

## PRESS RELEASE – 12 December 2017



### **St Benedict's Hospice is a shining example of caring**

St Benedict's Hospice has been awarded Healthwatch Sunderland's Star Award celebrating good practice, following a flurry of nominations by local people wanting to give it their seal of approval.

They praised South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's hospice and centre for specialist palliative care at Ryhope for its professional, supportive and caring staff, and the quality of the treatment provided in its 'fabulous' premises.

The Trust's Chief Executive Ken Bremner said: "St Benedict's is a superb facility where the caring for individuals, and their families, at a difficult and distressing time in their lives is second to none. I am very proud of the staff, who are supported in their task by

the hospice's charity. This recognition for them is particularly special because it comes from the community we are honoured to serve."

St Benedict's Hospice has provided specialist palliative care to the people of Sunderland and surrounding districts since 1984. In June 2014, it moved from Monkwearmouth Hospital to the new, purpose-built premises at Ryhope, where its multi-professional team provides a wide range of services, including in-patient beds and day services.

Healthwatch Sunderland is an independent consumer champion whose aims are to ensure that health and social care services users' views are heard and, through their feedback, have the opportunity to shape and influence change to meet the needs of the community.

Anna Gillingham, Healthwatch Sunderland's engagement co-ordinator, said: "We were delighted to present St Benedict's with our Star Award following the positive feedback we received from patients and their carers and families over a number of months. We ask local people to nominate for a star to acknowledge and celebrate all the positive stories and comments about health and social care in Sunderland which we hear when we are out in the community. It is a way of letting staff and services know that they are very much appreciated."

## **Ends**

*Photo caption: All stars – St Benedict's Hospice staff who received Healthwatch Sunderland's Star Award*

Issued by **Kay Jordan**

For press enquiries on this release, contact **0191 404 1128** or email

[kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk)