



Southern Health and Social Care Trust Highlights – November 2025

Promoting international medical research

Our medical team continues to make their mark in the world of international research. Respiratory and cardiology colleagues have recently had research works published in prestigious medical journals.

The respiratory team led by Dr Rory Convery, were key contributors to a major international trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Meanwhile, Professor Patricia Campbell, Consultant Cardiologist and lead for Heart Failure, had two studies published in the Lancet.

With a rich culture of promoting active research and continuous improvement right across the organisation it is part of our vision to grow to be a learning organisation.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Trust staff recognised in Edel Corr Awards

There were two winners and a special merit prize this year for the Trust's 'Edel Corr Award for Outstanding Compassionate Care.'

Edel Corr was a highly esteemed nursing colleague, who sadly passed away in 2021 and this annual award has been established in her honour.

The panel had a very difficult task judging the nominations and would like to acknowledge and congratulate everyone who was nominated.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Daisy Hill Maternity duo retires after over 85 years

They've spent their years helping to bring new life into the world and now it's time for them to birth a new chapter of their own. After a combined total of more than 85 years' service, Phil Fletcher and Patricia O'Gorman from Daisy Hill Hospital's Maternity Assessment Unit, have said a fond farewell as they retire from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach

Driving towards sustainable transport

We are delighted to introduce a new line of hybrid vehicles. The eight new green cars will be used by learning disability services across the area to bring service users to events and day care centres.

Hybrid vehicles burn less fuel and emit less air pollutants. The cars combine advanced fuel efficiency with cutting-edge design, offering service users an eco-conscious alternative without compromising comfort, style or transport experience.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Looking after your mental health

On Wednesday 8 October, we hosted a mental health fair as part of a month-long campaign encouraging people to look after their mental health just as much as they would their physical health.

Between World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September and World Mental Health Day on 10 October, the five local health and Social Care Trusts, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Public Health Agency promoted mental health self-care using the 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing'.

[Read more](#)

Community First

Multicultural day

We have hosted a very successful Multicultural Day, bringing together staff from across the organisation to celebrate diversity, culture and community.

The event featured vibrant music and dance performances, traditional food from around the world, henna art and creative crafts. The celebration, ran in conjunction with the ABC Community Network in Portadown Town Hall, saw over 150 people attend.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Seasons of Life award

Our 'Seasons of Life' programme has scooped the top award at the Picker Experience Network Awards. The one-year pilot initiative, shortlisted in the Partnership Working category, was a unique narrative project that supported young people across the Southern Trust area to cope with bereavement or loss of a family member.

Along with winning their award category, Michelle Mooney, Seasons of Life Project Coordinator and Dr Sinead Hannan Assistant Head of Psychology Services for Clinical and Occupational Health, collected the overall winner prize at the event in the University of Birmingham.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Projects shortlisted for European awards

Two Trust projects have been shortlisted for the European Social Services Awards 2025 for making health and social care more accessible, inclusive, and equitable to everyone.

'Tackling Language Barriers in Health and Social Care', has been shortlisted in the Digital Transformation and Technology in Social Services award category, whilst, 'Cultural Competency Framework for Health and Social Care', has been nominated for the Strengthening Communities and Social Inclusion Award.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Kinship carers

In October, we shone a spotlight on the extraordinary role of kinship foster carers and celebrated their success in keeping families and communities together through local stories and events.

Kinship carers come from all walks of life. They are grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, family friends and even teachers – who provide fulltime care to children who cannot live at home because of child protection concerns.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach

A year of team Sapphire

From bump to baby, Team Sapphire has celebrated its first year of supporting mums and babies – marking 235 births since the service launched.

The team is our Trust's second Continuity of Midwifery Carer service and currently have another 140 women on its caseload across Newry, Bessbrook, Camlough, Mayobridge and Rathfriland.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach

Home care awards

The fantastic care provided by Trust Home Care Assistants to thousands of people has been recognised along with back office staff at our second Southern Trust Home Care Awards.

Staff from right across the Trust's three home care teams – Armagh and Dungannon, Craigavon and Banbridge and Newry and Mourne, and the Out of Hours team – came together for a special afternoon, to celebrate the difference they make to the lives of the 2,236 services users.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Celebrating social work

The achievements of our Social Work colleagues has been recognised at the 2025 Northern Ireland Social Care Council Professional in Practice Awards.

The awards celebrate the achievements of inspiring social workers, and their commitment to improving professional practice through learning and development. The award categories include: Consolidation Award, a requirement for all staff post qualification; Specialist Award; Leadership and Strategic Award.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Building futures changing lives

On 24 September, we brought local employers together to explore how they can support care experienced young people while developing their workforce.

The event was organised by our 14 plus employability service which aims to improve the education, training and employment outcomes for care experienced young people.

Employers from the private, public and voluntary sector across Armagh, Dungannon, Craigavon, Banbridge, Newry and Mourne attended to learn how they can help young people achieve their career aspirations while gaining valuable employees.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Six out of six speech therapy awards!

We are delighted that the Southern Trust received a total of six awards out of six shortlisted entries at the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy NI Awards in September.

The regional celebration of excellence marked 80 years of the profession in Northern Ireland.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience