

PRESS RELEASE – 12 NOVEMBER, 2018

South Tyneside Hospital's League of Friends make generous contribution to improve patient care



The League of Friends at South Tyneside District Hospital has given £15,500 to buy two more bladder scanners to improve patient care, bringing the total it has provided for the important diagnostic equipment in the last three years to an amazing £55,500.

Only a year ago, it gave a £33,000 donation which was used to buy five of the sophisticated machines which have a printer function for prompt diagnosis, and which are easily portable meaning they can be used throughout the hospital.

Bladder scans play a vital part in informing decisions about treatment options for inpatients and outpatients. Due to the hospital's ageing stock of bladder scanners requiring repairs, clinical staff were increasingly finding they had to borrow them from other wards and departments and, sometimes, patients needed to be taken to another area for a scan or had to return to hospital for another appointment.

Continence Nurse Specialist/Urogynaecology Bev Bell said: “Bladder scanning is a non-invasive way of detecting if a patient is emptying their bladder. Thanks to the kindness of the League of Friends, the scanners are now much more widely available in our wards and departments.”

Clare Williams, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust’s Medical Devices Co-ordinator, added: “The new scanners incorporate the very latest technology and offer improved accuracy and they will help to further reduce delays in treatment.”

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust Chairman Neil Mundy said: “On behalf of the Trust, I would like to say a huge thank you to the League of Friends for its continued generosity and support which help us to make a real difference in improving care for patients.”

The League of Friends was founded in 1948 and is this year celebrating its 70th birthday along with the NHS. In the past seven decades, its volunteers have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to provide patients and staff with extra comforts and equipment. Most of the money donated comes from its shop in the main entrance of South Tyneside District Hospital’s Ingham Wing.

Ends

Photo caption: Maureen Young, Sue Goddard and Dorothy Rogers of the League of Friends, with Continence Specialist/Urogynaecology Bev Bell, Medical Devices Co-ordinator Clare Williams, biomedical engineer James Taylor, and Head of Biomedical Engineering Mike Cox

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