

Press Release

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Duchess of Gloucester opens NHS Trust's 'state-of-the-art' mental health unit

A mental health unit in Bromsgrove for older people with dementia or other mental health illnesses was given the Royal seal of approval at its official opening this week.

New Haven, which is run by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust - the county's main provider of community and mental health services - is a 'state of the art' mental health unit which was opened last year in Bromsgrove on the site of the town's community hospital.

On Thursday 11 September, staff, volunteers, patients and their families and local dignitaries welcomed HRH the Duchess of Gloucester for its official unveiling.

New Haven has 30 beds which benefit those with varying degrees of dementia including Alzheimer's, acute depression, acute anxiety and psychosis. It is fully equipped to meet the complex mental health needs of the patients by providing physical, psychological and emotional care.



Tony Baker, New Haven Ward Manager, guided The Duchess through the facility, which was designed to inspire recovery and provide a stimulating environment. For example, en-suite bedrooms help create a 'home from home' environment and help ensure patients retain independence, privacy and personhood.

The Duchess was shown the patient arts group's work, which is used to stimulate memory,

and the large open courtyards which give patients the opportunity to get outdoors. She was introduced to volunteers as well as pupils from Birchensale Middle School in Redditch who support horticultural and gardening projects. The Duchess was also explained the unit's approach to person-centred care and the importance of activities such as exercise and even pet therapy before finally unveiling a plaque commemorating her visit.

Sarah Dugan, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, said:

"We were delighted that HRH the Duchess of Gloucester was able to join us and officially open New Haven. We are extremely proud of the service and are really pleased that patients and their families can be supported in such an excellent environment that was designed specifically to meet their needs".

Tony Braker, New Haven Ward Manager, said: "This unit is very unique in its design and has changed the way older people with mental health illnesses receive care and treatment in an in-patient environment. Our patients, staff and volunteers were delighted to welcome the Duchess of Gloucester and to show her this unique environment."



Notes to Editors:

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