Winchester Hospice fundraising appeal boosted by the support of Winchester Rotary

PLANS to create a hospice for Winchester on the site of Royal Hampshire County Hampshire have been boosted with the news that Winchester Rotary has chosen the appeal as its dedicated charity partner for the upcoming year.

Winchester Hospice has been chosen by incoming Winchester Rotary President Les Haswell, whose year starts from July 2018. The incoming president typically nominates two charities to benefit from the support of Winchester Rotary during their year in office. President-elect Les, however, has chosen to concentrate efforts solely on Winchester Hospice.

When asked about the partnership he said: “Creating a hospice in Winchester is an incredibly important project that is of such value to the local people of Winchester and the surrounding area, which will have a lasting impact for years to come. I think it’s an incredibly worthwhile cause that is deserving of our full commitment.”

The Hospice, which will be run by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will provide specialist end of life care both on-site and in the community. As well as 10 inpatient beds, Winchester Hospice will provide a hospice at home service, supporting patients who wish to remain in their own home when they are in the last few weeks of their life, and space for day therapy services and outpatient facilities.

With no hospice currently situated in the city, Winchester Hospice will mean that patients and their families spend less time travelling to receive care or visit a loved one, and more time enjoying special moments together.

With over £2.5million needed to convert Burrell House into a place that feels more like a home than a hospital for its patients and their families, the partnership with Winchester Rotary will help the project get closer to its aim of opening the doors to the hospice in 2019.

Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, which also runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester, and Andover War Memorial Hospital said: “We are thrilled that the Winchester Hospice has been chosen as a charity partner for the next year and are incredibly grateful for the Rotary’s support.

“We think creating a hospice in Winchester will make a really positive difference in the local community, helping both patients and their families during what is always a very difficult time, but we can’t do it without the help of wonderful fundraisers and organisations like Winchester Rotary.”

A dedicated fundraising committee has been set up within Winchester Rotary, which is one of largest in the area and part of Rotary International. Les and the Rotarians are planning fundraising events throughout the year, with a sponsored Snowdon Challenge planned for 18 and 19 August. The flagship fundraiser will be a Spectacular Gala Fundraising Ball in the Guildhall planned for Friday 14 December. Celebrity guests and local dignitaries will be invited to join in this major event. Other fundraisers are being discussed and there will be plenty of opportunities for members and non-members of Winchester Rotary to come together to support Winchester Hospice.
PHOTO – President elect of the Winchester Rotary Les Haswell and Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 570,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £385million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

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