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Hospital staff already eager to deck the halls

Roll on Christmas 2015! Staff in children's A&E at South Tyneside District Hospital cannot wait to deck the halls after two stores generously donated some festive decorations.

When the nurses came to put up the decorations in December, they realised they had a very sad-looking Christmas tree with lights that did not work, a bunch of broken baubles and not much else. As they care for children, it just wasn't the winter wonderland they were hoping to create so auxiliary nurse Kayleigh Olsen contacted various stores asking if, once they were finished with their 2014 displays, they would consider donating some of the items.

IKEA in Gateshead and John Lewis in Newcastle were happy to oblige. Hanging decorations supplied by John Lewis have now been put up in the waiting area, where they have become a permanent fixture, as staff felt they did not look too 'Christmassy' and would brighten the atmosphere all year round. IKEA chipped in with a large selection of goodies, including Christmas trees, baubles and garlands.

Miss Olsen said: "I was overwhelmed by the number of items which they had waiting for me when I went to IKEA to collect them. We really can't thank both IKEA and John Lewis enough for their generosity. We're very excited about next Christmas when we will be able to bring some real sparkle into our young patients' lives."

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Pictured above: Getting in the festive spirit for Christmas 2015 with some of the donated decorations: back row, left to right, auxiliary nurse Kayleigh Olsen, staff nurse Sophie Birch and deputy ward manager Fiona Kerr; front, left to right, student nurse Kirsty Evans and ward manager Ali James

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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