

PAT/12/482

Wednesday 8 February 2012

Giant banner marks 1st year In Your Hands Appeal at Royal Oldham

THE first anniversary of the launch of The Pennine Acute Trust's In Your Hands Appeal has been marked by the unveiling of a giant banner at The Royal Oldham Hospital.

Visible from the front of the hospital, the banner which measures 20 metres x 13 metres, has been installed on the outside of the second floor level of the main hospital.

The banner advertises the Trust's In Your Hands Appeal which is raising money for the new women and children's development currently being built at the hospital. It aims to raise £200,000. Money raised will go towards additional equipment to enhance the new women and children's unit at The Royal Oldham.

The Appeal was launched last year on 8 February by Coronation Street's Jennie McAlpine who plays Fiz.



Once the new development is complete in December this year, The Royal Oldham Hospital will be one of three regional centres providing the highest level of intensive care to the smallest and most vulnerable babies. The new unit will house 37 neonatal cots and 110 expert staff will treat around 550 babies each year from Oldham, Rochdale and the surrounding areas. There will also be five en-suite bedrooms for parents to stay overnight.

Fundraising for the appeal is going well thanks to the support of children's charity MedEquip4Kids who are working with Vinci Construction UK Ltd, the construction contractor responsible for building the new facility. They have pledged to raise £50,000 in partnership with their sub-contractors.

Jan Bolton, the Trust's charity fundraising manager, now based at The Royal Oldham, was joined by representatives from Vinci Construction UK Ltd and MedEquip4Kids to celebrate the Appeal's anniversary. Hospital staff, including catering staff, porters, medical records and staff at the hospital information desk, also took part in celebrating the anniversary by wearing bright coloured T-shirts.

Jan said: "This is such an exciting and worthwhile appeal. It has captured the imagination and support of so many people since we launched last year. It's fantastic that MedEquip4Kids and Vinci Construction and their partners are on board. So far,

thanks to donations and fundraising efforts of our staff, partners and local people, we have been pledged over half our £200,000 target figure.

“We are challenging our staff and the local community in Oldham, Rochdale and surrounding areas to step up to the challenge and give us their hands in helping us reach our target. We have ten months. It’s in your hands!”

Vinci Construction has paid for and installed the banner. Chris Hamer for Vinci Construction UK Ltd said: “Vinci Construction UK and our partners are extremely proud to be building the new women and children’s unit. We recognise that to provide the best 21st century healthcare possible doesn’t just stop at the provision of a first class facility, but more importantly it’s about the people who will ultimately benefit from that facility.”

Ghazala Baig, Trust director at MedEquip4Kids, said: “MedEquip4Kids is delighted to be working in partnership with The Pennine Acute Trust for the In Your Hands Appeal. We really appreciate the support we have had from businesses and residents in the Oldham area for this worthwhile cause.”

The charity still has places left in this year’s Manchester 10k, and anyone wanting to raise money for the In Your Hands Appeal can sign up and be part of the MedEquip4Kidsp team of over 200 runners. It’s a great way to get fit, have fun and raise money for this worthwhile cause too. To find out more call 0161 798 1600 or visit www.medequip4kids.org.uk.

To find out more about how you can help raise money for the In Your Hands Appeal, or to make a donation, go online to www.pat.nhs.uk/inyourhands text ‘Hand12’ to 70070 or ring Jan Bolton on 0161 918 4497.