



Press Release

Immediate Release

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College Students Provide Free Treatments for Mental Health Staff in Maidstone

A Maidstone hospital which provides mental health support has partnered with a local Kent college which saw its students provide free beauty treatments to staff.

The free treatments were provided by students from MidKent College to staff at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, a 63 bed mental health facility for adults situated in the Kent Medical Campus in Maidstone.

It was an opportunity for the students, currently undertaking the beauty therapy course, to practise their skills and they gave the staff head and shoulder massages and mini manicures. In turn, the students got to learn more about how the hospital improves the mental health of its patients within a therapeutic environment.

Alison McCulloch, General Manager at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone said:

“At Cygnet Hospital Maidstone we are really keen to get involved with the local community, we recognise the huge benefits that come to both staff and our patients through collaborating, partnering and engaging with other groups and services nearby.

“We have been working with MidKent College since we opened the hospital and have previously supported their students with work experience.

“We have developed a great the relationship with the College over the years as this is a great place for them to get involved and to gain experience.”

Alison said that working together with local services and groups, such as MidKent College, gives Cygnet staff the opportunity to promote more awareness of mental health issues.

She added: “It is important for us, and all Cygnet Health Care and Cygnet Social Care services, to build real connections between our services and the community.

“Myself and my staff would like to thank the students who came in and gave us massages. They did a great job and it was a lovely treat.”

A spokesperson for MidKent College said they were now hoping to explore future collaborations with the hospital. They added: *"It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to visit Cygnet Hospital and to develop their skills directly with clients."*

The hospital is split into four distinct wards, each offering specialist mental health service including a Highly Specialised Personality Disorder service for women, a High Dependency Rehabilitation service for men, specialist PICU Service for Men and a low secure ward.