

**PRESS RELEASE – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Learning Disability Week invite to check out Trust's short break service**



A vital short break service for South Tyneside families and carers of adults with learning disabilities is throwing open its doors to the public during Learning Disability Week, June 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>.

Elmville, at Monkton Hall, Jarrow, which is run by South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, is inviting people to drop in from 11am to 1pm on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, to look around the purpose-built facility and speak to staff and service users.

With seven beds – six for planned stays and one for urgent response situations - Elmville currently provides residential short breaks for people over the age of 18 with learning disabilities and associated health needs. During their stay, there is continuity for those in education and who access day care services, and they also have the opportunity to mix with other service users and to go on supported visits and outings. Giving families and carers a break from their caring responsibilities

allows them valuable time for themselves away from what are often very demanding, stressful circumstances.

Angela Hood, manager of the unit which is staffed 24 hours a day, said: “We have a reputation for offering outstanding support to both service users and their families. The unit provides service users with a holiday-type experience allowing them to build on their independence as an adult, and also gives the families a much needed break. Many families tell us Elmville is a vital service to them and they don’t know how they would cope without it.”

Elmville is part of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust’s learning disability service which is supporting Mencap’s Learning Disability Week with its involvement in a programme of activities organised in South Tyneside by South Tyneside Council in conjunction with the health sector, the third sector and other organisations.

Throughout the week, the skills and talents of people living with a learning disability will be celebrated with more than 40 events. There will be an opportunity to find out about employment and training opportunities and to take part in sports activities. For a full list of events, visit [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/LDWeek](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/LDWeek)

## Ends

*Photo caption: South Tyneside NHS Foundation staff from the Elmville short break service and the Learning Disability Team, with, centre front, regular service user Tony Purvis*

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