

**Media call**

For immediate use

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**Eight-year-old Sam to unveil care unit at Nottingham City Hospital**

An eight year old boy will be the guest of honour at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil the recently refurbished Hayward House Specialist Palliative Care Unit at Nottingham City Hospital, which supports patients with advanced progressive illnesses.

On Tuesday 3 July, at 1.30pm, Sam Henson from Cossall, near Kimberley, will officially open the new Family Room which has been at the heart of the refurbishment project.

Hayward House has been providing patient care for 32 years and feedback from patients and staff suggested that it was time for a refurbishment.

The project was made possible by a grant of £396,000 from the Department of Health Help the Hospices programme.  Additional funds were also raised by patients, their friends and families, hospital staff, volunteers and charity donations from Hayward House Cancer Care Trust and Nottingham Hospital charity’s Tree of Life Appeal.

Local community groups such as Radford and Basford Rotary Club, Experian and Boots Macmillan Partnership, also generously donated money and volunteer support.

Sam Henson raised funds for Hayward House by performing magic tricks at his father’s funeral. He said he got involved because his father Graham was a patient at Hayward House.

Graham was in the last stages of cancer with no cure and staff helped him and his family get through a tough time. He passed away at Hayward House in March this year.

Sam said: “Thanks to everyone who paid to see my magic tricks. I hope this new look Hayward House helps people like it helped me and my dad.”

Hayward House now boasts:

* A family room with a kitchen and television lounge
* A new nurses’ station – to make staff more visible to patients and visitors
* A makeover for the Inpatient Unit
* Two purpose built rooms for counsellors to provide vital services for patients and their families, including bereavement therapy
* A quiet room for reflection overlooking the garden. It allows people to get in touch with their spiritual side and is open to people of all faiths.

Dr Bisharat El Khoury, from Hayward House Palliative Care, said: “I am delighted that our fundraising efforts have paid off and we can now unveil the new and improved Hayward House.

“I want to say a big thank you to patients, their families and friends, all our staff and charities that have worked extremely hard in their spare time to raise vital funds.

“The whole aim of this project has been to improve the quality of our environment and services for the people of Nottingham.

“The Family Room is the heart of our refurbishment and has been created to enable patients, especially families and children, to have a welcoming space on the unit away from the clinical areas.

“It provides a sense of normality at a very emotional time and it is lovely to see children eating, playing and enjoying the family room and gardens.”

Talking about guest of honour Sam Henson, she said: “I am thrilled that Sam accepted our invite to cut the ribbon at the opening celebrations because he was very brave when his daddy Graham was very ill.

“When Graham passed away Sam raised funds through his magic tricks, his determination to help us at such a sad time is extremely touching.”

She added: “Our Staff do a wonderful job here looking after the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families. They offer a diverse care package which encourages complementary treatments such as hypnotherapy, acupuncture, aromatherapy, massages, art therapy as well as excellent medical care.”

In support, Barbara Cathcart, Chief Executive for Nottingham Hospital Charity’s Tree of Life Appeal, said: “Our work is not over and we are continuing to raise vital funds to make further improvements to Hayward House.

“For example, we’re raising money to continue providing complementary and art therapies, which are essential to patients because they nurture their emotional and physical well-being.

“We’re also raising funds to improve Hayward House’s garden so our patients and visitors have a nice place to sit outdoors and feel one step closer to nature.”

If you would like to donate money or raise funds for Tree of Life telephone 0115 962 7905 or email: charity@nuh.nhs.uk

**Photo/filming opportunity**

* Date: Tuesday 3 July 2012
* Time: Ribbon cutting at 1.30pm (the event will run from 1-3pm)
* Venue: Hayward House, City Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Hucknall Road Nottingham NG5 1PB.

ENDS

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**NOTES FOR NEWSDESKS**

Hayward House hospice is the specialist palliative care unit at Nottingham City Hospital for patients with advanced cancer and motor neurone disease. The care at Hayward House is centred on the needs of the patients and their families – helping to improve their quality of life by offering emotional, social and spiritual support, as well as treating physical symptoms.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the biggest and busiest acute hospitals in England, employing 13,000 staff. We provide services to over 2.5 million residents of Nottingham and its surrounding communities and specialist services to a further 3-4 million people from neighbouring counties.

The Trust has three main sites (campuses):

* Queen’s Medical Centre Campus (QMC) – our emergency care site (where our Emergency Department is located)
* Nottingham City Hospital Campus – where our Cancer Centre, Heart Centre and Stroke services are based, and where we focus on planned care and the care of patients with long-term conditions
* Ropewalk House – where we provide a range of outpatient services, including hearing services

We have national and international reputations for many of our specialist services, including Stroke, Renal, Spinal, Breast, Neurosciences, Cancer Services and Trauma. QMC is home to the Nottingham Children’s Hospital.

The Trust has an annual income of circa £720million, circa 1,700 beds (70-80 wards).

We are at the forefront of many research programmes and new surgical procedures. Nottingham has Biomedical Research Units in Hearing and Digestive Diseases.

As a teaching trust we have a strong relationship with the University of Nottingham and other universities across the East Midlands, including Loughborough University. We play an important role in the education and training of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.