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Press Release

Hospital's angel of mercy is grounded after thieves steal bike

A hospital worker who always goes the extra mile to help patients in need has fallen victim to a heartless bicycle thief.

Liz Hill, a ward clerk at Russells Hall Hospital, was distraught to discover her trusty bike had been stolen at the end of a 12-hour shift.

She had parked it in the bicycle rack at the main entrance of the hospital but when she came to collect it at the end of her working day it had vanished.

Liz, who has worked at The Dudley Group for two years, is now forced to walk from her home in Kingswinford to the hospital every day.

She has also had to cancel her regular mercy missions on behalf of patients.

The 38-year-old, who often used her bike to return possessions left behind by patients, is devastated by the theft.

"I now won't be able to help my patients in the same way as I am having to walk everywhere," said Liz.

"My bike had a new saddle, which was a birthday present from my auntie and brother, and without it I have no transport."

Liz recently became one of the Trust's new customer care ambassadors – one of a team of 30 members of staff who have been recruited from within the hospital to improve patients' experience.

"Recently, a lady left her walking stick at the hospital and I knew she would need this, so using elastic bands I secured it to my bike and dropped it off at home for her," she explained.

The care, kindness and consideration Liz shows has become the hallmark of the way she does her job – that is now all at risk after the theft of her bike on Sunday.

"It upsets me and makes me angry to think I couldn't do the same again to help anyone," said Liz, "but I am determined to save enough money to buy a new bike."

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For more information, please call Jackie Dietrich, Communications and Engagement Officer, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1423.