Blair, said: "It's a huge pleasure to congratulate you on the 20th anniversary of the opening of the breast screening and treatment unit in the North Tees Hospital.

"I remember that occasion very well and was honoured to take part in launching the advanced technology and services that would benefit so many thousands of women in the Teesside area and beyond.

"My congratulations to everyone involved in making this unit such a success over the years and my very good wishes to all the staff and patients of today."

59-year-old Teesside Court magistrate Elizabeth Carroll, from Hartlepool, was diagnosed with breast cancer on 20 December 2012 – 11 years to the day after the unit was opened.

She recalls her experience of being told the news by Trust consultant surgeon Mr Colm Hennessey: "Being diagnosed with breast cancer was not the Christmas present I was hoping for! As Mr Hennessey gently held my hand and gave me the news, I was terrified and so uncertain of what my future held."

Elizabeth began her treatment in January 2013, undergoing chemotherapy, a mastectomy and, finally, radiotherapy. Her treatment came to an end the following August – the week before her daughter's wedding.

She continued: "I was supported all the way by Mr Hennessey and my amazing breast care nurse Geraldine Croft.

"Everyone in the unit – reception and admin staff, health care assistants, radiographers, nurses and doctors – they were all, without exception, kind, caring, understanding and professional."

Eight years after she was given the all clear, Elizabeth still thanks the team in the breast unit for their dedicated care and compassion as she looks to celebrate her 40th wedding anniversary and 60th birthday this year with husband Glenn, her two children Emily and Simon, and her six loving grandchildren.

Elizabeth said: "I am grateful every day that I am here to celebrate with my family.

"I wish everyone in the amazing breast unit joyous celebrations on the 20th anniversary. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for caring for me."

The breast unit is made up of a team of devoted members of staff in different duties – including radiologists, surgeons, consultant practitioners, radiographers, breast care nurses and supporting staff – all contributing towards patient care.

In early 2020, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust became the second trust in England to offer a new method to localise breast cancers during surgery by using small iodine 'seeds.'

One of the biggest breast cancer advancements in years, the seed, which emits a week radioactive signal, is injected into the tumour in the breast tissue. The signal is then detected by a surgeon, allowing for more precise removal of the tumour.

Looking back on the advancements and achievements within the dedicated breast unit, associate practitioner Karen Coates said: "I am incredibly proud of my role in helping to save lives. I work with an amazing team of people who always put patients at the heart of what they do.

"I love taking every opportunity to make a patient's journey a little bit easier by making them feel comfortable and at ease during their screening appointments and, for some ladies, through their biopsies."



Cherie Blair



Breast Care Team

Doctor takes lead on emergency team's mission to go green

A doctor is leading an emergency department's mission to go green – with a number of ambitions set out for the team to meet.

James Tullie, a doctor in emergency care at the University Hospital of North Tees, is helping the service in its aim to have net zero carbon emissions.

The department will be a pilot site as part of a sustainability programme run by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine.

The service was added to the project after James, an emergency care specialist trainee medic, attended a national conference in October and returned to the department with a vision for the initiative.

James said: "As a team, we are all passionate about playing our part in helping the organisation be as green as it can be.

"As one of the largest employers in the region, we all have a responsibility to do our bit and be more sustainable.

"We have already identified a number of areas where we can improve and have set up working groups to help make this a reality."

The changes the team hope to make include going paperless, reducing the use of nitrous oxide by more than half and encouraging more virtual care and working.

It also includes increasing the use of renewable energy, having a biodegradable stream alongside a clinical, recycling and domestic stream and having a model of sustainable procurement such as reducing the use of single use plastic and cutlery and using more reusable personal protective equipment.

The Trust aims to have net zero carbon emissions by 2040.



NHS ladies in lab coats pave the way for a future in science for young girls

The Trust celebrated women in science in a bid to inspire the next generation of female scientists as part of an internationally recognised event.

As part of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, scientists in the Trust's pathology department hope to pave the way for young girls with an interest in science.

the University Hospital of North Tees or the University Hospital of Hartlepool gives a blood, tissue or urine sample, this is analysed by the Trust's team of expert pathologists.

Victoria Armstrong, pathology operational manager at the Trust, said: "I think it's a really good thing to be involved in science. The range of career possibilities are many and varied.

"In pathology, we get to help so many different people. Although not patient facing, we still contribute through a mix of diagnostic science and our caring for people."

A significant gender gap has persisted throughout the years at all levels of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines all over the world.

Set up in 2015, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science aims to address this gap and empower female scientists.

Pathology is the scientific study of disease, its causes and progression. More than 70% of diagnoses in the NHS involve pathology, making the team an important part of patient care.

Every time a patient at



Research team at centre of COVID-19 study share future ambitions

A research team is aiming to build on its own high profile – after playing a leading part in finding new treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

The research and development service has had a significant role in the national RECOVERY study over the last two years.

They have also been involved in the national Novavax study to produce a new vaccine – with the centre based at the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

The service is involved in more than 70 studies – the majority of them national – into a whole range of conditions and illnesses.

Justin Carter, clinical director for research and development, said: "The magnificent contribution the team made to the various studies into covid treatments and vaccines quite rightly got them the recognition they deserve.

"Not only that, it helped raise the role of research and its importance in helping discover new treatments in a way that we have never seen before.

"Our focus now is to build on the momentum we have gained over the last two years and I know we have the expertise and dedication in our team to achieve this."

Alison Chilvers, research team lead, added: "People have seen the impact research makes – it has helped us save lives and improve the health outcomes of so many. People have volunteered to be a part of these studies in record numbers.

"We are calling on people to keep supporting us.

"To any patients being treated by us, we encourage you to ask your health professional about research and whether there is anything they can be involved in.

"And to our wider staff across the organisation, we are asking you to play your part too. Find out from our research team about studies we are involved in and how you can help recruit patients to these studies."

The research and development team, made up of more than 20 experienced members including nurses and practitioners, are involved in a number of new studies this year.

To find out more about research at the Trust and how to get involved, visit <https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/research/>



Donna Wakefield - Consultant in Palliative Care, and Mel McEvoy, Nurse Consultant in Palliative Care

Special hospital diary for relatives gets funding for use in other care settings

An award-winning diary for the relatives of hospital patients who are dying is being progressed further for use in other care settings.

The Trust has been granted almost £50,000 funding to develop its Family's Voice diary.

The NHS England and NHS Improvement investment will fund a year-long project to update the diary and tailor it for all areas of care.

The diary was created by Mel McEvoy, nurse consultant in palliative care, to give loved ones of patients a way to express their views about the quality of care.

It helps the team make improvements to care in real-time as well as make long-term changes when needed.

Mel said: "Families find the diary to be an effective way of communicating their feelings about their experiences.

"We are excited it will receive an update and build on robust evidence on its use – this will mean patients and carers can benefit from its use in other areas of care in the near future."

Donna Wakefield, consultant in palliative medicine, said: "This funding will allow us to engage with key groups, including patients and carers, using up-to-date evidence and guidelines.

"It will also help us make changes and improvements to make it suitable for use across all care settings.

"An educational package will be developed to support all healthcare workers to feel confident to introduce the Family's Voice to patients and their families.

"We will then conduct qualitative research to evaluate the new updated diary as evidence so that its use can be recommended in other areas.

"The aims are to capture the experiences of patients and carers in real-time to respond and ensure the highest quality of care for our patients."

Patient views!



Here is just a small sample of some of the lovely comments our patients have made about our staff and services online!

Debbie Middleton
I have to say , all the staff I've had with all my scans have been amazing , always talk to me to put me at ease

Like Reply Hide Send Message 1d

Keighley Reynolds
Both amazing drs well done guys x

Like Reply Hide Send Message 4d

Alison Chilvers
Volunteers do an amazing job. Fantastic attitude and I've enjoyed working with every one of them.

Like Reply Hide 2w

Dorothy Hunnam
Well done nic in the summer we will have some chairs and tables out there for our extended dinning room be good for business xx 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌xx

Like Reply Hide Send Message 4d

warren2690kwarren An absolute amazing team ... second to none.. they are fantastic x

Janet Metcalfe
Flooring is mint
Them lads work non stop too ❤️

Like Reply 2w

Julie Scorer
Taking good care of my mum, like their own.
Thank you to everyone one of you 🌟🌟🌟

Like Reply Hide 2w

Paul Wharton
The dedication of these volunteers to support the trust and it's patients is incredible. Well done to everyone involved in this. 🍌🍌

Like Reply Hide 2w

Carol Grainger
Lovely. I'm so pleased to be a volunteer. Great team, great colleagues, great family. Together we'll get through what Covid-19 throws at us 🙏

Like Reply Hide 6w

Samantha Jane
February 2 at 8:54 AM · 🌐
Thank you so much to the team at [North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust](#) who have been absolutely amazing in helping support this charity stream ❤️

John's Campaign @JohnCampaign · Jan 9
A relative wants to say thank you to ward 37 [@NTeesHpoolNHSFT](#) for sticking to their Johns Campaign pledge "My dad died in November but we are so thankful that we could spend time with him and were there when he passed." TY from us as well

Angela Owen (She/Her) · 3rd+
Account Manager BPR Medical for Hospitals UK / Medical Gases Device...
Amazing work being done for sustainable healthcare.

Like Reply

Margaret Docherty
Brilliant. We don't realise just how many caring people will do anything to help others

Like Reply Hide 1w

gordon.louise Well done Thomas, credit to the the NHS. Keep up your outstanding work.

Michael Webb
i've had several colonoscopies with the two teams - one at Hartlepool, the other in Stockton - that confirmed, and kept an eye on, my IBD. For anyone who has never had one, while it can be a bit daunting, the teams are really great at putting you at ease.

Like Reply Hide 2w

Vicky Thomas
Michael Webb totally agree with you. I had my third one just a couple of weeks ago at North Tees in Stockton. I was diagnosed with Bowel Cancer in June 2020. I got the all clear in October 2020 and need annual colonoscopies for the next 4 years now

Like Reply Hide 1w Edited

Vikki Harker
North tees helped save me when I was an in patient there for 6 months back in 1987....well done!

Like Reply Hide 1w

Mona Simona
Proud of our Ortho team... 🌟

Like Reply Hide 1w

Margaret Docherty
Brilliant. We don't realise just how many caring people will do anything to help others

Like Reply Hide 1w

Laura Wilkinson
When I went yesterday I thought it all looked smart and up to date 🙏😊

Like Reply Hide Send Message 2d

Dianne Kelly
Well done Sarah and the holdforth team lovely words xxx

Like Reply Hide 1w

Gillian Thompson Colquhoun
This is fantastic, well done 🍌

Like Reply Hide 1w

Sarah Rooney Kidson
Ahhh how lovely xx

Like Reply Hide 1w

Vicki Atkinson
That's great news! Well done to everyone who worked on or volunteered to join this study! 🍌

Like Reply Hide 1w

jennymac_28 An amazing team xx

1 w Reply

Linda Tiplady
A big shout out for Emma a nurse in reception she is going above and beyond with helping everyone. Thank you

Like Reply Hide 5w

Danny Strange
Fantastic team. Cared so well for my grandad during his treatment and till the end. What these people do day in and day out is amazing. Myself and my family have the upmost respect for you all. Thank you 🙏

Like Reply Hide Send Message 3d

sassylas3 Fab team in Out Patients at Hartlepool ❤️

2 w Reply

Jennifer Bailes
Well done and thank you for all you do xx

Like Reply Hide 2w

We'd love to hear your comments on our services and hospitals as we strive to continually improve the services we provide.

You can share feedback and let us know about things we are doing well or give suggestions for improvements through our patient experience team by emailing: nth-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net or contacting the team on: 01642 624719.

Alternatively, join us online at:

- [NorthTeesHpoolNHS](#)
- [@NTeesHpoolNHSFT](#)
- [northteesandhartlepoolnhsft](#)

12 Anthem | Spring 2022

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Spring 2022 | Anthem

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Sharing your memories of 25 years of fundraising

≡ We are 25! ≡
**NORTH TEES +
HARTLEPOOL
TOGETHER**

Charity celebrates a quarter of a century 25 years!

That's how long it has been since the trust charity - North Tees and Hartlepool Together - was first created.

In that time, many millions of pounds have been raised to go back into patient care across our whole community.

To mark the anniversary, the fundraising team is asking you all to share your memories.

Have you raised money yourself for the Trust, helped support someone or know someone who has benefitted from funds raised?

We want to hear from you!

Suzi Campbell, fundraising co-ordinator, said: "This year marks

25 years since the charity was first formed - and we want to mark the occasion by asking you to share your memories with us!

"We want to share many of the amazing stories you have about the charity and how it has helped save lives and improve patient care."

To share your memories, email nth-tr.communications@nhs.net

Trust receives £5,000 in fundraising from Hartlepool family

We were amazed by the generosity of a local family of a man who died of COVID-19 for their extraordinary fundraising of £5,036.

Kirsty Wass and her husband David, from Hartlepool, were determined to raise the funds for the ITU service at University Hospital of North Tees after Kirsty's father, Colin Sutheran, 60, died while the team cared for him in May 2021.

Kirsty said: "Dad tested positive the day before he was due to have his vaccine.

"It was just awful. Everyone at the hospital did their best but he couldn't be saved.

"I was fixated on raising £5,000

for the unit and wouldn't stop until I hit the target! We did a charity evening at a social club, raffles and some friends even did sponsored swims.

"I'm really pleased we raised this in my Dad's name because we know it'll help the ITU team care for other people like my father."

Tom Bingham, senior clinical matron for ITU, said: "We can barely believe that Kirsty and her family have used their loss and grief to help others like this. It's just so kind and we can't thank them enough."



Fundraiser Kirsty Wass and Tom Bingham, Senior Clinical Matron for ITU



Suzi Campbell, Fundraising Co-ordinator receives a cheque from headteacher Mark Atkinson and pupils Lucy Robinson and Theo Wass

School hold fundraiser in memory of Hartlepool man

Staff and children at Throston Primary School in Hartlepool have also been fundraising to thank the staff for caring for Colin.

Two of the pupils, Lucy Robinson and Thea Wass, are the niece and granddaughter of Mr Sutheran.

The school helped raise a fantastic £200 to show their thanks to our intensive care team.

School headteacher Mark Atkinson said: "We are so proud to have such caring children in our school, who are always proactive in helping others. As a school we are always keen to raise funds for the NHS, in recognition of the amazing work that they do. We will continue to do this in the future to inspire our children to become future doctors and nurses."

The Forrest Gump of Stockton - a man's mission to raise money for NHS services

A man from Stockton - inspired by Captain Tom Moore - has achieved the feat of running 2,000 miles in a year for NHS care in Teesside.

Ben Lamb has completed the challenge in aid of the Trust - in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He is more than half way towards his fundraising target of £2,000 - a pound for every mile he has run - and is appealing to his local community to help meet the final total.

Ben, who has never been a regular runner before, said: "I worked out I would need to run 40 miles a week - giving myself two weeks of leeway.

"I soon became a regular feature pounding the pavements over a 10 mile route, four times a week, with people waving and beeping at me in my red running top.

"I felt like Teesside's Forrest Gump!"

Ben even caught COVID himself in October and - rather than postpone his challenge - he continued to run in his house using a step counter.

He added: "Thanks to this, I was able to complete more than 100 miles over my isolation period!"

"And then I was able to finish off for the final few weeks outside - doing my last four miles on New Year's Eve.

"Every NHS worker from the nurses, doctors, surgeons, consultants, receptionists, administrative staff, care workers, cleaners, and many more have all put their lives on the line for us, worked ridiculously long hours, and I cannot even begin to contemplate the trauma that will have been experienced."

Ben would like the money raised to go towards supporting staff welfare and wellbeing initiatives.

To donate, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-lamb-bet>



Local gamer raises money for Teesside special care baby unit in memory of her older brother

32-year-old Samantha Gibben, who owns Geek Corner comic book shop in Stockton-on-Tees, organised an online charity gaming event in memory of her older brother on their shared birthday.

Samantha's older brother James was born on 18 February 1989 at North Tees General - now known as the University Hospital of North Tees.

Despite the best efforts of the staff on the special care baby unit where James was cared for, he unfortunately died at 10 days old due to complications from an unknown chromosome issue.

One year later to the day, Samantha was born. To celebrate their shared birthday, Samantha live streamed as she gamed online for 24 hours running. She set herself a target of £350 but ultimately raised a whopping £2,072 for the unit her big brother stayed on." Second column, first para change to "For every £1 donation received she played one minute of the game blindfolded, for £15 she dropped ammo in the game and for a whopping £250 Samantha deleted her entire inventory.

Samantha said: "Not a whole lot of people know this but I actually have an older brother.

"I was born one year later to the day James was which makes it a pretty bittersweet thing for my parents.

"As I've got older, I've noticed how much it really affects my parents and I want to be able to do something in his honour and give back.

"Not only that, but my younger brother Daniel was born 14 weeks premature and is only here today thanks to the staff on the unit at North Tees Hospital!"

Samantha live-streamed on interactive streaming platform

Glimesh as she played multi-player first-person action video game Escape from Tarkov.

During the event, named 'Berri's birthday giveback', viewers donated money to make Samantha's gameplay more challenging or for simply a bit of fun.

For every £1 donation received she will play one minute of the game blindfolded, for £15 she will drop all ammo in the game and for a whopping £250 Samantha will delete her entire inventory.

She has also added in some fun challenges, such as playing in costume, and eating risky novelty sweets such as Super Sour Toxic Waste Candy and Harry Potter Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans - which come in rotten egg, earthworm and earwax flavours.



Lung cancer team boosted by support of grateful patients and community

This is just some of the cutting-edge equipment an NHS cancer team have invested in over recent years – thanks to the backing of its supporters.



Lung cancer team with equipment purchased from the charity funds

The lung cancer service at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds over the last two decades.

The money is all put straight back into patient care – as you can see from just some of the examples here.

Significant investments have included:

- Lung-function test machines – cost around £100,000 – allowing complex physiological assessments such as cardiopulmonary exercise testing.
- Tools used for lung cancer diagnosis – radial ebus probe (£70,000) and bronchoscopes (£30,000).
- Investment in a high fidelity Symbionix manikin (£80,000)
- Several nebuliser machines (£35,000 over the last seven years) to treat breathlessness.

The service is well supported by grateful patients and their relatives – as well as by the team which dedicates itself to fundraising.

This includes through an annual charity ball, which has helped raise more than £60,000 over recent years.

Vandana Jeebun, respiratory consultant and department lead, said: “Patients and their families are so grateful for the care they receive from the team – and we are so grateful to them for everything they do for us.

“The funds raised for the service have played a really significant part in helping us invest in state of the art equipment and training to benefit our patients.

“This includes some of the equipment we have displayed as well as so much more.

“The lung function test machines, for example, have been an instrumental tool for pre-operative assessment of patients’ surgical fitness – shown in the high number of referrals we gets from trusts across the region.

“The radial ebus probe and bronchoscopes are helping us diagnose cancer earlier – paving the way for a new regional service for the northern cancer network.

“And education tools like the manikin have helped us to train our team to be the best they can be. We even host regional medical courses using the which has excellent trainee feedback.

“We want to highlight the help we have received and to thank everyone who has supported us – together you really have made an enormous difference.”

“This is the biggest challenge of my life” – Teesside dad to complete ironman triathlon to raise money for children’s ward

A local physiotherapist and father-of-two is undertaking his ultimate challenge – to complete his first ironman distance triathlon in less than 12 hours.

44-year-old Gordon Mitchell from Eaglescliffe is a regular athlete, having participated in triathlon events for years now, culminating in a half ironman – completed in 5 hours and 16 minutes.

Now he is challenging himself to take part in a full ironman distance event in July to raise a target of £1,000 for the children’s ward.

Gordon’s motivation in reaching his target is his four-year-old son Joshua who previously spent three weeks on the ward with a neurological form of meningitis.

Gordon said: “Ever since Justin spent time on the children’s ward at North Tees, I set myself the challenge of raising some money for them so that children who are ill can have something to do while they get better.

“This money is going towards something fun like an Xbox.”

Described by Gordon as ‘the biggest challenge of my life’, the ironman distance Outlaw Triathlon boasts 2.4 miles swimming in a lake and 112 miles cycling before taking part in a marathon run.

And his family – his wife Leanne Mitchell, who also works in physiotherapy, four-year-old son Joshua, six-year-old Isla and 18-year-old Justin – will all be crossing the finishing line alongside him.

A musculoskeletal physiotherapist at the Trust for over 11 years, he has dedicated much of his life to fitness and nutrition.

He has been training daily for the ironman since December last year but has been training for triathlons and consistently improving his skill and time for years.

Gordon will be completing ironman distance Outlaw Triathlon on Sunday 24 July in Nottingham. To support his cause and raise money for the children’s ward, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gordon-mitchell10>

“The biggest challenge of my life



Your latest new **NTH SOLUTIONS** from NTH Solutions



NHS deep cleaning service supporting the wider community

During the winter period our Trust, and the wider NHS, have been under significant pressure as the number of COVID-19 cases continued to increase.

While we thank all of the staff who have been working during these difficult times, we would particularly like to recognise the fantastic work of our NHS deep cleaning and advisory service.

Our deep cleaning and advisory team, developed within the NHS and accredited by the Royal Society of Public Health, have attended multiple outbreak responses within the timeframes required ensuring services remained operational during such a critical time.

They have been on hand to provide support to various services in the local community including the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

By extending our NHS ethos and standards into the wider UK community, the DCAS team help prevent the spread of infection to ultimately ease the pressure on the NHS, to find out more visit www.deepcleaning.nhs.uk/

New flooring brightening up North Tees

After nearly 20 years without replacement, the main walk-ways and corridors at University Hospital of North Tees were crying out for a new lease of life to be injected into the building.

Walked on 365 days a year and around the clock by patients, visitors and staff, the need for new flooring was identified and a phased project is underway to replace with a brand new, modernised vinyl finish.

Design and development project officer Michael Jones, who has been overseeing the works, said he couldn't have done it without the support and teamwork from close colleagues.

Michael said: "From the catering team allowing us to store the materials in the back of the restaurant, to the security team being on hand to over-see the night time workers, everyone's input has allowed this project to run as smoothly as possible.

"The contractors at Rimick Floors and Castle Construction have been fantastic and flexible when things have needed to change last minute, and the guidance from our quality control colleagues on which materials will be suitable from a quality and cleaning standard has been invaluable. It's been a real team effort."

The work has been taking place sections at a time and on an evening to minimise disruption throughout the hospital, ensuring we are still able to provide the best care to our patients.



Steve's journey from apprentice to director

As we celebrated #NationalApprenticeshipWeek, deputy managing director of NTH Solutions, Steve Taylor, shared his journey from an electrical apprentice to a director.

Steve began: "I started my career in the NHS in 1988, at the age of 17, as an apprentice electrician. Starting an apprenticeship at 17 was a little unusual at that time, most apprentices were 16, but I'm glad to see we have apprentices of all ages now.

"I had left school and started A levels in computer science, design and technology and chemistry, but soon found that college was not really for me. I enjoyed the apprenticeship straight away as it consisted of four days working in the hospital estates maintenance team learning all about the various electrical systems that keep a hospital running, from ward based nurse call systems, lighting and power to keeping the industrial energy plant running, then attended college a day a week to advance his qualifications.

"During my apprenticeship I was very lucky to receive what I think was the best apprenticeship training package that there is out there. Big thanks to our apprentice co-ordinator Eileen Bayles for keeping me on the right track! During my apprenticeship I managed to win apprentice of year twice. At that time no one else had ever won twice but I had some great teachers along the way. So a big thanks to electrical supervisor Dick Smith who is sadly no longer with us and Peter Mitchell, Hospital engineer at the time.

"When I completed my apprenticeship I had developed an interest in not just maintaining the estates we had but how we could improve the estate for our patients. As a result of this passion I moved into the design and development department on a secondment to update engineering drawings initially for the estates team but quickly moved onto designing and project managing various projects within the Trust estate over the next year. I really enjoyed this and felt I could make a bigger impact on making improvements for patients and staff alike.



"After spending a number of years working at South Tees Hospital as a project officer, I returned to the Trust as an estates project manager and managed the construction of the 42 bed emergency assessment unit at North Tees.

"I was then promoted to head of design and development in 2010 overseeing the Trust's whole capital programme and working on the new hospital bid at the time. I became assistant director of estates and capital in 2018 becoming responsible for maintaining the existing estates, and its medical equipment and helping shape the estate for the future.

"After the formation of NTH Solutions, I became the deputy managing director in 2021, supporting managing director Mike Worden to not only provide the best possible Estates, Facilities and Procurement services to our patients but to look outside the organisation for opportunities where our collective skills and knowledge could bring in external income for the benefit of our patients.

"I feel very proud and privileged to have been involved in many improvements that have given the clinical teams the tools they need to provide the best care to the patients, and improve facilities for the staff, in spite of an aging estate. I have learned lots of skills to help me do my job but learning to listen to others is the key. No one knows everything and I've learnt a lot more from listening than from talking. I have found that the good problem solving skills learnt during my apprenticeship have been invaluable.

"Looking back on my career so far, the most rewarding element for me is being part of a great team and I'm proud that I could contribute to keeping patient services going during the pandemic and delivering major estates changes to A&E and respiratory services in a short timescale."

Castle Construction raise funds for hospital

A huge thank you to Castle Construction who dressed up in these fantastic outfits to deliver selection boxes to the children's ward over Christmas.

As well as the generous donation of chocolates, the lads also managed to raise a fantastic £451.66 for the special care baby unit.



Celebrating the vital role of overseas workers in healthcare

The Trust has staff who come from more than 50 countries across the globe.

These staff work in a range of areas – including as doctors, nurses, health support workers, therapy, non-clinical – as well as many more.

The Trust highlighted the vital contribution our global workforce makes to the organisation.

Deepak Dwarakanath, medical director, said: "Without overseas workers and the outstanding role they play at this organisation, we simply couldn't provide the same level of care to our patients."

"We are proud to have such a diverse range of staff from more than a quarter of the world's countries – all playing a critical role here."

"These are people who want to make a real difference to the health of people in our community and bring a wealth of skills and knowledge with them to do that."

"This is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the fantastic part these staff play."

The Trust has staff from countries across Europe such as Romania and Ukraine as well as from countries further away including the Philippines, India, Malaysia, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

Martha Nandago moved from her homeland in Uganda to Stockton nearly 20 years ago.

She works as a staff nurse in the orthopaedic outpatient departments at the University Hospital of North Tees and the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

She said: "I love working at this organisation and am passionate about making a difference to the lives of our community."

"I live in Stockton – it's where three of my four children were born. It's my community and my home."

"This is a fantastic place to work and to live – we have staff from all over the world bringing so many skills to their roles."



Staff Nurse Martha Nandago



Local teachers trek 26 miles for children in hospital

A group of teachers from a Hartlepool primary school are raising money to make hospital stays a little brighter for poorly children.

Staff from Clavering Primary School have organised a 26-mile sponsored walk from Robin Hood's Bay to Saltburn, all to raise funds for the Trust's play services.

The Trust has a dedicated team of play specialists who care for and support children and young people in hospital.

In their role, they organise activities to encourage children to play and to maintain their development during illness. They also support children undergoing procedures that they might find frightening, such as MRI scans and surgeries, and offer assistance and guidance to children's families.

Matthew Stoddart, a teacher at Clavering Primary School, said: "We're raising funds to go towards the vital work that North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust's play services provide."

"We hope to raise money to fund toys, activities and equipment to make children's hospital stays a little easier and brighter."

"Hopefully our fundraising efforts will make a difference to the children in our local area."

The staff – made up of teachers, teaching assistants, office staff and the senior leadership team – will be walking part of the historical Cleveland Way and have set themselves the challenge of completing the 26 miles in under 12 hours.

For many in the group, this will be the most challenging trek they have undertaken yet.

Jennie Hobbs, a play specialist at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We'd like to say a huge thank you to Clavering Primary School for supporting the patients on our children's ward."

"We're so grateful that they have thought about us and it will really make a big difference to the children on the ward."

The Clavering Primary School group will be completing their walk from 7am on Saturday 30 April to raise money for the play specialist service at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. To support their cause, please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ClaveringNHSwalk22

Alternatively, text **WALKWAY** followed by your donation amount (up to £20) to **70085** to give that amount. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

Critical care colleague retires at 70

A team support member is saying goodbye to her work family, as she retires following 13 years looking after patients.

Ann Burton, who also celebrated her 70th birthday in February, came to work in healthcare later in her career. After two years working in the Trust as an agency worker, she found the drive she needed to become a permanent staff member, as part of the Trust's critical care team.

Working within the Trust's ITU unit, Ann finally fulfilled a lifelong ambition to work within healthcare. She had always wanted to be a nurse, or to work with patients and to feel she was directly making a difference to their care.

Ann got to see some of the highs and lows of working through the pandemic and shared her admiration for her colleagues. Praising how everyone came together to work as a close knit, family unit to support one another and their patients during a very challenging time.

Ann said: "I found I slotted into the team really well right from the beginning and certainly the past 10 years have flown by – I really don't know where the time has gone."

"It's been so rewarding getting to come into work every day to do something I love and am so passionate about, and to

work with some amazing colleagues during my time here."

Ann decided that 70 was a 'nice round number' and wanted to retire while she was still in good health. She is looking forward to outings with her daughter, gardening, catching up on some crochet projects and has a trip to Benidorm to look forward to. She has no intention to sit still.

Ann continued: "I want to thank everyone I've worked with over the years – my extended family – for their support, their laughter and their chats in between doing such an important job. I'll miss the everyday hum of the ward and getting to see my colleagues and our patients every day. But I look forward to keeping in touch and getting to catch up with them all soon."

The critical care team celebrated Ann's retirement with some well-deserved sweet treats,

shared their happy memories and said their goodbyes. Ann will be missed by her colleagues, as a valued member of the team.



"Fast moving and rewarding" – the role of a ward clerk

"No day is ever the same."

That is how Allison Morrison describes her role at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

Allison has been a ward clerk at the trust for more than 20 years – and she has loved the role.

She said: "No day is the same."

"My days are very busy and challenging, fast moving and so rewarding."

"I have worked here for 24 years but I am still learning new things every day. Things are always changing."

Allison works on the surgery and urology ward at the University Hospital of North Tees.

Her day to day role can include managing main admin tasks and being the first contact for relatives.

"One of the main parts of the role is answering the phone on the ward."

"That can include calls from relatives, social workers and staff internally from departments including CT, ultrasound, theatres, discharge liaison and the single point of access."

"We are that first point of contact – it really does mean anything can present itself."

"There are also other responsibilities such as helping arrange outpatient appointments, booking ambulances, keeping the bed board up to date and so on."

"I would say to anyone thinking about applying for a role like this to go for it – there's a real chance to make a difference to the lives in our community."

To apply for a ward clerk role, visit www.jobs.nth.nhs.uk/

"No day is the same – we make a real difference to the lives of our patients..."

jobs.nth.nhs.uk



Leaders pledge to make their courageous change

Over the last six months staff from across North Tees and Hartlepool have been working hard to implement their projects, seeking to inspire change and challenge the ways in which the Trust works.

The 100 leaders programme is overseen by the Faculty of Leadership and Improvement, driving forward two important priorities - leadership and development and quality improvement training.

The programme culminated with a showcase event in the lecture theatre at the University Hospital of North Tees, detailing the successes of the projects and impact on the organisation.

100 leaders has highlighted the dedication Trust staff have to improving the services offered by North Tees and Hartlepool.

To celebrate all that the first cohort have achieved, we have rounded up a selection of their courageous change projects.



Rainbow Stairs and Garden

Pack Leader: Nicola Critchley, retail team leader

Nicola's ambition was to create a better dining and break experience for staff and patients through the implementation of an outdoor seating area.

Her pack identified an opportunity to link the Tees Restaurant to the Rainbow Room via a set of stairs, improving the accessibility of both zones. The change project will allow staff to reduce their journey time by up to 15 minutes, encouraging their full break entitlement to be taken and improving health and wellbeing.

At the time of writing, the stairs are being installed ready for the summer months. Long term plans for the space include outdoor events such as barbeques, utilising the green areas within the Trust.

The Networking Service

Pack Leader: Kath Tarn, senior clinical professional

The vision of Kath's pack was to provide opportunities for staff to network and grow into new roles in the organisation.

Their project aims to support Trust staff, whether they want to develop professionally or progress into new roles. The networking service focuses on creating connections across the Trust, building relationships and breaking down hierarchical barriers.

Delegates interested in joining the service would identify a relevant 'Champion' through an online directory and arrange an informal conversation.

The ambition of their courageous change was to create a culture of inclusivity and innovation, inspiring Trust staff to tap into different areas of expertise.

Improving patient experience when accessing ultrasound services in early pregnancy

Pack leader: Amy Hunter, early pregnancy assessment clinic specialist nurse

Our ambition for this project is to create a dedicated One Stop Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic where ladies who are experiencing abnormal symptoms in the first trimester of pregnancy will be triaged, scanned, diagnosed and counselled in one area.

For these patients, it is an extremely distressing and emotional time often involving multiple hospital visits and ultrasound scans and attending multiple departments. These patients and their partners attend for their ultrasound scans and share a waiting area with heavily pregnant antenatal patients.



Family of well-known businessman who battled COVID-19 but later died pay tribute to NHS staff

A well-known Stockton business-man who survived a long battle in intensive care with COVID-19 has recently died – leading to his family making a tribute to NHS staff.

Mohammed Farooq – known to friends as Fazza – spent time in a coma in the critical care unit at the University Hospital of North Tees after contracting the virus in 2020.

He was treated in the unit at the same time as his son Amar Shazad, 33, – both recovering after long periods of sickness.

Sadly Mohammed continued to suffer with illness and his health deteriorated.

After being discharged from hospital in May 2020, he was still unwell – having a cardiac arrest in the August and spending further time in hospital.

In October of that year, he was well enough to leave hospital – moving to the Bridge Care Centre in Middlesbrough. Sadly, he never returned home and passed away in December last year at the age of just 53.

His family – who run and own Tees Valley Cabs and are well known in the area – have paid tribute to him.

One of his daughters, Ambreen, 29, said: "I want to thank all of the NHS staff who helped my father – thanks to them and their outstanding care, we got an extra 16 months with our father.

"Fazza was a much loved dad, husband, grandfather and friend to so many people.

"Sadly he never recovered from the virus – we would like to thank everyone for their condolences."

Aneesha Farooq, 26, another daughter, said: "This has had a devastating effect on our family. We have lost our father and we will never get him back.

"We know what a loss this has been for us – we don't want another family to go through what we have.

"The mental health impact, the stress, the anxiety, I would not wish this on anyone.

"We want to remind people, this is a real virus, this is making people very ill. Please continue to play your part – self isolating when you need to, wearing a mask when appropriate, washing hands, keeping your distance and taking the precautions needed.

"And of course, getting the vaccine and making sure you are protected."

The family from Stockton include wife Sughra, 53, and children Amar, Ambreen, Aneesha and Haaris, 21.

Mohammed and son Amar both spent time in critical care in April 2020.

Mohamed was the first member of the family to pick up the virus after he started feeling unwell and was struggling to breathe.

Then, just a few days later, Amar also started to feel sick and was also admitted to intensive care.

A few weeks later, Mohammed was taken off ventilation after a total of 34 days.

Amar was discharged from the unit after 56 days in critical care – and made a recovery in the respiratory unit.

Aneesha added: "Amar has made a fantastic recovery, we are so so thankful for that.

"We just all want my father's death not to be for nothing. If it can remind people to continue to stay safe, that is what we want."



100 leaders: The next journey begins



Cohort 1 has drawn to a close with a **celebration of our 10 courageous projects**. It was amazing to see the Trust's future leaders working to **inspire change** in the services we offer to patients and staff. A big **thank you** to everyone who was involved!

We're now looking to the future with Cohort 2. The launch event takes place in April 2022, watch this space for exciting updates...

