

Paediatric admissions at Bassetlaw Hospital (A3)

In January 2017, Ward A3 (Paediatrics) at Bassetlaw Hospital closed to inpatient admissions from 7pm each day as a result of gaps in nursing and junior doctor rotas.

In October 2017, following a period of review and actions to try to reduce vacancies, the decision was taken to extend this action for the foreseeable future whilst further work is undertaken by partners in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Accountable Care System (ACS) to identify possible regional solutions for issues such as recruitment.

As part of these changes, an enhanced daytime service was introduced and a paediatric consultant remains on site until 6pm, with paediatric medical staff available 24 hours a day to support the Emergency Department and the Maternity Service. This means that any children presenting at the Emergency Department continue to be able to be seen by a paediatric doctor and offered the necessary treatment at Bassetlaw Hospital. If additional observation is required, children are transferred to Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Since implementing this service in January 2017, we have seen an average of 11 children transferred from Bassetlaw to Doncaster each week. Weekly figures do show some seasonal variance however the numbers have remained fairly consistent for the past 12 months. Overall attendances on the unit have dropped slightly.

The Trust continues to advertise for additional nursing staff and since 2017, has undertaken a number of recruitment campaigns, most recently hosting open events for newly-qualified nurses and midwives at both Bassetlaw Hospital and Doncaster Royal Infirmary. In total, we had around 100 attendees.

We currently have around 15 applicants for paediatric nursing posts from students due to qualify later in the year; however as just one of a number of NHS organisations with vacancies within the area we will face stiff competition for these candidates.