

Procurement professionals support Glasgow hospice

The Scottish Executive and a Glasgow business have raised thousands of pounds for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, a charity providing support to terminally ill patients.

The money was raised by members of the Scottish procurement community attending the Scottish Executive's National Procurement Conference, held at the SECC, Glasgow in October 2006. The event was organised by Shawfield-based BiP Solutions Ltd, one of Europe's leading providers of public contracts information.

Thanks to the generosity of speakers giving their time for free, the surplus raised through contributions from private sector delegates and exhibitors came to £9000, to which BiP contributed a further £1000 – bringing the grand total to £10,000.

Presenting a cheque to the hospice, Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform Tom McCabe said:

“The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice provides invaluable specialist in-patients and day care services, giving comfort to both patients and their relatives and carers. The hospice relies heavily on donations and I am pleased that the funds raised through last year's conference can go some way towards supporting their work.”

Simon Burges, Sales and Marketing Director for BiP, said:

“We are delighted to support the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice with this donation. As a local business, it is important to us to support such worthy causes within the community.

“The hospice team does a magnificent job in supporting those with terminal illnesses and their dedication and commitment is inspiring. I would also like to thank all those from within the procurement community who attended the event last October and gave so generously to this very deserving cause.”

The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Carlton Place offers a range of care to people who are terminally ill, ranging from highly trained clinical nurse specialists who take hospice services out to home-based patients and their carers, to support in hospital.

The hospice has a 14-bed inpatient ward and a day care centre, which caters for 20 people per day, Monday to Friday. The hospice is a registered charity and all care is free, regardless of patients' circumstances.

The actual cost of care at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice is some £3 million a year - and, despite generous support from NHS Greater Glasgow, two out of every three pounds comes from voluntary contributions and fundraising activities. That means the hospice must raise around £6000 every working day, just to keep the doors open.

Jo Parker-Morgan, Corporate Fundraiser for the hospice, said:

“As a charity providing free care and support to people who are terminally ill, we rely on donations to continue doing so.

“We are extremely grateful for the £9000 that was raised at the conference and thank everyone involved. I would also like to thank BiP for donating a further £1000. It will go a long way to help our patients and their families at what is undoubtedly the most difficult time of their lives.”

