

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Richmond day hospice providing care closer to home

Providing care closer to home in Hambleton and Richmondshire and responding to patients' needs are the driving factors behind a successful new day hospice at The Friary Hospital in Richmond.

The pilot partnership between Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, which is funding the pilot, and St Teresa's Hospice in Darlington, which operates the day hospice, means that patients who are too poorly to travel to the Hospice in Darlington can get care closer to home and more are now accessing services.

The £20,000 pilot day hospice is available for patients living within Hambleton and Richmondshire who have a life limiting or palliative illness and their carers. Appropriate referrals include cancer patients, neurological patients (motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's), respiratory patients, heart failure patients and mild dementia patients.

It has been set up following patient feedback. People said Darlington was too far to travel, especially at times when they were feeling particularly unwell. In addition, it was too far to travel in a car for respiratory patients, as they could not travel with oxygen cylinders switched on (unless in an ambulance).

The Day Hospice takes place every Wednesday, and features the Hospice's unique, pioneering new therapeutic "CHOICES" programme in the morning and a Palliative Respiratory Clinic on the afternoon. Transport is provided if needed.

CHOICES is a 12 week programme designed to offer up to 10 patients an opportunity to participate in activities that have a therapeutic benefit, which may include physical, emotional or psychological support. Patients have access to nurses, physiotherapists, complementary therapies and the Hospice's Family Support Team.

The Day Hospice respiratory clinic runs for eight weeks supported by respiratory clinical nurse specialists. It is designed to help patients better manage their condition and to make it

easier to cope psychologically and physically with symptom management and the activities of daily living.

The pilot started in October 2014 and runs through until March 2015 and consideration is currently being given to an extension in the scheme from April onwards. Patients who think they may be eligible to attend should speak with their GP in the first instance.

Dr Mark Hodgson, HRW CCG Governing Body member and Aldborough St John GP, said: "The CCG is committed to providing appropriate healthcare services for people in our area, and we're really pleased to be working with St Teresa's Hospice to provide this day hospice in Richmond and avoid patients having to go to Darlington, which wasn't suitable for most people.

"The day hospice is proving extremely valuable to patients and their carers, as well as to healthcare professionals, who now have a dedicated place in the area to refer patients to. Feedback from patients has been good, with people saying that they would recommend the service to others, and that's it's been a very positive experience for them.

"We are really pleased with how the clinic is going, and we're currently working with St Teresa's to fully explore the potential of keeping the day hospice in Richmond after the end of the pilot phase."

Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive of St Teresa's Hospice, said: "The Hospice team is delighted to be working in partnership with Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG to help ensure our services can reach as many people as possible in the district we serve. The feedback we have received to date from patients is so positive, and we hope that funding will be extended, so that we can continue to make a difference through this important day hospice provision."

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For further information contact the NHS North Yorkshire and Humber Communications Team on 0300 303 8394