

14<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Star wards**

The Force was strong at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital when Star Wars characters visited the children's ward – before going on a walkabout around the hospital.

Chewbacca, Jawas, Storm Troopers and others proved a big hit with patients and staff alike, with selfies the order of the day.

And when clinical governance lead for children's services Julie Taylor tweeted about the visit, it even received a response from Luke Skywalker himself - actor Mark Hamill.

UK Garrison, one of the leading Star Wars costuming groups in the UK, visited the hospital, part of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. It was one of a monthly series of events held on children's ward to brighten the day of young patients.

Julie Taylor said they had visited children's outpatients and children's ED as well as Trust headquarters. They had also joined in a tea trolley round and met visitors outside the hospital.

"We had one little boy who was in theatre and missed their visit, so they waited until he was out and came back to see him. Because he was still a little out of things at that point, they recorded a video especially for him – they really went above and beyond for our patients and we are really grateful," she added.

Disney princesses will be the next visitors to the ward in June.

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