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Procurement event opens door to increase in joined-up working

All staff from the procurement teams across six NHS Trusts (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals FT, Sheffield Children's FT, The Rotherham FT, Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals FT, Sheffield Health and Social Care FT, and Chesterfield Royal Hospital FT) have been brought together for the first time for a networking event to discuss the future of procurement.

Increasing joined-up procurement has to date saved the Working Together trusts a total of £1.8million, however benchmarking data from the national team suggests that greater efficiencies could be achieved. In a discipline that currently provides few opportunities for staff to network with their peers, the Working Together event was an opportunity for them to get to know each other, share information about how each of their trusts' approaches differs from one another, and to explore further opportunities for the teams to work collaboratively together in the future.

The event featured presentations from motivational speaker Jules Wyeman on change management; Janette Watkins, Working Together Programme Director, about the wider programme and plans to increase collaboration across many disciplines, as well as information about being part of the Accountable Care System; and Paul Ralston, Working Together

South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Accountable Care System rated 'outstanding'

South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System – the partnership of all health and care organisations in our region – has been designated 'outstanding' by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

The first STP progress dashboard, which was published at the end of July, marks the partnership against a number of key areas in how they are working together to improve the health and care of everyone across Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

Earlier this year our Sustainability

Procurement Lead, about the work that has taken place so far in procurement and achieved the millions of savings, and opportunities for next steps. The afternoon was then spent with the procurement staff working in mixed-Trust teams to identify options for increasing collaboration.

Feedback from the team sessions showed that procurement staff feel there are opportunities to work together better by aligning systems and catalogues, standardising products and services and joining up knowledge and skills.

Paul Ralston said: "We have achieved so much by working together in procurement for the past three and a half years, yet many of our staff had never met. The event was a fantastic opportunity to ensure we are all involved in the partnership and all have the opportunity to contribute our ideas and different expertise. Good networking has been a crucial element in the success of the vanguard so far and broadening that to include a larger number of staff will only strengthen collaborative working further."



New out of hours model for ophthalmology agreed

Working Together Trust Medical Directors, CEOs and Chairs have agreed to move to a new model for providing out of hours ophthalmology care, which has been put forward by the Ophthalmology Managed Clinical Network.

and Transformation Partnership was named as one of the first areas in the country to become an Accountable Care System.

Sir Andrew Cash, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System Lead said: "We're pleased to be named as one of a handful of areas in the country to be considered 'outstanding' in this new national dashboard. This is absolutely down to the proven history of working together across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw to improve health and care for our population and the strong relationships that already exist between the NHS and local partners in our town and city.

"Our job now is to continue to make improvements for our citizens, with our immediate focus on working together to take the strain off A&E, make it easier to get a GP appointment and improve care and treatment in mental health and cancer."

Following conversations with staff and members of the public earlier this year, further opportunities to get involved with developing ACS will be launched in the late summer.

CEOs and Chairs discuss emergency preparedness

The Chief Executives and Chairs of the Working Together Trusts meet on a monthly basis, and whilst the discussions are dominated by

The new model will see specialist ophthalmology care in an evening from 5.30pm managed by Trusts in Sheffield, Doncaster and Mid Yorks for all patients in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. The move will ensure patients across the patch are able to access specialist care or advice 24/7. This is a specialty where there are real shortages in middle-grade Registrar posts and therefore providing a service 24/7 in every location was proving increasingly difficult.

Clinicians working in ophthalmology have agreed that the move will provide greater resilience to the service across the region.

Dr Des Breen, Working Together Medical Director said: "The way ophthalmology services are currently configured nationally means that even the smaller units have to strive to maintain rotas for consultant and middle grade doctors, even when the local demand suggests this is not necessary. This is often at inflated expense. This leads to an inefficient use of a scarce skilled workforce with inequitable access for patients across a region. By Trusts working collaboratively together, these issues can be addressed."

"We are confident that the move will lead to improved emergency services for patients. For those very few patients that need emergency and/or in-patient treatment, the hubs will be staffed with the necessary expertise and infrastructure to deliver this. The vast majority of patients who present to ophthalmology services at night do not need such time critical emergency care. To accommodate these patients, all hospitals are increasing the provision of emergency slots in morning clinics to deliver the necessary assessment and treatment. By all ophthalmology departments collaborating in this way, it also leads to the standardisation of treatment across the whole region which improves the quality of service provision."

The new model will come into operation from early October and data gathering will take place over the first 6 months to review activity and monitor the impact on patients.

increasing collaboration and partnership working, the forum also provides Trusts with the opportunity to discuss operational issues and share valuable insight into the approaches each is taking, and any issues that might impact on each other.

In the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster and increased terror threats, this month's meeting saw the approach to emergency planning taking centre stage.

Suzy Brain England, Chair of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who Chaired the meeting said: "Having the opportunity to discuss with our colleagues the operational issues we are all facing is invaluable and often leads to us taking joint decisions about how to approach an issue or finding a shared solution."

As a result of the discussion, Adam Bland, Head of Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response from NHS England will be meeting the Working Together CEOs and Chairs in September.



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