

Date

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Dementia gift all the way from America**

Hospital staff who care for people with dementia received a gift for their patients all the way from the USA.

A knitter in New Jersey had created a ‘twiddle muff’ – which provides visual, tactile and sensory stimulation – and appealed on Facebook for a good home for her creation.

The post by Brenda Allen was spotted by Pat Price, a governor at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, who knew the items were given to people at Russells Hall Hospital.

“I didn’t look where Brenda lived but replied to her on Facebook saying that she could send it to our hospital and giving her the address. She got back to me saying it was in the post!”

Some weeks later Amanda Aworinde, clinical lead mental health at the Trust, received a package from the USA containing the twiddle muff.

“It was beautifully made but must have cost her a lot to send!” she said. “Twiddle muffs are given to people during their stay in hospital and then taken home with them, so we like to have a supply of them. However they are normally knitted for us by volunteers much closer to home!”

Brenda said: “I am friends with Pat Price on a knitting group Facebook page and it would please me greatly to know that it would bring someone joy.”

Twiddle muffs are knitted muffs with textured items such as ribbons, beads and various fabrics attached, both inside and out. People with dementia often have restless hands and the muffs give them something to keep their hands occupied and warm.

Picture: Amanda Aworinde with the twiddle muff from the USA.

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