Press Release

Skydiving feat lands money for neonatal unit

BABIES being treated in the neonatal unit at Royal Hampshire County Hospital are to benefit from the fundraising efforts of a Winchester mum.

Nichola Butler raised a remarkable £420 for the special unit that treats new-born babies by taking part in a sponsored skydive.

The neonatal unit is close to her heart as her son Bentley, who is now two, received treatment there after being born 10 weeks premature.

Nichola said: “When Bentley was being treated on the unit the staff were absolutely amazing. They were always there to provide a listening ear and a friendly face through all of our ups and downs.

“I feel like I did this for us and all of the other parents whose children are receiving the same great treatment that Bentley did.”

The mum-of-three jumped out of a plane from a height of 10,000 feet, reaching speeds of 125 mph before parachuting to solid ground.

She said: “Looking back on it, I can say I really enjoyed it and had a great time, but whilst I was there, I was terrified, thinking I really don’t want to be doing this.

Raewyn Twaddle, sister on the neonatal ward at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, run by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: “We’re very grateful for Nichola’s efforts and the money she raised will make a real difference to our patients.

“We’re planning to use the money to buy some new equipment for the ward, in particular, new phototherapy lamps that will help us to treat babies with jaundice.”

ENDS

PHOTO: (l-r) Neonatal sister Sarah West, Nichola Butler, Neil Raspini, Bentley, neonatal sister Raewyn Twaddle

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
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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