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Kind donation offers hope of preventing surgery

New equipment provided by the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals is helping women to deal with a common, often distressing problem.

Urinary incontinence is one of the problems associated with weakened pelvic muscles and the charity's donation of £400 has enabled South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's bladder and bowel team to buy six additional units which are used to stimulate these muscles.

Catherine Cleugh, staff nurse with the team who work with patients living in South Tyneside and Sunderland, said: "Urinary incontinence can be experienced by women of all ages. Using a pelvic floor stimulation unit as part of an individual's treatment programme can help to promote continence and to prevent the need for surgery. We are extremely grateful to the League of Friends for their kind donation which means our patients don't have to wait so long to have this treatment now as there is increased availability of the equipment."

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Pictured above: League of Friends' treasurer Sue Goddard and chairman Maureen Young with members of the bladder and bowel team, left to right, staff nurse Catherine Cleugh, safe care lead Julie Fawcett, secretary Samantha Matlock and clinical nurse specialist Gillian Bowden

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

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