



Press Release

Immediate Release

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Baroness Watkins of Tavistock visits Cygnet Churchill

The team at Cygnet Churchill in south London were delighted to welcome Baroness Watkins of Tavistock for a tour of the service.

Baroness Watkins is an international expert in nursing and healthcare delivery and paid a visit to the hospital, on Barkham Terrace, which provides mental health support to men.

As a cross bench peer in the House of Lords, Baroness Watkins contributes regularly in the domains of health, education and housing. She qualified as a general nurse in 1976 and a mental health nurse in 1979 and has worked in community, in-patient mental health and acute settings, providing non-emergency and emergency healthcare.

Stephen Finn, Cygnet's CEO of Cygnet Health Care division, said: "I really appreciated the fact that Baroness Watkins took the time to learn about and see for herself the standards and quality of care at Cygnet Churchill, and to talk with staff and service users.

"As a mental health nurse, Baroness Watkins expressed how impressed she was with the care and compassionate work by all of the members of staff that she met and her admiration for the quality of care for our very vulnerable patient group."

Theo Bello, Hospital Manager, reflected: "It was a privilege to show Baroness Watkins what we do at Cygnet Churchill. She has much experience in research, academia and in mental health but what was most important was her interest in the people who use our services. We discussed how important it is for people to have the tools to do their job, and I feel that Cygnet is leading in that department.

"We also discussed patient care and the level of care that we give and some of the challenges across the mental health sector. We were able to illustrate some of the great work we've done, including to help change the culture of the hospital."

Cygnets Churchill is a 57-bed inpatient mental health hospital for men and is part of Cygnets Health Care services. The hospital has four wards including an emergency acute admissions service and three high dependency inpatient rehabilitation services.

Baroness Watkins is also Emeritus Professor of Healthcare Leadership at Plymouth University and Deputy Vice Chancellor of the university.