TRFT is first ever to achieve bronze catering award

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with its catering contractor ISS Healthcare has achieved the Soil Association’s Food for Life Bronze Standard Award for catering services at Rotherham Hospital.

This marks the first time a catering contractor within the NHS has achieved this important accreditation.

The Soil Association’s Food for Life Catering Mark is an independent endorsement that the caterer is taking steps to improve their food, using fresh ingredients which are free from harmful additives, and better for animal welfare.

To achieve the Bronze Standard, ISS Healthcare demonstrated the use of seasonal menus, with 75% of dishes freshly prepared. Meals incorporate non-GM ingredients to include meat from farms which satisfy UK welfare standards. In addition to stringent food standards, comprehensive training is provided for all catering staff.

Speaking of the award, Simon Cox, Managing Director of ISS Healthcare, which oversees the Trust’s catering services, said: “This has taken a lot of hard work by so many people, but I am proud that we were the first contract caterer to demonstrate the commitment needed to achieve this award. At Rotherham we will now be looking to progress to the Silver standard, whilst it is our aim to have more awards in our other NHS kitchens.”

Martin Beaumont, Contract Catering Manager for ISS at Rotherham Hospital said, “As you can imagine I am proud as punch. Our entire team, including our customers at Rotherham Hospital, have been superb.”

To be the first NHS organisation to achieve the Bronze standard is such a great achievement and we’re really proud of reaching this.

John Cartwright, Director of Estates & Facilities at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust.
Staff and volunteers at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust have stepped up to support NHS Change Day by pledging small changes to make a big difference!

NHS Change Day is a nationwide, frontline led movement and is the largest of its kind. With a shared purpose of improving health and care, the mission is to inspire and mobilise people everywhere: staff, patients and the public, to do something better together to improve care for people.

Staff and Volunteers supported NHS Change Day on 3 March by making their pledges on dedicated pledge walls across the Trust.

Pledges included those from Dr David Hicks, acting Medical Director at the Trust, who pledged: “I will be ‘greener’ in my use of printers and emails.”; Tracey McElraine-Burns, Chief Nurse at TRFT, pledged: “To review my email practice to ensure that it is considerate to the workload of the receiver at all times.” and Anne Crompton, Deputy Chief Nurse pledged: “To put my uniform on one day a month and go out to support the wards”.

Anne said: “Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who got involved in NHS Change Day and made a pledge. The campaign has provided the Trust with the opportunity to encourage positive changes, whilst reminding ourselves of the small things we can do individually: a great way to improve patient experience and care”.

For further information on NHS Change Day, please visit: www.changeday.nhs.uk