



PRESS RELEASE – Tuesday 1 August 2017

A trolley load of fun

Christmas came early for child patients at South Tyneside District Hospital thanks to volunteer fund-raisers.

Supplies of toys and craft materials to keep youngsters entertained in the children's A&E department and the day unit, where complex dental procedures, minor orthopaedic procedures and some investigations and tests are carried out, were running low when The League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals came to the rescue, buying a variety of goodies.

Ali James, unit manager for paediatrics, said: "It is useful to have things to keep the children entertained or distracted, particularly if they are nervous about a procedure, and the staff like to give them a card and a little gift if it's their birthday.

"We were amazed and delighted when members of The League of Friends turned up with a full shopping trolley containing everything from toys, bubbles and colouring pens and pencils to birthday cards and wrapping paper. We really can't thank them enough for their generosity and they have told us that if we let them know when stocks run low again, they will replenish them."

League Chairman, Maureen Young, said: "We were only too pleased to help. It gives us great pleasure to know that we can bring some enjoyment into children's lives, especially at a time when they and their families may be under stress."

Founded in 1949, The League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals is one of the oldest NHS voluntary groups. In almost seven decades, its volunteers have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to provide patients and staff with extra comforts and equipment. In the last seven years alone, they have raised a staggering £275,000. Most of the money raised comes from its shop in the main entrance of South Tyneside District Hospital's Ingham Wing.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chairman Neil Mundy said: "Our organisation is very fortunate to have the support of the volunteers within The League of Friends, I would like to say a massive thank you to the League for their latest, very thoughtful donation, which will bring a lot of pleasure to children attending our hospital."

Photo caption: Staff and League of Friends' members with some of the toys donated by the League

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

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