4 September 2013

**Teddy** B**ear care now offered in local Emergency Department**

A delivery of teddy bears arrived recently at Craigavon Area Hospital’s Emergency Department as part of the launch of Teddies for Loving Care.

Teddies for Loving Care is a charity new to the island of Ireland which donates sterile packaged teddy bears to hospital emergency departments in Ireland both North and South and is organised and funded by Irish Freemasons.

Members of the Teddies for Loving Care (TLC committee) accompanied by a group of dedicated bikers from the Widow’s Sons Chapter came to Craigavon’s Emergency Department on Saturday (September 7th) to launch Teddies for Loving Care before leaving to deliver more teddies to The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children**.**

“The registered charity Teddies for Loving Care **(TLC)** [www.tlcappeal.org](http://www.tlcappeal.org) was started in England because of the distress of a patient, witnessed by her family, when being treated in an Emergency Unit for a life threatening condition. She survived but the family wanted to help others in similar situations and focused on children who could less understand the strange environment and the things being done to them.”

“The Teddies are for the staff to give to distressed children, at their discretion, if they feel that by so doing will help to make their important work easier. The child then takes the teddy home.”

Mrs Deborah Burns, Southern Trust Interim Director of Acute Services thanked Teddies for Loving care for the teddies saying:

“Staff in our Emergency Departments are very grateful for these teddies. It will be a real help in easing the distress of child patients and will allow staff more time to focus on care and treatment.”

**ENDS**

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