

Press Release

Embargoed until 00.01 Friday 2nd April 2010

St Peter & St James Hospice in North Chailey has been awarded a capital grant from the Department of Health of £600,000 towards the cost of construction of a purpose designed and built extension providing new, en-suite hospice rooms to replace some of its existing, smaller bedrooms which do not currently have en-suite facilities.

St Peter & St James is one of 123 hospices across the country to be awarded part of a £40 million fund to give better quality care, more dignity and more privacy to people nearing the end of their lives. The funding was committed as part of the Department of Health's End of Life Care Strategy to provide high quality care for all adults approaching the end of their life, launched in July 2008. The projects will begin in April 2010 and will be completed by 31 March 2011.

In designing the new accommodation the Hospice team has been guided by the views and experience of patients and their relatives as well as the professional expertise of the clinical staff team. The new bedrooms will all have an uninterrupted outlook across the beautiful South Downs and will be large enough to allow a close family member to stay overnight with a patient.

Colin Burgess, Chief Executive of the Hospice said, "We are absolutely delighted that our application for this capital funding has been successful. The money will enable us to make a vast improvement to the physical facilities within which we provide high quality care for our inpatients, enhancing the dignity and privacy of people who are approaching the end of their lives. The new facilities will also bring benefits for the families and close friends of our patients. St Peter & St James is already known for the excellence of the care provided by our professional staff and volunteers and our new facilities will be providing a fitting environment for the provision of that care."

The development is the next part of a strategic plan to improve and enhance the facilities for patients and their families at the Hospice. Future plans include the provision of en-suite facilities for all remaining hospice bedrooms.

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For further information or interviews: Colin Burgess on 01444 471598

Notes to Editors: About St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre

Our mission as a registered charity is to provide specialist care, love and support for those living with progressive, life limiting illnesses from East and West Sussex. We will endeavour to meet the needs of each patient, their family and friends. We aim to encourage and enable all patients to live their lives to their full potential despite their illnesses.

We care for patients from Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath, Lewes, Uckfield and the surrounding villages. Last year we provided care for more than 400 patients and their families. All of our Hospice services are free of charge and we receive less than 20% of our funding from the Government. This means we have to raise more than £1.4 million every year through fundraising. That's £4,000 every single day.

If you are interested in working or volunteering at St Peter & St James please contact Human Resources on 01444 471598 or visit www.stpeter-stjames.org.uk.

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Registered Charity Number: 1056114