Press Release
2 November 2006

QEH is dreaming of a bright Christmas

Hospital bosses at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King’s Lynn are appealing to local businesses and families to help make this a Christmas to remember – particularly for children who may be patients over the holiday period. And top of the hospital’s Christmas wish list is: lights – lots of them – to decorate Christmas trees outside and inside the main buildings.

That’s followed on the list by materials, decorations and artistic talent – perhaps from a local college - to help create a Santa’s Grotto corridor to give young people on their way to and from the childrens’ ward a magical experience at a time when they most need it.

Negotiations are currently under way to locate a 20-feet high Christmas tree locally, to place close to the entrance to the Accident and Emergency department. But even if a tree can be found, it will need professional expertise to position it safely, then good quality lighting to illuminate it.

Inside the main entrance, a smaller, artificial, tree might be placed – if one can be found. A nativity scene will be placed in an area near the hospital lifts and chapel and hospital courtyards will be decorated with lights where possible. The hope is that local businesses or families might wish to donate decorations, practical services or cash to help make the dream a reality.

The hospital’s Director of Human Resources and Facilities Management, Amanda Lyes, said ‘We want to make this a Christmas to remember – particularly for the children – with plenty of twinkling lights.

‘Our problem is that we only have two weeks to put a plan together if we are going to make it happen, and we don’t have any spare cash to cover the costs. That is why we’re appealing to local businesses and local people to help out if they can.’

The hospital is willing to accept all except paper decorations, to comply with fire regulations. Christmas lights should be low voltage lighting. Marketing opportunities for local businesses to highlight their involvement are also being considered.

Additional lighting will not add to the hospital’s fuel costs, since the QEH generates its own electricity on site.

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Mrs Lyes added, ‘Our current financial position is well known, in that we are working very successfully towards balancing our books. But we still have a large deficit, so although we want to celebrate the season and all our achievements this year, there is no spare cash to pay for all these ideas. That is why we are appealing to the good nature of local people.’

Anyone who wants to help the hospital is being urged to contact Diane Richards in the hospital’s Estates department on: 01553 613613

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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