

Hospital's £250k CEO stays in job

INTERIM Rotherham Hospital boss Dr Richard Jenkins will be appointed chief executive on a "substantive basis" — alongside his role in the same job at Barnsley.

Dr Jenkins — paid £230,000-a-year in total — takes the permanent post in Rotherham from Thursday, September 1, having initially arrived in early 2020.

He described the trusts' collaborative working as a "partnership of equals".

A spokesperson for the trust said: "Dr Jenkins was appointed as interim chief executive in February 2020 following the departure of our previous chief executive."

"Richard's initial interim period was extended due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges facing the NHS."

"Over the past two-and-a-half years under Dr Jenkins' leadership, the trust and Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have both benefited from close working relationships."

"We have also started a number of initiatives to improve patient experience and we're working towards improving our Care Quality Commission rating."

"Making Richard's position substantive as a joint role across both trusts enables us to continue and build upon the progress and partnerships already made while providing stable leadership for the trust."

Asked if the dual chief exec-



utive role was unusual, the spokesperson said: "A number of trusts across the country have a joint chief executive, including Garden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, Barts Health NHS Trust and Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust, and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Leicestershire Partnership Trust."

They added: "This partnership will benefit both trusts and build on the close relationship which has developed over the years. Barnsley and Rotherham are similar sized trusts, and face many of the same challenges."

"Sharing knowledge and experience between the two trusts has been immensely valuable, particularly over the past two-and-a-half years."

According to both trusts' annual reports, with his 2.25-days-a-week role at each, his total salary will be between £245,000 and £250,000.

Dr Jenkins (pictured) said: "This is about two similar trusts, in neighbouring areas, working more closely in a partnership of equals with the intent of this being beneficial to the staff and patients of both areas."

"We will be developing a shared work programme over the next few months. We see it as a natural development of the wider NHS strategy of integration and providers working more closely together."

Rotherham trust chairman Martin Havenhand added: "I am delighted with Richard's appointment and I look forward to continuing to work with him and the rest of our board of directors as we continue in our efforts to make TRFT a better place to work and to receive care."

Time to shine

We'll be a boost for wildlife, say developers of solar farm

A RENEWABLE energy firm says biodiversity will be improved by its addition of a 287-acre solar farm on Rotherham's greenbelt.

Banks Renewables — the company behind Ulley windfarm — has now submitted its application to build at Common Farm, Dinnington.

The development would have a near-50MW capacity — enough to meet the annual energy requirements of 18,800 homes.

Banks says the project represents a \$62.2 million investment over the initial 40-year lifespan of the site, after which it would be decommissioned or re-powered.

A planning statement by the firm says only greenbelt land is suitable to meet such a project's needs, including the large area of agricultural land and proximity to a sub-station.

The statement adds: "Rotherham's greenbelt covers approximately 72 per cent of the borough, which when coupled with the site selection requirements for a viable solar farm, mean that for developments of the nature proposed there is no alternative but locating them within the greenbelt."

And Banks says the solar farm will save 11,470 tonnes of carbon a year, while also making a "significant" improvement on biodiversity.

Among the measures included in the plans are bird seed strips at the edge of the

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field, an area of scrubland left in one corner to provide greater habitat structure, new hedgerow planting, and bat and bird boxes.

The plans say: "Following construction, the land between and beneath the panels will be managed in a manner which enhances the biodiversity of the site through the creation of species rich grassland. "With the exclusion of the planting along the site boundary, these measures are not mitigation, they are all enhancement measures."

Construction is expected to take between six and nine months, working from 7am to 7pm on weekdays and 7am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Electricity generated from the solar energy park will be taken from the site via cables either overhead or underground to Thurcroft sub-station, about 3km north of Common Farm. This will require separate consent.

Banks has pledged £50,000 per annum for community groups and says feedback so far on the project has been "generally positive".

Public consultation closes on September 9, after which Rotherham Council's planning board will vote on the proposals.

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Leaks total 283 million litres of water each day

YORKSHIRE Water staff were busy as this leak — ten days before the hosepipe ban — contributed to the 283 MILLION litres lost each day across the county. A road closure was in place at Workop Road, Woodsetts,

from Tuesday, when the utilities firm said it hoped to have the problem fixed within three days. Yorkshire Water leaks 283 megalitres per day on average but says minimising this is one of its key priorities. It said the figure had reduced by 50 per cent since

the last hosepipe ban in the mid-1990s, and the target was another five per cent by 2025. A new hosepipe ban comes into effect for Yorkshire Water customers from August 26 following nearly six months of dry weather.

Call for access to GPS

• From page 1 engagement groups, the recommendations from Healthwatch Rotherham were presented to divisions within the trust so they can be taken into consideration when planning, changing and delivering services."

A spokesperson for NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, which replaced the region's CCGs earlier this year, did not respond before our deadline yesterday.

In spring 2021, the organisation — funded by Rotherham Council and hosted by Citizens Advice Rotherham — held 'myth-busting sessions' on the Covid-19 vaccines via Zoom.

These were in several different languages and had 60 attendees across seven dates. Ninety per cent of participants found the sessions "very helpful", and

positive opinions on the vaccine trebled from less than a third (30 per cent) beforehand to 91.7 per cent afterwards.

Last summer, Healthwatch Rotherham looked into both adult and children/young people's mental health services in Rotherham and called for improvements on waiting times, and an increased level of support and accessibility, particularly for young people. The report assisted in Kooth — an online wellbeing community — being introduced in Rotherham.

And in the winter of 2021, the healthcare champion saw a "large increase" in people unable to get dental appointments, and discovered out of 18 Rotherham dental practices contacted, only two were taking on new patients. Just one dental practice's information was correctly listed on the NHS 'Find a Dentist' tool, and Healthwatch called for this to be updated to assist patients.

Arrest

A MAN was arrested on suspicion of inciting sexual activity with a child.

The 49-year-old — arrested on August 7 at Herringthorpe Avenue, Herringthorpe — is alleged to have engaged in sexual communication with the youngsters.

Officers have since released the man on police bail with conditions while enquiries continue.