



September 2024



South West  
Yorkshire Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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We are a specialist NHS Foundation Trust that provides community, mental health and learning disability services to the people of Barnsley, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield. We also provide some medium secure (forensic) services to the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber.

Being a Foundation Trust means we're accountable to our members, who can have a say in how we're run and how they'd like our services to be developed. Around 14,300 local people (including our staff) are members of our Trust.

[Read More](#)



# ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNORS

## MEET YOUR LOCAL GOVERNORS

Part of the role of the Member's Council is to help shape the Trust's future plans and priorities. If you would like to engage with the Governor who represents your local community get in touch below:

email: [governors@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:governors@swyt.nhs.uk).  
phone: 01924 316000 and ask to speak with the corporate governance team.

[Read More](#)



Jacob Agoro

## *A Day in the Life: Jacob Agoro – Matron, and Staff Governor*

Hello everyone!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share a bit about my work within our Trust and my journey as a nurse. As the Matron for the Acute Mental Health Inpatient Wards, I am committed to providing strong leadership, ensuring that the care delivered on the front lines is patient-centred, and always striving to improve the patient experience. My role is not only about setting high standards of clinical care but also about making hospitals safer, friendlier, and more comfortable environments for both patients and staff. I lead by example and aim to be highly visible and accessible, offering support to staff, patients, and carers alike.

In addition to my role as Matron, I also serve as the lead for Internationally Educated Nurses (IENs) within our Trust. My work focuses on helping our international colleagues integrate smoothly, not just within our clinical teams but also culturally within the wider community. This involves supporting their professional development, guiding them as they adjust to the NHS, and advocating on their behalf when necessary. My goal is to empower them to succeed and feel at home in their roles.

On another front, I recently took on the position of Staff Governor, representing nurses on the Members' Council. This role gives me the privilege of being the voice for my fellow nursing colleagues, ensuring that their perspectives, concerns, and ideas are heard at the highest levels of decision-making. It is an exciting opportunity to advocate for the nursing workforce and to influence the future direction of our Trust

### **Life Beyond the Ward: A Hockey Enthusiast**

Outside of work, my passion for hockey has been a constant throughout my life. I've been playing field hockey for over 32 years, and in my younger years, I had the honour of representing Nigeria. These days, I'm still hitting the field, now representing Yorkshire North East over 45s in Masters Hockey. It's a sport that keeps me grounded, healthy, and connected with a vibrant community of players.

If you ever want to talk nursing, international integration, or hockey, feel free to reach out! I'm always happy to chat.

## **HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GOVERNOR**

Members' can contact the lead governor and deputy lead governor using the following email address:

John Laville  
Lead governor  
[john.laville@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:john.laville@swyt.nhs.uk)

Claire Den Burger Green  
Deputy lead governor  
[claire.green@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:claire.green@swyt.nhs.uk)





## WELLBEING FAIR – 19 JUNE 2024

On Wednesday 19 June, EyUp! held its first ever Wellbeing Fair for staff, patients, carers and families at Fieldhead Hospital, Wakefield. The event offered plenty of free activities for people to get involved in, alongside stalls from Yorkshire Smokefree, the Trust research and development team, a craft stall selling handmade crafts by service users, a tombola, raffle and a bake sale. The focus of the day was all around wellbeing and taking a moment to reflect, give and connect. Craft sessions by our Trust creative practitioners and Wakefield Recovery College and Wakefield choir. Throughout the day Canine befrienders were at The Pad to welcome visitors and Alpha Omega Holistic offered relaxing therapy sessions. In the afternoon, Grow Wakefield led gardening activities, there was creative writing and other sessions.

[Find out more about our Ey Up charity.](#)





## CONFERENCE FROM SPIRIT IN MIND – 17 JULY 2024

Our linked charity Spirit in Mind shone a spotlight on a form of therapy that is increasing hugely in popularity recently. Their annual conference, this year titled 'How animals teach us to be human', focused on the role of animal assisted interventions in the NHS. Held on 17 July, the conference was extremely well attended with expert speakers from within the field – and, of course, some of our canine befrienders. It's an approach the Trust have been championing, with the successful opening of 'The Pad' late last year.

[Read more about Spirit in Mind](#)

## ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2024

THEME: ALL OF US

The Trust Annual Members' Meeting took place on 18 September 2024 and was open to any members of the public, anyone living or working within our communities, our existing membership and staff workforce. The theme was 'All of us' and provided an opportunity to launch the Trust's new strategy

The Trust hosted a networking space made up of local voluntary groups that provide services/support to our local communities and our local Trust services. The event showcased what the Trust offers in terms of services, achievements, annual reports and the financial accounts and will also highlight real life experiences and stories.

You can watch the recording on the Trust YouTube channel

[Watch the livestream](#)

# STRATEGY REFRESH

Thank you to all of you who contributed to our #allofusconversation, focused on what we should do as a Trust over the next five years.

The feedback and insight has helped to shape and support the refresh of our Trust's overall strategy, along with the development of a new Trust clinical strategy.

If you want to find out more about how your voice has influence the strategy refresh, we have published a report with all feedback and insight findings available on our Trust website.

We are delighted to be sharing our Trust strategy which will demonstrate our ambition and commitment to deliver health and care reflective of what matters to our communities in the next edition of our membership newsletter

[Read our engagement report for the strategy refresh on our website](#)



**With all of us in mind.**





## TRUST AWARDED THE TRIANGLE OF CARE STAR 1

The Triangle of Care, an initiative from Carers Trust, is a therapeutic alliance between carers, service users and health professionals. It aims to promote safety and recovery and sustain mental wellbeing by including and supporting carers at every stage of a person's journey through our services.

Triangle of Care is a nationally recognised accreditation that supports one of our core Trust values, families and carers matter. Our Trust became a member of the Triangle of Care one year ago, gaining our first star means that we are learning, taking actions and improving on the support we give to carers. Next steps are to look at how this rolled out to community, learning disabilities and autism services across the Trust.

[Find out more](#)



Images from: Carers retreat



## VOLUNTEERING SPOTLIGHT

**Volunteers play a really important part in the NHS and volunteers at our Trust are no different, they are the unpaid heroes of our Trust and we value each and every contribution that they make.**

Volunteers can offer personal, cultural, spiritual and creative contributions and offer the time that people need. By working this way, our Trust can provide the best possible, high quality care to ensure our services are person centred, compassionate, caring and effective. By volunteering with us, you can give your community a voice in everything we do, whilst building new friendships; improving your confidence, boosting your CV and improving your own health and wellbeing.

We welcome anyone who can bring skills, time or life experiences. We encourage applications from people from all communities and backgrounds. If you're over 16, you can volunteer with us.



### CASE STUDY: OLWEN

#### **How long did you volunteer and where?**

I have been volunteering for the Trust now for 9 months. I volunteer in Forensics as an administrator, 2 mornings per week.

#### **What do you like about volunteering?**

I get on with everyone. They are all so friendly and supportive of one another – they good communication and help each other. It's opened my eyes to how much help the NHS needs and I'm glad to be part of a team.

#### **Do you feel your volunteer contribution is meaningful and rewarding?**

Definitely. I feel that doing something as a volunteer is helpful, rewarding and meeting people.

### BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The Trust offers a range of volunteering opportunities to enhance the services we provide. At the heart of volunteering is the Trust 'Volunteer Service.' We have over 170 volunteers who continue to give time to add value to the services we provide.

[Find out more](#)



## BECOME A MEMBER

You can support your local NHS services by becoming a member of our Trust. We want to work with our members to ensure our services are the best they can be, and to support local people to look after their wellbeing and make best use of services available, this is why anyone from the age of 11 years can become a member. If you haven't already signed up, do it now and encourage your friends, family or colleagues to join us too.

[Read More](#)



## BECOME A 'COMMUNITY CONNECTOR'

'Connecting people' is about giving the public a voice. You will take part in training to support you to involve your local connections, community, family and friends in the development of NHS services.



## GET IN TOUCH

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any queries or would like any additional information about anything included within this newsletter please contact us.



***phone: 01924 316000***

***email: [governors@swyt.nhs.uk](mailto:governors@swyt.nhs.uk)***

***website: [www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/](http://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/)***