

PRESS RELEASE – 13 February 2019

Schoolchildren's project will put smiles on the faces of young patients at South Tyneside District Hospital



Kind-hearted pupils from a South Tyneside school have donated £1,000-worth of toys, equipment and materials which will help to keep young visitors to the children's emergency department at South Tyneside District Hospital entertained and relaxed.

A small group of pupils at Keelman's Way School in Hebburn took their idea for providing the fun items to The Key, which aims to create a world where young people believe in their own ideas and can take responsibility for living them. The North East charity agreed to give them the money and the school's council, made up of pupils from all age groups, adopted the project and set about making it a reality by choosing and buying everything from toys and baby walkers to craft materials, and arranging collection and delivery.

Toni Waugh, a teacher at Keelman's Way School, where many of the pupils have severe learning difficulties, said: "I am enormously proud of everyone involved. Through this project, they have developed a whole range of skills, including problem-solving, decision-making, time management and communicating with people in authority."

Ward Manager Ali James added: "The school has provided us with a really impressive collection of items and we are overwhelmed by the generosity of all those who contributed to this project. Children can often feel scared when they come into hospital and having something to do to distract them and keep them entertained can make the experience much easier for them, which is why I know these latest donations will be much appreciated."

ENDS

Picture caption: Pupils and staff from Keelman's Way School, Hebburn, handing over the items they supplied to the children's emergency department at South Tyneside District Hospital

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