

Chair's Business

(April)

Good News Stories

Title	Details
Meet the 'Bubble-Buoy'	<p>A novel, easy-to-use device to help people regain wrist function following an injury has been created by a Southern Trust Occupational Therapist. Clinical Lead Occupational Therapy Hand Therapist, Daniel Harte developed the innovative 'Bubble-Buoy' to help patients regain movement and strength in their wrist as part of their rehabilitation.</p> <p>Read more</p>
Celebrating social workers	<p>Southern Trust social workers have been celebrated for their exceptional daily contributions as part of World Social Work Day on 18 March. The Trust hosted a special recognition event to honour social workers nominated for the Regional Social Work Awards.</p> <p>Read more</p>
Student nurse nominates ICU mentor for national award	<p>An ICU nurse, who qualified herself just three years ago, has been nominated for a prestigious award in recognition of her exceptional support for a student nurse. Eimhear Black is one of 12 nurses from across the UK shortlisted for the Student Nursing Times award in the 'Practice Supervisor of the Year' category. This award recognises a practice supervisor who consistently goes above and beyond to support nursing and midwifery students. She is the only nurse nominated from the Southern Trust and the only individual nominee from Northern Ireland health trusts among the 25-award category.</p> <p>Read more</p>
Move More Live More	<p>We have teamed up with Age NI, to encourage patients in Loane House at South Tyrone Hospital to move more. The 'Move More Live More' programme aims to support people to live well for longer, with a focus on staying strong, agile and preventing falls. The programme, hosted by Claire McKeown, Age NI, gave patients with information on the importance of staying active to build confidence, strength, balance and improve overall health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Read more</p>
Reducing hospital stays with home antibiotics	<p>An estimated 11,435 days which people may have otherwise spent in our hospitals have been avoided over the past four years thanks to a service managing antibiotic treatments at home. The Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy Service, works with district nursing colleagues, preventing hospital admissions, supporting earlier discharge and enhancing overall patient experience.</p> <p>Read more</p>

<p>Mums supporting others to breastfeed</p>	<p>We have hosted an annual networking and training event for volunteers working as breastfeeding peer support workers. Breastfeeding peer support volunteers are local mums who have breastfed their own children and, with specialised training, provide mother-to-mother support.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>The encompass clock is ticking</p>	<p>The clock is now ticking and we are on the countdown to Go-Live with encompass, the new electronic patient information system. The Southern along with Western colleagues, will be the final two Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to introduce the ground-breaking system on Thursday 8 May 2025.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>Daisy Hill elective centre going from strength to strength</p>	<p>Daisy Hill Elective Overnight Stay Centre is increasing patient numbers and surgical activity across a range of areas. On a recent visit Professor Mark Taylor, Co-Chair of the Review of General Surgery, heard from the team about how they are now undertaking surgeries across Breast, Urology, ENT, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, General Surgery, Endoscopy, Dermatology, Paediatric Dental and Oral Surgery.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>SAFE4U</p>	<p>We were delighted to launch our new SAFE4U service in March. Based on the St Luke’s Hospital site in Armagh, it provides specialist support for children and young people who have been impacted by sexual abuse and harm. The team offer assessment, education and therapy, making it the first facility of its kind in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>Minister visits district nursing</p>	<p>Health Minister Mike Nesbitt and Deputy Chief Nursing Officer Mary Frances McManus visited our District Nursing service in February. They met with staff, including Moy Neighbourhood District Nursing team on the visit to Portadown Health Centre. District Nurses from the enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and a Consultant District Nurse, highlighted their roles in delivering integrated community care.</p> <p>Read more</p>
<p>Heart health knows no age</p>	<p>Our Rapid Access Angina Clinic is providing timely cardiac care to younger patients for a condition which is often associated with the older population. The Clinic is a regional specialist nurse-led service which assesses patients with suspected angina. As part of Heart Health Month in February the team were raising awareness that they provide accessible and comprehensive cardiac care to all patients, regardless of age.</p> <p>Read more</p>

Pressed for success	<p>Craigavon Area Hospital laundry team achieved ISO accreditation in February. As part of a three-year process our laundry service gets a surveillance visit annually to ensure we continue to meet Standard ISO 9001:2015. The hardworking team process around four million pieces of laundry a year - about 75k – 80k each week.</p> <p>Read more</p>
Cultural framework	<p>We have worked with other Trusts to develop a Cultural Competency Framework to help reduce inequalities in health experienced by ethnic minority populations and patient groups across the region. This new regional framework will help health and social care staff staff to improve their confidence and competence in engaging with and providing services to people from a range of diverse cultural backgrounds.</p> <p>Read more</p>
New simulation suite	<p>A state-of-the-art simulation suite has opened in Craigavon Area Hospital. This innovative facility has been designed to enhance medical training and improve patient care by providing immersive, hands-on learning experience.</p> <p>Read more</p>