

MEDIA RELEASE

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Hospital patients express their feelings through art



Dozens of patients, their relatives and hospital staff and volunteers worked with professional artists on a nine month project led by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) at Market Harborough's St Luke's Hospital.

As well as brightening up the day rooms, corridors and canteen at the hospital, the art work helped many to express their feelings about their illnesses, and their hopes for the future. One aim is that they will inspire other patients who come to the hospital with similar conditions.

Patients and staff on Ward 1, the stroke ward, wanted to explore ways they coped with their experiences and looked forward. Those on Ward 3, which provides general rehabilitation, palliative and end of life care, decided to concentrate on their memories of Market Harborough and the surrounding area.

Professional artists Kit Anderson, Jemma Bagley and Paul Gent worked with patients, carers, volunteers and staff to develop the art works over several months.

Although access to the hospital is necessarily restricted to patients and their friends/relatives, members of the public can get a taste of the project through an internet-hosted video: <https://youtu.be/T-ZI763G83M> .

Lindsay Bowles, a ward sister on the stroke ward, took part in the project and was delighted with its results.

She said: “I think it is fabulous and it shows much more energy than if someone had come along with a painting from a shop. We are trying to convey that inspirational message, people do overcome devastating things. Stroke can be devastating but positive things can come from it.

“Even though they are poorly, they can still create and contribute such positive works, really beautiful works, and contribute their own personal experience.”

Rachel Bilsborough, director of LPT’s community health services, said: “The message that those pieces of art give us is one of recovery, hope, and the future, and I think that is so important for patients that are on a journey of rehabilitation, that we are able to show them messages from patients who have had a lived experience here in the hospital.”

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, which runs St Luke’s, commissioned the project with cash from charitable donations.

The artists were:

Jemma Bagley from Charnwood Arts: <http://www.charnwoodarts.com/>
Kit Anderson, from <http://fotoceramica.co.uk/> , and
Paul Gent.

For more details on charitable donations, follow this link:

<http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/ InvolvingYou-Charitablefunds.aspx> .

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Note to editors

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £282 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk.

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