

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

Neonatal Unit achieves UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Stage One accreditation

The Trust's Neonatal Unit has achieved the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Stage One accreditation.

The Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) is a global programme first launched in 1994, and was extended to neonatal units in 2012 by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to support breastfeeding and parent-infant relationships by improving standards of care.

The initiative is an evidence-based, staged accreditation programme that supports maternity, neonatal, health visiting and children's centre services to transform their care, setting standards which provide a roadmap for sustainable improvements.

Sam Petridis, Baby Friendly Lead Nurse and Neonatal Sister, said: **"We are delighted to have achieved the Baby Friendly Initiative Stage One accreditation and are now excited to continue progressing into the next stage of the programme."**

"Through this work, we are putting parent's voices at the heart of care, minimising separation and empowering parents to take part in all elements of their baby's care."

The Neonatal Unit, which achieved Stage One of the accreditation in nine months, is now working towards the second stage out of three, which focuses on educating staff to implement the BFI neonatal standards.

UNICEF assesses the progress made by neonatal units by measuring the skills and knowledge of health professionals, as well as interviewing families to hear about their personal experiences of care.



Sam Petridis added: **"This is a really important initiative for the Neonatal Unit. We are committed to improving outcomes for babies and their families and by implementing these standards we can help the next generation."**

Pictured left to right are Vicky Wykes, Senior Sister, and Sam Petridis, Baby Friendly Lead Nurse and Neonatal Sister

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Launch of Health Care Support Workers' Academy

An Academy to train Health Care Support Workers (HCSWs) at the Trust was launched this month.

SaTH and partner organisations within the county's health and care system have teamed up with Telford College to launch the six-month pilot programme which started on January 17.

The first two weeks of the HCSWs' training will be in the classroom, supplemented by further study days which will combine to create a preceptorship programme. At the end of six months, if successful, candidates will receive their Care Certificate.



Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at SaTH, said: **“This exciting, innovative programme will provide our HCSWs with the essential skills they need when they commence working within the Trust. As part of this new initiative, the Trust has also created buddy training for existing HCSWs, thereby providing invaluable pastoral support and enabling health and wellbeing to be at the forefront of the programme.**

“It is hoped that this new programme, incorporating relevant education and training, will ensure our HCSWs are retained here within the Trust, and that they feel supported and invested in by the Trust.

“In addition, it is hoped the new preceptorship programme will create an appetite for health careers in Shropshire, encouraging candidates to follow a pathway to further nursing roles, whether that be as Nursing Associates or Registered General Nurses.”

Rachel Armstrong, Lead Nurse for Education and Quality at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, said: **“At the moment HCSWs have a three-day induction and this may not necessarily happen before they go into a clinical environment. It is difficult for them to get a Care Certificate signed off because they are trying to juggle the training with working clinically. We are hoping that, with this more structured approach, it will better prepare them.”**

The collaborative approach with other partners within the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) means all HCSWs will have the same training, regardless of whether they work in social care settings, the community or a hospital setting.

Telford College has set up a skills lab, classroom and computer suite for the programme. Cohorts of about 32 will take part in the programme once a month.

Caroline Bastow, Learner Manager for Higher Education and Access at Telford College, said: **“We are completely renovating part of our campus to create a new industry-standard hospital suite to house the academy.**

“There is a growing need for more healthcare assistants to work in both hospitals and care home settings, and this induction process will be transferable across multiple sites. By increasing the number of newcomers in the pipeline, it also provides career progression opportunities for existing health care assistants.”