The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of Louise Barnett as substantive Chief Executive.

Louise, who took up the post officially from the 1st April, said: “I am thrilled to have been appointed as the substantive Chief Executive of the Trust. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to continue working with dedicated Trust staff, Governors, health and social care partners and the local community to ensure our patients receive the high quality health care they deserve.”

Since November 2013 Louise has been the Trust’s Interim Chief Executive on secondment from Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where she has worked for several years, recently as Interim Chief Executive.

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Louise Barnett
Chief Executive

Following the success of its first Governors’ Surgery in January, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust is expanding its next sessions to include the Trust’s community services. So patients, members of the public and staff at the Rotherham Community Health Centre (RCHC), as well as those visiting Rotherham Hospital, have a chance to go and chat with a Governor.

On Wednesday 9th April 2014 the Trust will hold sessions between 9am and 11am and again from 4pm to 6pm both in the main entrance area of Rotherham Hospital and at the main reception area on the ground floor of RCHC.

Everyone is welcome to come along and find out about their local Governor and what they do, how they influence hospital decision making and find out about Trust membership and hospital service developments.

Sandra Lewis is one of the Trust’s Staff Governors based at RCHC. In addition to a Public Governor, she will be hosting the first Governors’ Surgery sessions at RCHC. Sandra said: “I think it is extremely important to engage with our staff and public members, because we as Governors represent their voice as a Trust Member. Governors’ Surgeries are a fantastic opportunity to meet face to face, to talk and listen to the general public and staff members about the views of the Trust.”

The time spent with members of the public and listening to their views and experiences is invaluable for the Governors. It helps them fully represent their constituents at board level and any feedback is highlighted to the Trust’s Executive Team and senior staff.

Membership of the Trust is free and open to everyone aged 16 or over. Membership allows people to keep-up-to-date with Trust news, receive invitations to events and become eligible to vote, or stand in the Council of Governors elections.

To join the Trust visit www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk/GetInvolved/ or call 01709 427800 for more information.
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) is pleased to report that it has achieved the national Emergency Department (ED) four-hour operational target for quarter four (January to April 2014) – with a figure of 95.81%.

Additionally, the Trust’s year end performance has been recorded at 95.1%. Analysis of NHS England figures shows that of the 143 Trusts which have major ED units, only 18 of them have hit the 95 per cent target this year.

The four hour target sets out that 95% of patients, as a minimum, coming into the Emergency Department should not have to wait for longer than four hours to be assessed, treated, safely discharged, admitted to hospital or signposted to another care provider.

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive at the Trust, said: “Our aim is to deliver quality, safe care to the population of Rotherham and achieving operational targets is testament to the Trust’s continuous hard work to ensure timely, safe treatment and appropriate discharge of our patients.

“By working together with our health partners, and with the support of NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group, the Trust continues to ensure the delivery of safe, high quality care to patients to ultimately improve their experience within the ED and throughout services Trust-wide.”

Chris Edwards, Chief Officer of NHS Rotherham CCG and chair of the Rotherham Urgent Care Working Group, said: “To be in the top 15 Trusts in the country for meeting the ED target is a fantastic achievement for Rotherham. Meeting this target is thanks to the hard work of staff working in the NHS, social care and voluntary sector.

“Making sure the people of Rotherham can get the right advice and treatment when they need NHS care urgently is a top priority for us all, and everyone involved in providing urgent care services deserves to be credited.

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The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust has supported a national campaign to raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition and hydration.

Events across the Trust where held in March by Specialist Dietitians, Consultant Nurses and other staff and volunteers as part of a call to action to improve awareness and understanding of the significance of good nutrition and hydration.

There is evidence that poor nutrition and hydration contributes to poor patient experience and can overall have a negative impact on patients’ health and wellbeing, in some cases reducing their ability to recover.

The campaign which was organised locally by Emma Hall, Dietician, highlighted general promotion of good nutrition and hydration and the health benefits this can bring. Activities held included offering free food and drink samples through an event in Rotherham Hospital’s main entrance and, at this time, staff also promoted the use of red cups and jug lids on wards to help identify patients potentially at higher risk of dehydration due their medical or physical condition. Departmental management staff stepped out of their usual role and helped on the wards with meal service.

March also saw the promotion of a new-style of ‘fluid balance chart’, used for in-patients, which help to monitor hydration.

Derek Bainbridge, Nurse Consultant at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust said: "The New Fluid balance chart was one element of a bundle of actions to help staff monitor hydration and nutrition needs for our patients. The new-style charts are in place across our wards and the recent Hydration and Nutrition events gave us an ideal opportunity to promote their use.

"I’d like to thank all staff, including all members of the Task and Finish group, catering colleagues and volunteers, who have helped to support us.

Food at Rotherham Hospital was recently upheld as its catering contractor, ISS Healthcare, was named the first catering contractor within the NHS to achieve the Soil Association’s Food for Life Bronze Standard Award.

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

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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 6084 or email communication@rothgen.nhs.uk

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