Rotherham Hospital cheers its volunteers

Volunteers and staff gathered in Rotherham Hospital's Community Corner on Friday 3rd June to celebrate national Volunteers Week and the European year of the Volunteer.

A dedicated force of more than 280 volunteers provide support to patients and visitors in different areas of the hospital every day, so this event aimed to celebrate and raise awareness about the important role they play at the Trust.

Voluntary Services Coordinator Joanne Farey says: “We have a great number of volunteers and they do a fantastic job. Services in the Trust are supported by volunteers aged 17 upwards, carrying out a variety of roles, including helping patients with their meals, delivering prescriptions and supporting people with communication difficulties due to a stroke.

“Our volunteers make an important contribution to the experience of our patients and visitors, so we want them to know how much we appreciate what they do.”

For more information about volunteering at the Trust, please contact Jo on 01709 424329 or go to: www.rotherhamhospital.co.uk

Trust’s Speech Therapist wins national stroke award

Gemma Morgan, 29, a speech and language therapist at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT), has beaten off stiff competition from around the UK to win The Stroke Association’s 2011 Life After Stroke Award for Excellence in Stroke Care.

Gemma was commended for ‘Communication Partners’, a project she developed with support from the Trust’s Volunteer Service, which trains speech and language therapy students and TRFT volunteers to hold supported conversations with stroke survivors who have communication difficulties (aphasia).

Gemma was nominated by stroke survivor Christine Welburn. After her stroke, Christine was unable to speak, read, write or follow instructions, but 18 months later, with the help of Communication Partners, she has made a great recovery, becoming more confident and speaking in full sentences. Christine has come such a long way, that she is now a volunteer with the project. She says: “The enthusiasm and commitment that Gemma has shown towards the project has had a ripple effect within the Communications Partners team. She never fails to recognise the input that others are giving the project and she shows the clients real empathy and understanding when clients are often distressed and frustrated.”

Gemma says: “I am so overwhelmed and proud to have won this award. It is recognition for what the stroke survivors, volunteers and staff involved in the project have achieved. Not only have we been able to help stroke survivors improve their communication, but they are meeting new people, taking up new activities, becoming more sociable and increasing their confidence as a result.

“Many of the volunteers hadn’t had experience of working with stroke survivors, so it’s really encouraging that they are giving up their time and learning about such an important condition.”

Celebrity Stacey Solomon and Gemma Morgan
Barry Regan recently joined The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as the new Security Manager. Barry has more than 22 years’ experience with South Yorkshire Police force and worked closely with the previous Security Manager Cliff Morrison who recently left the Trust to work in Security for the whole of the Yorkshire and Humber area.

Barry says: “The Security team at the Trust do an amazing job and we worked quite closely together when I was at South Yorkshire Police. As with any large organisation, there used to be some issues with vehicle and other petty crime, but they have worked tirelessly over the last few years to stamp this out. Rotherham Hospital has a very low rate of crime, which is really impressive considering there are so many people coming and going all the time.

“I am looking forward to building on this success and continuing to keep rates of crime at the hospital and its other estates in the Rotherham area really low. This is an on-going challenge as there will always be people looking to prosper from crime, especially given the current economic climate. I would like to remind people to help us by making sure they exercise the same caution with their possessions when they visit the hospital as they would if they were out shopping etc.

“Barry adds: “Coming to hospital can be a difficult time for some people and it is easy to forget the most simple security rules. Visitors and patients should make sure they lock their cars, move any tempting equipment like sat navs or mobile phones out of view and keep their valuables with them at all times.

I would also urge people to help us by keeping an eye out for any strange activity and if anyone sees anything suspicious, please let the Security team know.

“We already have rigorous security measures in place to stamp out crime at the Trust, but we need everyone’s help to keep crime rates as low as possible in the future.”

News in brief: Heart Rhythm Week

Cardiology staff will be checking visitors’ pulses in the main entrance of the hospital on 8th June 2011 as part of Heart Rhythm Week. The checks will take place between 12pm and 2pm and are to raise awareness of the importance of regularly checking your pulse, to make sure your heart beat is normal.

This year the theme for the week is ‘Putting pulse into practice’ and it’s part of the charity Arrhythmia Alliances campaign for pulse checks to be included in the NHS Health Check, for everyone over the age of 40 years.

There will be displays and leaflets as well as the opportunity for people to be shown how to take their pulse.

For more information please go to: www.aaaw.org.uk

If you have a story that you would like to see in a future issue of Newsweek, please get in touch with Communications on extension 7563 or email communication@rothgen.nhs.uk

CONTACT US

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