

## **New bereavement centre at Lincoln County Hospital to provide support for families**

A new bereavement centre due to open at Lincoln County Hospital is set to transform the care and support offered to grieving families.

The centre, based in the Swanpool Suite, will give a single point of contact for families, providing help and advice following bereavement away from the bustle of the hospital in new, purpose built surroundings. Staff will be on hand to ensure that practical arrangements are handled in a sensitive and timely manner and to make sure that information is available regarding ongoing support.

The new bereavement centre, based close to the main reception, will be a welcome addition to the hospital. It will provide a quiet and calm environment for people who have been bereaved.

The current practice at the hospital is that the recently bereaved have to return to the ward where their loved one died to collect any belongings, which can often be very distressing. The new centre will offer a full bereavement service for relatives, which will mean one appointment at the centre will take care of all requirements.

Advice and support from the dedicated team of staff will be available and it is anticipated that a registrar of births and deaths will be based in the centre at some times during each week who will also be able to complete the registration of some deaths. Bereavement staff will also provide contacts for organisations which may be able to offer ongoing help, advice, and support.

The immediate period following bereavement is a particularly difficult time and whilst every loss is unique and people will grieve differently, there are inevitably practical arrangements which need to be addressed. The bereavement centre will help to alleviate some of the anxiety surrounding these arrangements and will be able to offer essential support that it is simply not possible to on busy hospital wards.

Last year, students from Lincoln Minster School were invited to enter a competition to



create artwork for the bereavement centre.

Thirteen paintings, sketches and collages were judged in the chapel at the hospital. The three winning pieces of artwork were created by students Olivia Wietrak (aged 8), Priyaa Gupta (aged 7) and Sheba Nicholson (aged 10).

They will be displayed in the entrance of the new centre.

The Swanpool Suite, which includes the new bereavement centre, Lincoln PALS and Voluntary Services, will be opened on Thursday 6 July 2017 by the Duke of Gloucester at a special ceremony that will also be attended by invited guests.