Welcome to the first edition of the Young Adults’ Group newsletter for 2017. This edition includes an invitation to a Children’s Hospice Week event, an invite to a group for parents reading this newsletter, details of our new management team, and more.

Children’s Hospice Week activities
This year Children’s Hospice Week takes place 22nd-28th May and we have some exciting activities planned for the week, please come along where you can and help us to spread the word about the week.

As this year’s theme is ‘let’s turn up the volume’, we thought it fitting to make some noise during the week! On Wednesday 24th May we’d like to invite you to a special performance by Seven Stories, who have created a story for us. The story will be performed at the Hospice at 10.30am so we are asking people to arrive at the unit for 10.15am. If you would like to pop in for the story please email Pam at PamHepple@stoswaldsuk.org.

Please note that our Communications Team will be filming the performance but have been briefed about which of you have photo and video consent.

If you use social media, you can also support the week by joining in, liking, retweeting or using #ChildrensHospiceWeek and #UpTheVolume.

New management team
We have recently changed the structure of our management team.

Sally Moody, Clinical Care Lead, sadly retired in March so we decided to introduce two new ‘Deputy Team Leader’ roles to our management team. Carole Dixon, Rebekah Hoskins and Diane Nicholson will be supported by Katie Metcalfe and Laura Billingham. Laura and Katie can be identified by their green t-shirts. Rebekah and Diane’s t-shirts are now purple.

Your feedback matters
We have been reviewing the way we ask for feedback and have enclosed a new feedback form. We’d love it if you could complete the form and return it to Pam and Marianne next time you’re in the Hospice. Thank you.

If you have any comments or suggestion about any of the above, please contact Lynne on 0191 285 0063 - ext 2016
One for the parents...

We'd like to invite parents to a new group, led by our Chaplain, Davina on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm. The group started up a little while ago and there has been a small number of patents who meet regularly. It’s informal, usually centred around tea and biscuits, and gives parents a chance to chat and hopefully relax.

Conversation usually involves your child, what kind of weeks we have had, the places we have been, the films we have watched and the irritations we have been facing, perhaps with transport, funding or appointments. The real benefit is the opportunity to sit down for a while in a safe and supportive environment with people who have a bit of insight into share similar experiences.

There is plenty of room for more! You don’t have to commit to every week but letting us know you are coming makes sure there are enough biscuits to go around. So, if you fancy joining us, or just giving it a try, please contact Davina on 0191 285 0063 Ext: 2011.

The sessions will be held in the Family Support Centre. Look forward to seeing you there.

Departing from your stay

Please be mindful that other families will be arriving on your last day of your stay with us. We’d like to therefore remind you to have transport arrangements for you to be collected by 11am on your day of departure. Thank you.

Equipment update

Please remember that we don’t have a large stock of equipment. Please make sure you pack enough equipment for your stay or we may have to ask your family to make a trip to bring in extra if needed. We especially need syringes, SATs probes, suction catheters, tapes (trachea), feeding buttons and Swedish noses.

It’s getting hotter!

Summer is fast approaching and we’d like to remind you to bring in your summer essentials. These might include a sun hat, sun cream, sun glasses and antihistamines (*if required*). This will help when going out on trips or just relaxing in the garden.

Competition time - give Wild North East a ‘pet name’

We want to give you the chance to choose a pet name for our very own Wild North East! Since coming back home to the Hospice, he’s only been known as Wild North East but we want something a bit more personal for our Hospice pooch. Please be as creative as possible and return the enclosed form to Pam or Marianne with your suggestions by Sunday, 11th June.

If you have any comments or suggestion about any of the above, please contact Lynne on 0191 285 0063 ext 2016