

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charity Celebrates 5 years of bringing cancer treatment closer to home in Somerset



Over the past five years, Hope for Tomorrow's Somerset Mobile Chemotherapy Unit, 'Bumble' has been bringing cancer treatment closer to home, visiting communities across the county.

During this time, Bumble has saved cancer patients over 30,000 hours in travel and waiting time and has alleviated many of the stresses and strains associated with travelling long distances for treatment. The Unit is owned by Hope for Tomorrow and operated by Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, with support from the Musgrove Leukaemic Group.

A fifth birthday party to celebrate this landmark was recently held at Bridgwater Community Hospital. Attended by patients, nurses and supporters who have kept the wheels turning on Bumble over the past 5 years, staff from Hope for Tomorrow, Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and members of Musgrove Leukaemic Group, it was the perfect way to celebrate 'Bumble's' success.

Christine Mills MBE, Founder of HFT said "All of us at Hope for Tomorrow are very happy and proud that 'Bumble' has been helping to reduce stress for Somerset chemotherapy patients for 5 years. With the help of our many funders and supporters, we look forward to bringing cancer treatment closer to home in Somerset for many years to come which I know is a sentiment echoed by Charity Patron Sir Stirling Moss, whose mother in law the Unit is named after."

Colin Drummond, OBE, chairman of Musgrove Park Hospital, said, "I was delighted to be able to join the team from Hope for Tomorrow, The Musgrove Leukaemic Group and Musgrove to celebrate this momentous occasion and to hear from patients the real benefit that the mobile unit is making to their lives.

This is a really important service supported by two really great charities and without their commitment to funding this service, it would not be there to care for our patients where and when they need it."

Bernard Reed from MLGS said "The MLGS was formed in 1978 with the aim of saving Somerset patients traveling to Bristol or Southampton to receive treatment. When the mobile chemotherapy unit was offered to Musgrove Park Hospital 5 years ago the Trustees decided this project was an extension of those original aims and the feedback we have received from patients in Bridgwater, Chard, Minehead and West Mendip has vindicated our decision to finance the running costs of Bumble."

ENDS

Interviews with local patients, whose battle with cancer has been made less stressful thanks to Hope for Tomorrow's Mobile Chemotherapy Unit, can be organised. Please contact Claire Cosgrove, Hope for Tomorrow Head of Fundraising & Communications, on 01666 505055 or via email clairecosgrove@hopefortomorrow.org.uk

Notes for Editors

About Hope for Tomorrow

Hope for Tomorrow is a cancer charity dedicated to bringing cancer treatment closer to home. Their Mobile Chemotherapy Units bring vital treatments to patients, reducing travel, waiting times and the stresses and strains of busy hospitals. The charity builds, owns and maintains the Mobile Chemotherapy Units and provides them to the NHS to operate with their highly trained staff. The Units travel throughout their counties of operation to a number of set locations and have the capacity to treat up to 20 patients a day.

The Somerset Mobile Chemotherapy Unit was the second Unit to be launched by Hope for Tomorrow who now have 9 MCU's on the road across the country. Bumble was launched by Charity Patrons Sir Stirling Moss and Lady Susie Moss in December 2010, and was named 'Bumble' in memory of Stirling's late mother in law, who sadly lost her battle with cancer.

The Unit currently visits the following locations:

- Minehead
- West Mendip
- Bridgwater
- Chard

The Unit is operated out of Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton

Each Mobile Chemotherapy Unit costs Hope for Tomorrow £260,000 to build and launch and is capable of providing for the delivery of approximately 2,000 chemotherapy treatments a year, saving patients thousands of miles of travel whilst reducing their fuel costs and time taken out of their day for treatment.

www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk