



Southern Health and Social Care Trust Highlights – January 2026

New Sustainability Strategy to halve Trust carbon emissions by 2030

The Trust has launched its Sustainability Strategy for 2026-2030.

The document, titled 'Care without Carbon', sets out a clear 'green plan' to cut carbon emissions, reduce waste, modernise the estate and build a more cost-effective and environmentally responsible health and social care system.

Aligned to the NI Climate Change Act, it commits the Trust to achieving a 48% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Gold star for Trauma and Orthopaedics

The Trust's Trauma and Orthopaedic service has received national recognition for commitment to patient safety, for the fifth consecutive year.

Also, for the first time, the team has been awarded with gold accreditation as a National Joint Registry (NRJ) Quality Data Provider for the high-quality information they provide about joint replacement surgery. To achieve the award, hospitals must meet key rigorous targets, based around patient safety, quality of care and compliance with the NJR's audit process.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Social Work Dragons' Den success

Five of the eight regional finalists in this year's Regional Social Work Dragons' Den were from the Southern Trust, with all five projects successfully securing funding — providing an early Christmas present for our teams and the people they support.

Out of 31 applications across the region, the Trusts teams' creativity, collaboration, and commitment to improving social work and social care practice were widely recognised.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Top marks for cancer services

Southern Trust cancer services have received the highest score possible in the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark.

The Mandeville Unit and the Macmillan Information and Support Centre were developed as flagship partnerships between Macmillan Cancer Support and the Trust. Following rigorous assessment from an independent quality assurance agency, both services have retained the prestigious recognition for another three years.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Minister visits Daisy Hill Hospital

In December we were delighted to welcome Health Minister Mike Nesbitt to Daisy Hill Hospital to see how the team are helping to reduce Northern Ireland's waiting lists for planned surgery.

The Minister visited the main theatre complex, the Elective Overnight Stay Centre, the state-of-the-art dedicated paediatric theatre and the recovery ward on the sixth floor where he met 11 year old Rory Boyle from Middletown who was recovering from a tonsillectomy.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Best foot forward!

On 4th December, an incredible 170 Southern Trust staff got into the Christmas spirit by taking part in the Daily Mile Santa Walk and Wheel across our main sites in St Luke's, Craigavon and Daisy Hill hospitals. With Santa hats, Christmas jumpers and plenty of holiday cheer staff came together to show that wellbeing at work can be fun, festive and active.

[Read more](#)

Community First

Theatre expansion boosts planned orthopaedic surgery

South Tyrone Hospital has expanded its theatre capacity, enabling more planned day-case surgery and helping reduce waiting lists. The hospital now supports increased surgical activity across multiple specialties, treating up to 160 patients most weeks in its dedicated day-case theatres. Among the procedures benefiting from this additional capacity are planned Orthopaedic surgeries, including treatment for common injuries, injuries including ACL tears, meniscal injuries and patella-femoral conditions.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Strengthening Dementia Care

We are taking steps to improve care for people living with dementia, with staff recently taking part in the first World Café learning session as part of the Enhancing Dementia Care Across the Trust programme. With the Southern area expected to have the highest number of people living with dementia by 2032, we are focusing on practical ways to build staff confidence, skills and understanding. The World Café brought together colleagues from mental health, disability, adult community and acute services, including nurses, social workers, healthcare assistants and support workers, to share experiences and explore new approaches to care.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach

Winter healthcare tips for parents

With increasing cases of common winter bugs and viruses circulating in the community, our paediatric team is sharing information on how to recognise and deal with common childhood symptoms and the Trust will be sharing tips across social media pages.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach

Support for Nurses and Midwives

Gillian Henry, Southern Trust, Interim Head of Service for Nursing and Midwifery, Education and Workforce Development has been involved in the development of a new Learning Needs Analysis Guide and Tool for nurses and midwives.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Specialist team helping people heal from trauma

A specialist team within our Trust is providing life-changing psychological support to people who have experienced troubles related trauma, helping them to recover, build and move forward.

The Regional Trauma Network based at Haven's Close in St Luke's, Armagh, offers one-to-one therapy, group programmes and community outreach designed to rebuild confidence, wellbeing and hope.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Neonatal Unit highlights vital role of siblings in neonatal care

To mark World Prematurity in November, Craigavon Area Hospital Neonatal Unit released a short video capturing the experiences of local families and staff, showcasing the vital role siblings play in supporting parents and babies during neonatal care.

The team continues to strengthen its family-centred approach, ensuring families feel welcomed, reassured and involved from the earliest moments of their baby's journey.

[Read more](#)

Whole Life Approach