

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Rutland palliative care suite reopens after refurbishment**

A suite where friends and families can share a relative's last hours has been refurbished.

The improvements to lighting and decoration were the first major upgrade to the Karen Ball Suite at Rutland Memorial Hospital since it opened in 1993.

The £8,241 cost was met by the League of Friends at the hospital.

Pat Morley, chairman of the league of friends, said: "It makes it look much more cheerful, fresh and clean. The old curtains were getting tatty."

Mrs Morley said two of her family members died in the suite. "They were looked after really well."

Gates Garden Centre in Cold Overton, near Oakham, donated paintings, soft furnishings and a vase for the room. Marketing manager Ali Bailey said: "We rely on local people for our business, and we like to give a bit back."

The Karen Ball Suite opened in 1993. The Karen Ball Fund charity was set up in 1988 to provide improved facilities for the care of the terminally ill in Rutland. It was named after 21-year-old Karen, who died of cancer that year.

It has since passed on responsibility for the suite, and the adjoining courtyard garden, to the league of friends.



Carla Yaxley, deputy ward sister at Rutland Memorial Hospital, said: “Having it makes a massive difference because the relatives can just go in there and spend as much time as they want with the patient.

“It has a kitchenette, a wet room, and a sofa which pulls out to a bed for the relative.



“We have tried to make it homely with some nice pictures.

“Everyone in Rutland knows about it, and we have had patients request to be cared for in the suite when they reach the end of their life.

“We are very grateful to the League of Friends for their support on the refurbishment, and to the Karen Ball

Fund for developing the suite more than 25 years ago.”

You can take a look for yourself at the suite in this short video:

<https://youtu.be/1c1q1wHlnPo> .

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk).

Raising Health is our registered charity (number 1057361) which raises funds to support LPT’s excellent care initiatives, equipment and innovations which go above and beyond core NHS provision, to enhance the experience of our patients, service users and staff. [www.raisinghealth.org.uk](http://www.raisinghealth.org.uk)

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