Press Release

Trip down Memory Lane for dementia patients

PATIENTS at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will soon get the chance to take a trip down Memory Lane thanks to the Morrisons Foundation and The Wessex Heritage Trust.

A £5,000 donation from the national supermarket will be used by The Wessex Heritage Trust to help set up a Memory Lane on a ward at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, providing interactive reminiscence therapy for patients with dementia.

An old street scene will be re-created, giving patients the chance to take a step back in time and remember events and feelings from earlier in their lives in familiar surroundings.

Reminiscence therapy has been shown to increase dementia sufferers’ ability to communicate and reduce feelings of isolation, something that Rachel Hayden, Lead Dementia Specialist Nurse at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has experienced first-hand.

“Reminiscence is a crucial part of dementia care, and putting this Memory Lane into place will enable us to provide a really stimulating environment for our patients,” she said. “The money raised will have a huge impact on the patients we care for and I’d like to say a big thank-you to the Morrisons Foundation and The Wessex Heritage Trust. We are really pleased and everyone is excited to get started.”

The Morrisons Foundation was set up by Morrisons supermarkets in 2015 and gets most of its funding from the sale of single-use carrier bags. Since launching, over £10 million has been donated for community projects.

Naomi Hodgson, Community Champion at Morrisons in Basingstoke, said: “It’s absolutely wonderful to be able to present this cheque for a local project that is doing amazing work. Being able to present charities with money that you know will make a big difference is the best part of my job.”

Ian Smith from the Wessex Heritage Trust added: “I and many others working on this project offer our grateful thanks to Morrisons for supporting this worthwhile cause, which has the potential of reaching thousands of patients and visitors to the Hospital over the years to come.”

ENDS

Photo: (left-right) Heather Parkinson, Sarah Pinnell and Ian Smith from The Wessex Heritage Trust, Naomi Hodgson from Morrisons and Rachel Hayden, Lead Dementia Specialist Nurse at Hampshire Hospitals.

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of
approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.

2. HHFT has around 6,000 staff and a turnover of £353million 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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