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Borders General takes starring role on Danish TV



The work of pioneering Borders General Hospital nurses has been recognised on Denmark's equivalent of the BBC Six O'Clock News.

The prime-time TV report about the Melrose hospital's Critical Care Outreach programme was broadcast to millions in Denmark, and sparked major debate urging politicians to follow its success in improving patient care.

The visiting news crew studied BGH's early recognition of patients at risk of deteriorating in hospital. One such success was the BGH's cardiac arrest calls reducing dramatically from 465 in 2000 to 48 in 2013.

The Danish TV interest was sparked by Danish consultant anaesthetist Jens Stubager Knudsen after meeting specialist nurse Ronnie Dornan, who set up the hospital's bespoke Critical Care Outreach service in 2000.

Ronnie said: "Jens and his team were impressed with what we are doing in Scotland and they hope to achieve equal success in Denmark. As well as having one of the lowest mortality rates in Scotland, the critical-care unit at the BGH has one of the lowest out-of-hours admissions, length of stay, need for ventilation and need for renal replacement therapy in Scotland.

Dr Stubager said: "My study visit to Borders General Hospital has been truly inspirational. Since appearing on our national news, the methodology has created huge debate around the whole country and politicians are now looking to take patient safety more seriously."



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