

New Discharge Lounge Opens

On Monday 18th January a new Discharge Lounge opened at Darent Valley Hospital, located between Chestnut Ward and the Clinical Decisions Unit on Level 3. The lounge is available 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and has been designed so that patients receive a seamless discharge from the hospital whilst they await their transport or medication to take home. Patients who arrive in the lounge are cared for by a dedicated team of 2 trained nurses and 3 nursing assistants. The lounge has many comfortable chairs and patients are served a range of refreshments whilst they wait, they are also offered light meals if the discharge goes over a mealtime.

The first patients to be cared for in the lounge was Sally Gunn who commented on how comfortable and efficient the service was. Also the providers of the patient transport service, NSL remarked on how useful the lounge is, especially as they can now collect all of their patients from one area, thus saving both them and their patient's time.

Debbie Griffiths, staff nurse who assisted with setting up the lounge said "We have received some very positive feedback



L-R: Sally Gunn and Debbie Griffiths

since we opened and it is so good to know that we are making the patients discharge from hospital that little bit smoother. During our first week we cared for 50 patients over the course of 5 days and we now hope to extend the service to seven days a week."