

PRESS RELEASE – 24th October, 2017



Friends indeed!

A £33,000 donation has provided new diagnostic equipment which is improving patient care at South Tyneside District Hospital.

The amazing sum from The League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals was used to buy five new bladder scanners with trolleys for use throughout the hospital.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chairman Neil Mundy said: “I cannot praise our selfless League of Friends volunteers highly enough. They work tirelessly in the interests of local patients and we are very lucky to have them. This latest donation is tremendous and, once again, we are extremely grateful to them.”

Mike Cox, head of biomedical engineering, said: “Bladder scans play a vital part in informing decisions about treatment options for our patients. Some of the older scanners were requiring repairs and, due to increased demand for the devices, clinical staff were having to borrow them from other wards and departments. In some cases, patients needed to be taken to another area for a scan or even had to return to hospital for another appointment. Clare Williams, the Trust’s medical devices co-ordinator, supported by the biomedical engineering team, approached the League of

Friends for help to buy some replacements and we were stunned by their generosity. The new scanners will greatly reduce delays to patients' treatment and should also mean fewer cancelled appointments."

League Chairman Maureen Young said: "We are so pleased that we have been able to provide such vital equipment to help staff in their job of caring for patients."

The £33,000 donation is the League's biggest so far this year. The organisation was founded in 1949 and is one of the oldest NHS voluntary groups. In the past 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 £275,000, with most of the money coming from its shop in the main entrance of South Tyneside District Hospital's Ingham Wing.

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Photo caption: League of Friends' Chairman Maureen Young, front row, second from left, presents Medical Devices Co-ordinator Clare Williams with one of the bladder scanners

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