

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Dudley carers deserve a cuppa during Carers' Week**

Friends and relatives of patients at The Dudley Group are being given a cuppa this week to help highlight the work of the hundreds of hidden carers in Dudley.

Carers Support volunteers with tea trolleys will be visiting both inpatient and outpatient areas during visiting times and will be handing out specially made coffee cups which contain a tea bag and a biscuit, as well as information about how to access support for carers.

The volunteers will be visiting wards and departments at Russells Hall Hospital on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June as part of Carers' Week offering a chat and a warm drink to visitors in an attempt to identify those who care for a loved one but don't access the support services on offer.

The Trust's 'I deserve a cuppa' campaign encourages people who care for friends or family members to take five for a cup of tea or coffee and find out more about the services carers and patients can access.

Sharon McGlynn, Carer Co-ordinator said, "Many carers simply see themselves as helping out a friend or relative with everyday tasks and often don't realise they have become a carer over time. These people make up the thousands of hidden carers in the UK who don't receive the support, advice or benefits available to them."

The 'I deserve a cuppa' campaign is being run in collaboration with Healthwatch Dudley and Dudley's branch of the Royal Voluntary Service.

**\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\***

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