

News Release

8 May 2017

Official opening of new Friends of DCH shop

The Friends of Dorset County Hospital will officially launch their new, purpose-built shop on Tuesday 16 May 2017.

The charity has moved to the busy corridor near South Wing Entrance 1 to boost their shop operation.

The shop will offer the same full range of products, including hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, snacks, newspapers, magazines, toiletries and greetings cards, and is now able to accept card payments. The Friends will also continue to run their valued trolley service for patients on the wards.

Wessex FM's James O'Neill will be officially opening the new shop with two of the Friends' longest serving volunteers Teresa Sear and Jenny Marshall. To mark the occasion, on the day of the official opening the Friends will be offering the first 50 customers who purchase a hot drink a free slice of homemade cake. The trolley teams will also be involved by offering treats to patients, visitors and staff.

Friends Manager Sharon Merritt said: "We are very much looking forward to opening our fantastic new shop and maximising our sales, which enables us to donate more for the benefit of patients and their families at the hospital. We'd like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to create the new shop and move everything over from our old site, together with our volunteers for their continued support during this time."

The Friends are really excited about the move to South Wing Entrance 1. They will be open weekdays from 8.30am to 4pm and are pleased to announce that they will also be opening weekends from 2pm to 5pm.

If you have a few hours to spare and would be interested in volunteering, the Friends are always keen to recruit more volunteers to support the running of their shop and trolley service. Please contact Sharon Merritt on 01305 255896 or email friends@dchft.nhs.uk

ENDS

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY – 10.30am, Tuesday 16 May 2017, South Wing Entrance 1, new Friends of DCH shop official opening – enter South 1 and turn right.

For more information please contact the DCH Communications Team on 01305 254683 or communications@dchft.nhs.uk