

**Chair's Business**  
**(January 2025)**  
**Good News Stories**

Title	Details
<b>Health committee visits Daisy Hill Hospital</b>	<p>We were delighted to host a visit from the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Health on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.</p> <p>Committee members first visited Daisy Hill Hospital to meet with staff and learn more about services before holding their weekly Committee meeting in the Trust's Monaghan Row Boardroom.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>Working on the front line in a busy ED</b>	<p>After a particular busy January, Daisy Hill Hospital's Emergency Department Ward Manager, Sister Lisa Small gives an insight to what it has been like for staff working at the frontline of health and social care.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>NASA inspired technology continues putting patients through their paces</b>	<p>A revolutionary piece of equipment, which uses technology developed by NASA, continues to bring great benefit to patients right across the Southern Trust area almost a decade after it was first introduced.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>Health Minister visits CAH ED</b>	<p>The Health Minister has thanked Emergency Department staff as they continue to deal with winter pressures on services. Mike Nesbitt visited six EDs in the past few weeks, including Craigavon Area Hospital on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, to hear directly from staff and patients.</p>
<b>Compassionate care award for Windsor Day Centre</b>	<p>The staff at Windsor Day Centre are the recipients of the Trust's 'Edel Corr Award for Compassionate Care.' Edel Corr was a highly esteemed nursing colleague, who sadly passed away in 2021 and this award was established in her honour. Windsor Day Centre in Newry provides day care for adults with a learning disability for service user support, rehabilitation and carer support.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<b>Unbroken record for trauma and orthopaedics team</b>	<p>Congratulations to our Trauma and Orthopaedic service who have received national recognition for their commitment to patient safety, for the fourth year running. The team has been awarded silver accreditation as a National Joint Registry Quality Data Provider for the high-quality information they provide about joint replacement surgery.</p> <p>The busy team provides services across Craigavon and Daisy Hill hospitals. They have around 680 attendances each week at their clinics and last year undertook 1,840 orthopaedic joint surgeries!</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>

<p><b>Carols in the Courtyard</b></p>	<p>The Community Addictions Service held their ‘Carols in the Courtyard’ event at St Luke’s Hospital, Armagh for staff and service users in December.</p> <p>‘Carols in the Courtyard’ was established following the transformation of the courtyard by members of the The ARC Day Opportunities Service and The Conservation Volunteers in conjunction with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in 2022.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Fun story books to support with children’s speech therapy</b></p>	<p>We have teamed up with Luca’s Voice Charity to launch two new books for children with severe speech sound disorders. Developed by Nichola McDonald from the charity, in partnership with the Community Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy team, the books, provide parents with additional resources to support home practice in a fun and engaging way.</p> <p>Speech sound disorders affect up to 25% of children resident in the UK, and can impact on communication, relationships, school progression and overall wellbeing. Evidence shows that more intensive support than the current UK standard practice is much more effective for children with the condition.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Parents, not toys, can make a big impact on children’s speech and language development</b></p>	<p>Speech and language therapists within the Trust’s Sure Start programme were reminding parents that they are the key to “supporting their children with speech and language” ahead of the toy giving season.</p> <p>Simple interactions during everyday activities can significantly enhance and help children thrive in speech and language development rather than relying solely on toys or digital devices.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Urgent Care Centre team celebrate first birthday with almost 3, 947 appointments!</b></p>	<p>The Urgent Care Centre team at Daisy Hill Hospital have marked their first year in service, having now looked after a total of 3,947 patients. The Urgent Care Centre team receive referrals through the ‘Phone First’ system and directly from GPs. The Phone First approach helps patients with urgent, however not life-threatening symptoms, to get the most appropriate care as quickly as possible, avoiding busy waiting rooms and maintaining Emergency Departments for only the most acutely ill.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Remote ECG telemonitoring</b></p>	<p>A first-of-its-kind pilot scheme has launched in the Southern Trust, which allows patients to capture their heart data anytime, anywhere. As part of this new roll out, patients who are being investigated for palpitations or atrial fibrillation will receive a remote mobile monitoring device, which allows them to check in on their heart at home and transmit real-time ECG data back to cardiology specialists to review their trace without them having to attend hospital.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>

<p><b>Social workers are shining bright</b></p>	<p>Social Workers from across the Trust joined together for the annual Professional Social Work Forum which shed a light on the invaluable role that social work plays in our communities.</p> <p>The event, 'Shining a Light on Social Work', brought together social work staff and managers to discuss and review challenges and opportunities from the past year on how the social work professional contributes across the local community and the entire organisation.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Paediatricians issue advice to parents as part of winter plans</b></p>	<p>Health Minister Mike Nesbitt has praised the excellent care being provided by regional paediatric units across Northern Ireland on a visit to Craigavon Area Hospital's Blossom Children and Young People's Centre to discuss regional winter plans for children's services.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a> <a href="#">Watch Minister</a></p> <p><a href="#">Watch Dr Shilpa Shah, Consultant Paediatrician</a></p> <p><a href="#">Stacey Lavery, Advanced Paediatric Nurse Practitioner</a></p>
<p><b>From students to midwives</b></p>	<p>We have welcomed 16 new midwives who are fulfilling their dream "of caring for women and their babies at this significant time in their lives".</p> <p>They are a welcome addition to the Trust maternity team, which supports women and their families, before, during and after birth, in hospital, community clinics and at home. The Southern Trust has over 200 midwives supporting women and families across Armagh, Dungannon, Craigavon, Banbridge, Newry and Mourne.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>
<p><b>Innovative unit enhances patient care</b></p>	<p>The Ambulatory Cardiology Unit has been widely praised for its innovative approach to improving patient outcomes.</p> <p>During a recent visit, the Health Minister praised the team for delivering timely, effective care while reducing the strain on hospital resources.</p> <p>The Unit provides care for patients experiencing new or urgent cardiac symptoms or managing known conditions without the need for hospital admission. By offering rapid evaluation, treatment and follow-up from a dedicated cardiology team, the unit has eased the pressure on Emergency Departments and significantly reduced the in-patient admissions to cardiology wards.</p> <p><a href="#">Read more</a></p>