



Press Release

Immediate Release

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### **Kent Mental Health Patients' Christmas Fundraiser for Homeless Charity**

A mental health hospital in Kent recently embraced the Christmas spirit by raising over £600 for a local homeless charity.

Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, a 63-bed mental health hospital on Gidds Pond Way, recently hosted a Christmas Fair which raised £620 for local charity Lily Smith House.

The Cygnet Health Care service chose to fundraise for the charity because of some service users' and staff's past experiences with homelessness.

Lily Smith House is a supported housing project that provides vital accommodation and support to vulnerable homeless adults with complex needs in Maidstone.

The Christmas Fair kicked off the festive season at the Maidstone-based service with staff, service users and carers taking part in the fundraiser.

Tina Stevens, Quality and Safety Lead at Cygnet Hospital Maidstone, said: "Our Christmas Fair fundraiser was a great success for a good cause. It was a great way to kick off the festive season together and it was even better to see everyone enjoying themselves.

"Everyone's enthusiasm and support made the event truly special. We were delighted to also welcome carers to our festivities and they were able to see the charitable efforts and engagement of our service users."

The stalls sold various items including Christmas decorations that were made by individuals supported at the Cygnet Health Care service.

There was also a hot chocolate station and a waffle and pancake station both run by the service's very own elves. Attendees also enjoyed spending time with two ponies donned in sparkling tinsel.

Tina said: "Our service users were very involved with designing the shop, serving customers, decorating and making items. It really gave them a sense of teamwork, confidence and boosted their self-esteem.

"Here at Cygnet Health Care, we like to inspire the ability of working towards a goal rather than instant gratification. There was a real feeling of achievement after creating something that had such a positive impact. It was a great opportunity for the individuals we support to enjoy giving back to the community."