



Press Release

Issued: Tuesday 23rd November 2010

Football Star to Open Hospital Fete

Hallam Street Hospital, West Bromwich is holding its annual winter fete on Saturday 27th November to raise funds for patient activities. Starting at 1pm in the resource centre of the hospital, the fete promises something for everyone.

Kicking off at 1pm, Albion mid-fielder, Ian Hamilton will officially declare the fete open. Ian will stay around to talk to fans until mid-afternoon when he will auction a signed Albion shirt and football boots, signed by Chris Woods (currently on loan to Brighton). Ian said 'I'm really pleased to be able to support this event and help raise money to improve the activities available for people in hospital'.

Promising to be bigger and better than last year there will be something for everyone. We will again have a variety of Christmas stalls offering arts and crafts, jewellery, books, bric-a-brac and stocking fillers. New this year is our Juggling Elf to entertain the young at heart and the smoothie bike where you will be able to enjoy a little gentle exercise whilst making your own refreshing drink.

Alternatively, if you are more of a 'foodie' come and try our home made cakes and refreshments.

Our service users will be hosting stalls on mental health awareness, so if you want to know more about our service then come and talk to the people who can tell you first hand about some of the therapeutic work on offer.

Yes, there really will be something for everyone because if you're feeling lucky you will be able to try your hand at our tombola and raffle or if singing is more up your street come and see our very own Elvis and try a sing-song on the karaoke.

Michelle Young, Team Leader on Abbey House said 'All monies raised from the fete will go towards improving access to activities for patients. We really

need to keep people engaged in community and ward based activities during their stay in hospital because it is an important part of recovery and helps build hopefulness for the future’.

She continued, ‘Last year’s total of £1500 helped us to run bingo and film nights, purchase karaoke and arts and crafts equipment and take patients to the theatre. It would be brilliant to beat last year’s total so that we could offer an even more adventurous programme of activities and we hope that local residents, staff, service users and carers will all join us for a fun filled day’.

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Sandwell Mental Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SMHFT) is the major provider of mental health and specialist health learning disabilities services to people of all ages in Sandwell.

The hospital is part of the National STAR WARDS initiative which aims to improve the quality of care offered to inpatient service users. As part of this goal to improve quality we offer a range of daily group activities to the users of the service and wish now to extend this to offering activities during the evenings and at weekends.

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