

New Cancer Support and Information Room opens at St Peter's Hospital

A dedicated *Cancer Support and Information Room*, giving cancer patients, their families and carers a relaxed space for talking, reading and reflection, has opened this week at St Peter's Hospital.

The room was inspired by ideas from the Trust's Improving Cancer Care Action Group – a group of patients, family members, carers, representatives of local support groups and healthcare professionals – who wanted to create a special, relaxing space for patients away from the bustle of the main outpatient waiting area.

Dr Barry Quinn explains more: "Our *Improving Cancer Care Action Group* recognised that cancer patients, their families and carers often find the hospital environment a little overbearing, particularly when they need to take in difficult news or simply want a quiet corner for reflection. The group came up with this great idea of creating a dedicated room – somewhere that didn't feel like a hospital waiting room – somewhere quiet, with comfy, relaxing seating, where patients can talk privately with their cancer nurse, or simply sit with family members, their carers and so on, and where they can access relevant literature or simply use the space for quiet reflection."

Patient panel member Diana Moran, herself a former patient and user of the Trust's cancer services, officially opened the room at a special event on Wednesday evening which was also attended by The Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Yvonna Lay, and the Mayor of Spelthorne, Councillor Isabel Napper.

Said Diana: "This is a fantastic facility for patients, their families and carers. Hospitals can be scary places, and having a dedicated room away from the hustle and bustle of the main waiting area is invaluable in creating the right environment for conversation and reflection. I was delighted to be asked to unveil the official plaque on behalf of the team."

The room would not have been possible without the generous support from The Friends of St Peter's Hospital, who have helped not only with funding the refurbishment of the room and provision of all the new furniture, but who also helped on a practical level in preparing the room. The room has also been generously supported by Macmillan Cancer Support who provided all the leaflet racks and information for patients.

Trust Chairman Aileen McLeish added: "Our thanks to The Friends of St Peter's Hospital who have so generously supported the creation of this special space for our patients, and to Macmillan Cancer Support. On behalf of our patients and the Trust, a very big thank you."

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