

**REFURBISHMENT INPATIENT UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FUNDING
(Short- temporary closure)**

Readers may remember our success in receiving a grant in 2007 for the refurbishment of our Inpatient unit, under the Department of Health Capital Grants Programme, "Improvements to St Luke's Inpatient Unit to enhance dignity and privacy".

The grant will provide two much needed patient hoists for safer and more comfortable moving and handling of patients, air flow and anti odour systems, new flooring that is antislip and aids the prevention of cross infection procedures, painting and decorating, new curtains and re-alignment of curtain tracking and new reclining pressure area prevention chairs.

The work will start on 14th July with the installation of the hoist, and airflow systems. This has required much research due to difficulties with the design of our current ceiling structure of the Inpatient Unit. Consequently there will be much drilling noise and dust during the first week. Hence it is necessary for the safety and comfort of patients and their families to close the unit for approximately 3-4 weeks.

Flooring and decorating will be completed by the 25th July, cleaning and curtains the third week and a staged re-opening of the beds after the 31st July or 4th August.

Meanwhile, we will offer additional daycare places outpatient appointments and increase Hospice @ Home provision coupled with physiotherapy and social work support. Once the inpatient unit is open a little refurbishment is being planned for Daycare, namely flooring in the dining room and conversion of bathroom to treatment room, but this will NOT require a full closure of daycare.

The twenty-four hour a day operation of the Inpatient Unit means that many staff, volunteers, supporters and visitors have become accustomed to the hospice always being OPEN. The closure of the inpatient unit will mean that the front door will be locked and the full security system applied outside normal office hours (exact times will be displayed nearer the 14th July).

- Please encourage any person who wishes to leave donations for the shops, to visit their nearest shop and not leave goods outside the hospice front door.
- Please communicate all the above information to your own contacts, who may opportunistically visit the hospice and be disappointed.
- Please support this temporary closure, by relaying correct information and if you do hear external information that is incorrect, please let me know.

As with any major refurbishment, unforeseen delays may occur, the general office will have the most up to date information – 020 8382 8003/8002/8001.

Karen Sumpter and I will be available in the hospice throughout this refurbishment project.

Geraldine Burke
Director of Patient Services