

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Highlights – September 2026

Mandeville recognised as a Centre of Excellence

The Mandeville Unit in Craigavon Area Hospital has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the charity Myeloma UK.

Myeloma is the third most common type of blood cancer, with approximately 175 new diagnoses in Northern Ireland each year. While it predominantly affects people aged over 60, one in four people diagnosed with myeloma are under the age of 65.

The Unit received the accolade through the organisation's Clinical Service Excellence Programme for its commitment to delivering high-quality treatment and support to people living with the condition.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Gift of Comfort

We were delighted to take part in the HSE Integrated Care Conference in Dublin earlier in the month, to exchange ideas and learning with health and social care counterparts.

We were particularly proud that out of the significant number of poster displays, showcasing a wide range of innovative projects, that our breast cancer team won their category.

The team shared their work in partnership with the Charity Pretty in pink to improve the experience of breast cancer patients in their care.

'Gift of Comfort: Supporting Patients with a Diagnosis of Breast Cancer' includes the development of a beautiful new comfort room within the Glenanne Unit and specialized bra fitting service for patients.

Collaborative Working

Raising awareness of womb cancer

Two Southern Trust nurses are encouraging women to know the signs of womb cancer and seek advice if they have concerns.

As part of Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month this September, Sharon Quinn, Gynaecological Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Kelly Harrison, Gynaecological Oncology Nurse, have been highlighting the importance of recognising symptoms early. Womb cancer is the most common gynaecological cancer in the UK.

Sharon and Kelly support women from across the Southern Trust area through diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care and say early diagnosis can make a significant difference.

[Read more](#)

Community first

I See You: recognising the team behind ICU

During Intensive Care Week (7-13 September), we recognised the multidisciplinary teams who care for some of our sickest patients. Working together across a range of specialties, they support patients and families through some of the most challenging times in their lives

Based at Craigavon Area Hospital, they cared for 438 patients over the past year.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Supporting the next generation of midwives

Our maternity team is helping to develop the next generation of midwives by providing high-quality placement opportunities for students across Daisy Hill, Craigavon Area hospitals and community settings.

Working alongside experienced colleagues and multidisciplinary teams, student midwives are gaining valuable, hands-on experience while supporting women, babies and families throughout pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

New artwork unveiled in Bluestone

A new artwork has been unveiled in our Bluestone facility at Craigavon Area Hospital.

Co-ordinated by the Mental Health Forum, the piece was donated by Newry artist, Mark Byrne.

The Mental Health Forum is an independent, user-led charity that provides information, advice and signposting on mental health issues in the Southern Trust area.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

New outdoor activity space enhances short breaks at Woodlawn House

A new outdoor activity space is enhancing the short-break experience for service users at Woodlawn House. Woodlawn House is the Trust's statutory short break facility for adults with a learning disability in Dungannon.

The newly developed area has transformed an underused outdoor space into an inclusive and accessible environment designed to support recreation, exercise, relaxation and social interaction.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Beyond Providing a Home

Foster carers from across the Trust have helped create a new learning resource to strengthen working relationships between carers and the professionals who support children and young people.

The 'Beyond Providing a Home' resource was developed with foster carers and is based on their experiences. It aims to help staff better understand the foster carer role and work more effectively with carers.

The resource was officially launched at an event attended by foster carers, social workers and colleagues from across the Trust's Children's Services.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Patient safety project shortlisted for prestigious award

A project to improve patient safety and better support people at risk of self-harm through ligature has been shortlisted for a national Health Service Journal Patient Safety Award.

We are the only Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland to be named among this year's finalists.

Led by the Trust's Ligature Policy Implementation Group, the four-year programme has strengthened how staff identify and manage potential risks linked to self-harm through ligature across services. The initiative has improved support for patients and families, information sharing, shared decision-making, and the guidance and training available to staff.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Edel is student nurse of the year

Edel Hughes, has been announced as the winner of the Nicola Tallon Student Nurse of the Year Award 2026.

This special award was launched in memory of our esteemed colleague Nicola who had worked in our Home Treatment Crisis Response team within the mental health division and passed away in June 2021.

Edel, from Dungannon, stood out for her outstanding work during placement with the Perinatal Mental Health Team, with the winning nomination from Kayley Lamont, Community Mental Health Nurse.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Deaf service users help shape improvements in Craigavon ED

We have introduced a new buzzer system in the Emergency Department at Craigavon Area Hospital to support Deaf and hard of hearing patients.

The system was introduced following engagement with the British Deaf Association and Deaf service users, whose feedback helped shape a number of changes within the department, including improved signage, screen visibility, Deaf awareness and communication support.

The handheld buzzer vibrates and lights up when a patient is being called, helping to ensure they do not miss being called by clinical staff while waiting in the department.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Welcoming new resident doctors

In August, we welcomed our new NIMDTA Resident Doctors during Changeover.

Generic induction sessions were held across both the Craigavon Area Hospital and Daisy Hill Hospital sites, providing Resident Doctors with the essential information and support needed as they begin their placements within the Trust.

The induction programme included a range of vital onboarding activities, ensuring doctors were equipped with everything required for a smooth start.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Baby friendly

Massive well done to our Neonatal Unit in Craigavon Area Hospital and Special Care Baby Unit in Daisy Hill Hospital, which have been awarded the prestigious Baby Friendly Award.

The Stage Three Accreditation through the charity UNICEF recognises that both facilities have achieved the highest standards of care, ensuring parents receive consistent support to develop close relationships with their babies and make informed decisions about feeding.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Welcoming new foundation year 1 doctors

In late July, our Medical Education Team were delighted to welcome 59 new Foundation Year 1 doctors to begin their period of work shadowing before taking up their first posts as resident doctors across Craigavon Area and Daisy Hill hospitals.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Medical Masters

Congratulations to Kelly Wylie, Senior Medical Education Manager, and Claire Skelton, Project Manager, from the Southern Trust Medical Education Team, on successfully completing their Master of Science in Professional Practice in Medical Education Management at the University of Kent.

Following a three-year programme of part-time study alongside their full-time roles, Kelly graduated with Distinction, while Claire was awarded Merit.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

New temporary simulation space for Daisy Hill Hospital

Healthcare professionals have taken part in the first major training event held in the new Simulation Suite at Daisy Hill Hospital, helping teams prepare for rare but serious medical emergencies and deliver safe, high-quality patient care.

Located beside the Emergency Department in the former Physiotherapy Gym, the temporary facility is the first dedicated simulation training space at the hospital. It provides a realistic environment where multidisciplinary teams can strengthen clinical skills, communication and decision-making through hands-on learning

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

World Breastfeeding Week

In August we celebrated World Breastfeeding week with families, communities and health professionals across the region. This year's theme, "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works," highlighted the importance of building on the support, services and community networks that help babies and families thrive.

We were delighted to take part in a range of local events including walks, tea parties, drop-in support sessions.

[Read more](#)

Whole life approach

Showcasing innovation in medical education

Trust colleagues have showcased how they are leading the way in developing innovative educational approaches that strengthen multidisciplinary working, enhance clinical competence and improve outcomes for patients, at the Association for the Study of Medical Education Annual Scholarship Meeting in Birmingham recently.

Dr Danielle Thornton, SAS Doctor in Medical Education, and Edel Davidson, Lead Clinical Education Pharmacist, presented *Learning Together to Prescribe Safely*, an interprofessional simulation programme developed through collaboration between medical and pharmacy colleagues.

Also at the conference, Medical Education Fellow Dr Tiarna Byrne delivered an oral presentation on *Before the Patient*, an innovative educational initiative designed to improve doctors' preparedness for high-risk procedures.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Excellence in medical education

The Trust's Medical Education Centre team was recognised at the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency's 9th Annual Educational Excellence Day.

The flagship event highlighted the achievements of trainees and educators, showcasing innovation, leadership and best practice in medical and dental training.

[Read more](#)

Learning Organisation

Improving patient flow at Daisy Hill Hospital

Significant efforts have been made to improve patient flow and enhance the patient experience at Daisy Hill Hospital in recent years.

Chief Operating Officer Mary Burke was speaking following the publication of the latest Emergency Department waiting times figures by the Department of Health.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Health Heroes

Two Trust colleagues received national recognition at the prestigious Our Health Heroes Awards.

Kerry Haughian, Personal Assistant within Children and Young People's Services was named the Gold winner in the Operational Support Worker of the Year category in recognition of her leadership and support throughout the transition to encompass. Teresa Mackle from Oaklands Children's Short Break Unit was recognised in the Outstanding Lifetime Contribution honours as a Bronze winner, celebrating an extraordinary career spanning 50 years within the Trust.

[Read more](#)

Safety, Quality & Experience

Seasons of life

A beautiful new artwork created through the Seasons of Life project was unveiled at St Patrick's High School, Keady, just before students broke up for the summer holidays.

Seasons of Life is a co-designed quality improvement project that supports young people who have experienced bereavement and loss. The initiative was recognised as the overall winner of the 2025 Picker Experience Network Awards.

[Read more](#)

Collaborative Working

Movement through motherhood

Following the successful “Walking Bumps” groups which were part of the “Walk This May campaign”, the maternity team released a podcast episode highlighting the important role of physical activity in supporting women’s health during pregnancy, preparing for labour and birth, and aiding postnatal recovery.

Hosted by Gemma Winter, Antenatal Education Coordinator, the episode features an honest and engaging conversation with Amy, a first-time mum and physiotherapist, joined by her eight-month-old son, Theo.

[Read more](#)

Whole life approach

Making every move count for two decades

The Fit 4 U programme has celebrated 20 years of supporting hundreds of people across the Southern Trust area to live more active, connected lives.

Service users, carers, volunteers and staff came together at the end of June to mark major milestones for the service.

Events were held across Banbridge, Dungannon, Craigavon, Newry and Armagh, marking 20 years of Fit 4 U for adults with a physical disability and 10 years of Fit 4 U 2 for adults with a learning disability.

[Read more](#)

Community first