

Press release – 15th November 2017

Three cheers for Royal Voluntary Service volunteers



A fantastic £24,000 gift from older people's charity Royal Voluntary Service is improving patient care at South Tyneside District Hospital.

The money, raised from the Royal Voluntary Service tea bar in the Accident & Emergency department, has been used to buy three new Verathon state-of-the-art, portable bladder scanners which can be easily moved anywhere in the hospital. They also have an inbuilt printer, which makes results instantly accessible.

Bladder scans play a vital part in informing decisions about treatment options for patients. Some of the hospital's older stock required 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. The new scanners will help to

greatly reduce delays to treatment for patients and should also mean fewer cancelled appointments.

Mike Cox, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's head of biomedical engineering, said: "Medical devices co-ordinator Clare Williams, supported by the biomedical engineering team, appealed for help from Royal Voluntary Service to buy some replacements and we can't thank them enough for their support."

Trust Chairman Neil Mundy added: "We are very pleased indeed that Royal Voluntary Service has chosen to give us such a generous donation. Its volunteers do a wonderful job and we really appreciate the time and effort that they put in to helping us to improve patient care."

Mark Stobart, retail area manager for Royal Voluntary Service, said: "We're absolutely delighted to be able to make this significant gift. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who contribute to the success here at South Tyneside District Hospital; they provide a really invaluable service."

The tea bar in the hospital is run by a dedicated team of 20 trained, caring Royal Voluntary Service volunteers. As well as preparing and serving food and drinks, volunteers provide information to patients and visitors about hospital and community services available to older people.

Royal Voluntary Service is one of Britain's largest volunteering charities, with over 25,000 volunteers supporting over 100,000 older people each month in hospitals, around the home and in the community. The focus is on building confidence, improving health and well-being and keeping loneliness at bay through an array of social activities and more structured support. The charity is also one of the largest retailers within NHS premises, with its network of cafes and shops providing a valued haven in hospitals.

Ends

Photo caption: Royal Voluntary Service Commissioned Services Operations Manager Nigel Green, volunteer manager Ethel Ramsey, third from left, and volunteers Hazel Davies and Geraldine Stobbs present the £24,000 cheque to South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's medical devices co-ordinator Clare Williams and Director of Estates and Facilities Steve Jamieson

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