



PRESS RELEASE – For immediate publication

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- FoYH have agreed to support two mental health initiatives in Sherborne
- A new £10,000 commitment to The Yeatman Hospital.
- FoYH £10,000 support to The Rendezvous Emotionally Committed Sherborne project

One of the many positive things about the Yeatman Hospital is that despite its classical Victorian façade it is very much a hospital of today.

Considered by Sherborne residents as an integral piece of the town, it has been part of the community for more than 150 years, during which time it has experienced many changes in its role and service to the community.

In a recent discussion with Hospital Matron Anne Hiscock she observed;

“While providing clinical care to the highest standards remains our core focus, today our patient care extends out beyond our four walls.

“Care in the community has become a normal part of our daily work. I see this role increasing as research shows patients recover quicker at home than they do in hospital.

“ One of today’s health challenges is that we are seeing an increase in mental health issues amongst our wider population, so much so we are refurbishing areas to offer a much improved environment, in order to provide improved outpatient mental health services for this vulnerable group of people in our community.

“This is where we are fortunate to have the support of the Friends of Yeatman Hospital who are able to provide support funding for many of our new projects.”

The plan, yet to be confirmed by Dorset HealthCare, is for The Older Persons Community Mental Health Team to relocate from Stewart Lodge into the main hospital building and provide clinics within the main Out Patients Department; while the Adult Community Mental Health Team will move from Ashley Elm into Stewart Lodge. The creation of a more therapeutic environment is the priority, making a significant positive difference to the ambience of the clinical setting.

David Hayes, Chairman of the FoYH commented;

“At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was agreed to support two new mental health care initiatives in the town. The first will provide £10,000 in support of the Yeatman Hospital’s own initiatives; the second, at a local community level, sees the Friends making a further £10,000 contribution towards tackling the significant, and increasing, national mental health challenges, through The Rendezvous’ Project ‘Emotionally Committed Sherborne’.



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“It is not unusual for charities to receive restricted funds. The Friends have received funds allocated to Mental Health services through legacies. This means we have the responsibility to ensure they are committed to activities, which meet the conditions upon which they were donated, in both a timely and effective manner.

“Our focus within The Yeatman is on working age and older adults requiring mental health care, and within the community, in addition we will focus on the younger age group. To this end we have been in discussion with The Rendezvous, Sherborne’s local youth charity, regarding ‘Emotionally Connected Sherborne’. This is a local community response to the growing Mental Health challenges within our schools and community.

“The Yeatman Hospital funding will support the upgrade work in Stewart Lodge and the Outpatients Department, whilst the funds to the Rendezvous project will support the appointment of a Counsellor for the first 12 months of the project whose role will be provide support, look for early identification of mental health issues and provide education on positive mental health and well being.”

Helen da Silva- Wood, Chief Executive of The Rendezvous in Sherborne commented;

“Today's so-called social media should be called “anything-but” social media, because in many instances there is very little social about it. Add to that academic stress, family breakdown and traumatic events including bereavement then it is no wonder we are seeing an increase in mental health difficulties in low teens and upwards. As Sherborne’s only independent support for the young people in our community over half of our work now focuses on mental health.

“The Trustees and Management of the Rendezvous have committed to address this challenge head on. To do so, we have established a positive programme to interact with (DEL all) our local schools, educate both teachers and children about mental health, guide those beginning to struggle on how best to protect themselves and each other and provide additional help for those in need of extra support.

“ In expressing our thanks to the Friends of the Yeatman for their support with this ambitious project, their commitment enables the Rendezvous to appoint a DELETE full time Counsellor who will take our programme forward.”

Concluding David Hayes said;

“The purpose of the Friends is to support the work of Yeatman Hospital across the Sherborne Community. We are grateful to everyone within the Yeatman Community who have supported our initiatives; be they new end of life care suites, garden maintenance, or the latest technology in the hospital’s new Radiography Suite.”

END



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Notes to Editors;

The Rendezvous – Emotionally Connected Sherborne

There are three strands to the project:

- **Support** – Providing support to those children with high needs where no other support is available.
- **Early Identification** – Identifying early and supporting those who show signs of poor Mental Health.
- **Education** – Raising awareness about positive Mental Health and how to promote it.

The Project will work with the three schools, which have been involved in developing the format, Sherborne Abbey Primary, Sherborne Primary and The Gryphon School. Other schools in the local area will gain benefit through the sharing of the Project's resource

Further information on mental illness issues across the UK please refer to;

<https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/mental-health>

or

the charity Mind UK

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/>

Further information:

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The Friends of Yeatman Hospital is a UK registered [charity 1031326](#)