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For local media

PRESS RELEASE

A hospital trust director ran 10k in the foyer of Russells Hall Hospital to raise money and awareness for a baby bereavement suite appeal.

Andrew McMenemy, workforce and OD director at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, also used the treadmill run as training for a sponsored event at the end of September. He will be taking part in the Bank of Scotland Great Scottish Half Marathon on Sunday 30 September.

He is raising money for the trust charity's £50,000 appeal to improve the environment in which families spend time adjusting to the death of their baby.

Andrew said: "This is just such an important project that I knew I wanted to do something to help. As I enjoy running, the Great Scottish Run seemed the ideal opportunity. By running on the treadmill in the main foyer I was able to promote our appeal and also get some people throwing their change into the bucket!"

The Trust is in the process of improving the bereavement room at the hospital by providing home comforts such as a double bed to enable parents to stay overnight.

In addition to structural improvements to the suite, the charity also aims to help staff by investing in specialist training to enable them to sensitively support bereaved parents, and their varying needs, in the best way possible.

The appeal will also enable staff to provide keepsakes and photographs to enable the family to build up some precious memories.

Karen Phillips, fundraising manager for the Trust Charity, said: "Offering the right support to someone who is going through such a devastating time is extremely important to us. We would like to offer more staff specialist training to ensure that our families receive the right type of support."

Andrew has set up a JustGiving page for his Great Scottish Run and is aiming to raise £1,100. You can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrew-mcmenemy1>

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For more information, please call Alison Ashmore, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 3403 or email alison.ashmore1@nhs.net