Dräger staff transform hospital garden

Hemel Hempstead – A disused courtyard at Milton Keynes University Hospital has been given a new lease of life thanks to medical technology specialist Dräger.

Dräger, which has provided the onsite medical engineering department at the hospital for the last 15 years, sponsored one of the courtyard gardens within the grounds and dedicated staff have spent 10 weeks developing the space.

Members of Dräger’s MultiVendor Services team based at the hospital worked alongside gardener Lynda Cole to create the tranquil, woodland inspired courtyard which was officially unveiled this month.

The garden features silver birch trees, benches, bird boxes, insect boxes and a range of flowers in the Dräger colours of blue and white.

Alan Curtis, National Sales Manager – Lifecycle Solutions at Dräger, said: “The hospital was looking for sponsorship for some of the courtyards around the site and we saw it as a perfect opportunity to give something back as well as strengthening our longstanding positive working relationship with the hospital.

“It has been fantastic to see the Dräger team pull together to help transform the garden from its original disused state into the peaceful space it is today.

“We hope that staff, patients and families will be able to make use of the courtyard as a place they can relax and reflect for years to come. It’s also hoped that other Dräger staff beyond the team at the hospital will feel empowered to help maintain the garden so it is both a community and Dräger project going forward.”

Amanda McGill-Hall, MVS EBME Customer Service Representative, formed part of the Dräger project team who helped with the initial clean up of the garden and developing the theme.
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She said: “I got a great sense of achievement out of the project as we were able to turn the courtyard into a bright area where people like to look and sit. It’s nice to see people walking by and stopping to look at something they never noticed before.”

The garden features a family of three carved wooden bear statues. A competition to name the bears was run in the hospital's children's unit and the winning names are Milton (daddy bear), Daisy (mummy bear) and Willow (baby bear).

John Blakesley, Deputy Chief Executive at Milton Keynes University Hospital, attended the official unveiling of the courtyard. He said: “It is fantastic to see the transformation of the courtyard and to see the many diverse elements of it first-hand. The Dräger team has done a brilliant job to create such a calming environment for patients, their families and staff to enjoy.”

Vanessa Holmes, Head of Fundraising and Communications at the hospital, added: “Thank you so much to Dräger for all the time and effort they have spent redeveloping this particular courtyard garden at the trust. We are delighted to have their support, and it has been an absolute pleasure to see the garden transformed over the last few months. Thank you to everyone involved.”

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