

Chair's Business

(May)

Good News Stories

Title	Details
Trust colleagues shortlisted in NI Nurse of the Year Awards	<p>We are proud to announce that three of our esteemed nursing colleagues have been named finalists in the prestigious RCN NI Nurse of the Year Awards 2025.</p> <p>John McAteer, Practice Education Facilitator, has been shortlisted in the 'Learning in Practice Award' category, while Agnes Dee, Head of Service for Mental Health Intellectual Disability and Dementia Inpatients, is a finalist in the 'Team Manager Award' and Queens student,</p> <p>Graham Gibson who has worked as a Health Care Assistant in the Bluestone Unit and Craigavon Hospital, has also been shortlisted as 'Student Nurse of the Year.'</p> <p>Read more</p>
encompass go live	<p>Thursday 8th May marked a historic achievement for Health and Social Care services in Northern Ireland as the Southern and Western Trusts officially went live with encompass, the digital health care record system.</p> <p>This means that for the first time in history, all Health and Social Care Trusts across Northern Ireland are now integrated into one digital system, signifying a major step forward in streamlining patient care.</p> <p>With encompass now fully operational across Northern Ireland, patients and service users from across the region can benefit from My Care, the dedicated patient portal. My Care provides secure online access to personal health information and it has already over 120,000 users. Everyone is encouraged to sign up.</p> <p>Read more</p>
First Southern Trust Fellow from Prestigious Leadership Programme	<p>Congratulations to Blaithnid Hughes, Head of Service for Anaesthetics, Theatres and Critical Care Services, who has graduated from the prestigious Centre for Democracy and Peace Building Fellowship programme.</p> <p>The programme brings together emerging leaders from across all sectors, creating the space for discussion and reflection on some of Northern Ireland's most complex problems.</p> <p>Blaithnid was delighted to represent healthcare and be the first Southern Trust participant amongst this year's cohort.</p> <p>She said that the experience has given her lots of new ideas, leadership skills and cross-sectoral insight which she looks forward to helping her improve services for the benefit of patients and service users.</p> <p>Read more</p>

Sharing our learning on frailty

Dr Elaine Nelson, Consultant Geriatrician and Training Programme Director for Geriatric Medicine in Northern Ireland has presented a platform piece at the British Geriatric Society's spring meeting this month.

Dr Nelson shared her learning on the development and evaluation of an ageing simulation experience which she created to help staff gain a better understanding of the challenges patients face.

[Read more](#) [Watch here](#)

Dr Nelson also presented at the National Association of Medical Education Management's conference, assisted by Medical Education Co-ordinator Emma Kavanagh who wore the simulation suit to showcase how the training works in practice.

Our Medical Education Team were involved in organising the, 50th anniversary conference which took place in the Titanic Centre, Belfast and Kelly Wylie, Medical Educational Manager, presented to the UK wide audience on how we are professionalising medical education in the Southern Trust.

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Celebrating fostering excellence

We were delighted to team up with the Fostering Network to host our annual Southern Area Fostering Achievement and Attainment Awards.

The event recognised the exceptional achievements of children and young people in foster and kinship care across the region, highlighting their resilience and personal growth.

[Read more](#)

The sound of music in health and social care

A 'Musician in Residence' has been bringing joy to patients and service users across the Southern Trust.

Anne Harper is accomplished in a range of instruments including the clarinet, saxophone and harp and is also a trained storyteller. She has been recruited through Arts Care to deliver musical projects across wards, outpatients and day care settings.

[Read more](#)