



July 27th, 2016

## Warm reception for Haven Court opening

Hundreds of people flocked to get a first look inside Haven Court, South Tyneside's new, £9 million centre for integrated health and social care for older people, at an open day in advance of services commencing next week (August 1st).

They were given tours of the building, which is in the grounds of South Tyneside District Hospital, and saw the wide range of facilities on offer for older people, particularly those with dementia, including: residential, day and respite care and rehabilitation; access to innovative technological equipment to help support independent living; a café; a shop; a beauty salon and gardens.

The emphasis will be on helping older people to live as independently as possible, with the support of a top class rehabilitation and therapeutic service to enable them to return to their own homes.

Eighty-bedded Haven Court, which has its entrance on McAnany Avenue, has been built by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, on behalf of South Tyneside Council. Local resident Graeme Hunt was impressed by what he saw.

Mr Hunt, of Whitburn, who is a Trust public governor, said: "The facilities at Haven Court are absolutely excellent and it should be a blueprint for similar centres across the country. I think other areas will be looking very enviously at South Tyneside."

Services will be provided by a range of partners, including South Tyneside Council, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, other local Trusts and the voluntary sector, and representatives of many of the organisations were at the open day to meet with members of the public, including potential service users and their carers.

Steve Williamson, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Chief Executive, said: "The reaction of the first visitors to Haven Court was extremely positive and I hope it won't be long before it is viewed as very much part of the local community. The facilities and the staff are exceptional and I'm extremely proud of everyone involved in this development. Haven Court now has a vital role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of our growing ageing population, and the increasing numbers of people with dementia."

**ends**

*Pictured above: Lesley Dawson, Haven Court Care Manager, right, showing people around the new building.*

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

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