

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign - Press Release - 26-10-2017

Today the Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign has sent a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of the South Tyneside Foundation Trust and City Hospitals Sunderland. Contrary to what the article (October 20) reports the "Hospital bosses" as saying we have checked and the data related to South Tyneside Hospital's top 5 UK performance of the Accident and Emergency Service does include the good performance of the Children's' and Young person's A&E and reflects its good results. This is something they did not acknowledge in this report. SSTHC has asked that this be publicly corrected and acknowledged and the children's A&E staff included in this praise for their performance.

On Friday October 20, in an article in the South Shields Gazette reporting on the waiting time performance at South Tyneside District Hospital in which the hospital has surpassed all of its targets in the three key areas of service – A&E, cancer care, and planned operations & care. (The figures show that, in A&E the trust surpassed the 95% target of ensuring a patient is seen within four hours – hitting 97%. For cancer care the trust beat the 85% target of ensuring people begin treatment within 62 days of urgent GP referral – hitting 88.9%.) The CHS and STF Executive Board is reported as saying: “Hospital bosses say the services being praised in new NHS data are the ones which are being left unchanged in their proposed Pathway to Excellence plan... Trust chiefs have stressed that the waiting time performance data is not directly related to the three service areas being consulted upon.”

South Tyneside Hospital's top 5 UK performance of the Accident and Emergency Service includes the good performance of the Children's' and Young persons A&E as does the performance of Sunderland Royal Children's and Young Person's A&E which is included in the data that showed that Sunderland A&E had failed to meet the national standards. In other words, the data is directly linked to the performance of South Tyneside's Children's A&E and reflects its good results and this service is under threat of downgrading.

Roger Nettleship Chair of SSTHC said: “The statement that the services being praised in the good performance of South Tyneside Hospital are the ones being left unchanged is not true. SSTHC has asked that this be publicly corrected and acknowledged and the children's A&E staff included in this praise for their performance. This is why we made the point in the article that the Trust should re-consider downgrading Children's A&E from a 24/7 Consultant led service, retain 24/7 consultant led Children's A&E at both hospitals and concentrate on making real improvements as a 'path to excellence'. We also made the point that this reflects on the other services and whilst these figures do not refer to maternity and stroke we can refer to the outstanding performance of our consultant led maternity services and also the need to retain our acute stroke beds for the future.”

*The SSTHC submission to the CCG consultation can be accessed on our website:
<http://www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/resources/?open=briefings#briefings>*