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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Hard-working healthcare staff can now get a socially-distanced break in the sunshine thanks to the generous donations of local people.

Thousands of pounds has been given to The Dudley Group NHS Charity during the coronavirus pandemic, to be used for staff welfare.

And after asking the 5,000 strong workforce how they would like to see it spent, one of the first things the Trust has done is to install more picnic tables so staff can take a break or eat lunch in the fresh air.

The 17 new tables and benches have been placed in the grounds of Russells Hall Hospital and also at the Trust's health records offices. The health records staff, who are located off site, are responsible for organising, updating and storing patients' records.

The Trust's chief executive, Diane Wake, said: "People of all ages have been fundraising to show their support for our NHS and we are extremely grateful to our local community who have supported us in this way.

"Ideas have been flooding in from our staff. With social distancing limiting where we can go on our breaks, we wanted to act quickly and provide these picnic tables so everyone could make the most of the good weather. This is just the first project, though, and we'll keep looking at how best to ensure people's generosity is put to good use."

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***