



Press Release

Immediate Release

13 August 2024

### **Durham Mental Health Hospital Hosts Summer Party**

Patients at a Durham mental health service joined together with staff and loved ones to enjoy Cygnet Appletree's annual summer party.

The Cygnet Health Care-run hospital, on Frederick Street, Meadowfield, is a 25-bed mental health hospital for women that includes Pippin Ward, a specialist Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit service and Bramley Ward, an acute service for women.

The team recently held their annual summer fete which had a Hawaiian theme.

Pippin Ward set up a mocktail bar with mocktails created by service users, such as 'Pippin Punch', 'Rainbow Revolution', and 'Appletree Amazing'. They also organised garden games, enjoyed by both staff and service users who actively participated.

Bramley Ward set up a Tiki bar, offering a food and fruit platter, they played summer music hits, organised hula hoop competitions and limbo, and hired an ice cream van for the event, which was a huge hit as everyone enjoyed 99's and Knickerbocker glories.

Hospital Manager Rosie Hodgson-Whittle said: "It was a brilliant day had by all and lifted everyone's spirits. We would like to thank everyone who helped set up the festival and dressed for the occasion. The aim of hosting summer parties like this is to give our service users the opportunity to participate in various leisure activities by encouraging social interaction with others.

We had wonderful feedback from our service users and to have that response is incredible.

We know how important these events are for our service users, they bring a sense of normality and fun, and provide an opportunity for families and carers to come in and celebrate with us.

Seeing both service users and staff take part in such a large event, it was such an amazing experience. The entire team went above and beyond to make it such a special event for the people who use services and staff at the hospital.

The weather was on our side and there was such a buzz throughout the day, seeing everybody with a smile on their faces and having a good time is what it is all about."

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**Notes to Editors:**

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on [gemmaattew@cygnethhealth.co.uk](mailto:gemmaattew@cygnethhealth.co.uk) or 07718 244811.