

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Fiona Bruce MP for Congleton Constituency

DATE: 24th June



Fiona Bruce MP visits East Cheshire Hospice

Fiona Bruce MP met with Roger Payne, Chairman, and Fiona Morris, recently appointed Chief Executive, of East Cheshire Hospice, to see the Sunflower Centre – the Hospice's Day Centre, recently refurbished at a cost of £580,000.

During her visit Fiona saw the Bluebell Therapy Room, decorated to evoke being in the countryside, where aromatherapy, massages, reflexology and facials are provided.

Sue Dewick, a therapist who has been working at the Hospice for 11 years, said:

'It's made a real difference having dedicated treatment rooms – so much more relaxing for patients'.

A second therapy room is decorated with shells, boats, and seaside pictures and filled with sounds of the sea – Sue said, *'many of our patients will never go to the seaside again and coming here reminds them of happy holiday times, as well as being relaxing'.*

Fiona said:

'I was particularly impressed that not only patients, but also their carers, are supported so well by East Cheshire Hospice – for example, carers too can enjoy the relaxation treatments in the therapy rooms.'

The Sunflower Centre also has an Art Therapy Room, with a dedicated art teacher who is one of only three in the country qualified in palliative care, a gym, sewing room and hairdressing salon.

Fiona said:

'The standard of decor and breadth of facilities is excellent – but what really impressed me most was the caring atmosphere, throughout the Hospice. We are extremely fortunate to have such a high quality facility in the East Cheshire region, thanks to the'

vision of the original founders some 20 years ago, the professionalism of the staff today and the remarkable commitment of over 500 dedicated volunteers’.

Fiona talked with Chairman, Roger Payne, and Chief Executive, Fiona Morris, about the challenges of ongoing funding and undertook to seek clarification of future funding arrangements for hospices in light of proposed changes in health provision from PCT grants to commissioning groups of GPs. Roger said at the meeting,

Fiona Bruce also said:

‘The Government is actively committed to reducing unnecessary regulations and red tape and I have written to Fiona Morris following my visit – not only to thank her for enabling me to see the excellent facilities, but also to ask for specific examples of duplicated inspection or reporting requirements affecting hospices so that I can highlight these with Ministers’.

ENDS