



Birthday Celebrations at Sophie's Place

Staff and patients at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of Sophie's Place, the dedicated children's assessment centre of the hospital, which was funded by Sophie's Appeal.

Sophie's Place, opened on 24th October 2007 by BBC South Today presenter, Sally Taylor, has helped around 3,500 children in the first year. Children are referred to Sophie's Place for a variety of treatments from routine blood tests to specialist cancer care.



A plaque, donated by The Engraving Gallery in Southampton, which tells visitors about the inspiration for the centre was presented to Dr Ian Rodd, a Consultant Paediatrician on Northbrook Ward, and one of the doctors who treated Sophie, who commented: "Sophie's Place is all that we hoped for. It is a lovely, well equipped area where we have been able to see up to 300 children a month. This has only happened because of the amazing support and drive of the Sophie Barringer Trust, who have worked tirelessly with us, and continue to do so."

Lin Barringer was then helped by some of the children on the ward to cut the birthday cake which had been donated by Absolute Cakes.

Mike Barringer said, "Sophie's Place is a wonderful place where children can come and be seen in a welcoming, relaxing environment made all the more special by the dedicated staff who work there. Without them and the generous donations of everyone who supports the Trust, this amazing area would not have been possible."

The plaque, a tribute to Sophie reads, 'This ward is dedicated to Sophie Barringer, who provided the inspiration for others to think beyond what they can achieve and do the impossible.'

For further information about the work of the Trust and forthcoming events, please visit www.sophiesappeal.org