

BOOST FOR HOSPICE SECURITY AS SEMBCORP IT EXPERT STEPS IN



Paul Smith (left) with members of the Zoë's Place staff parading the new security cards at the hospice.

Sembcorp has given a boost to the safety and security of staff and patients at a Teesside baby hospice close to the Wilton International site.

The company has donated its IT expertise and materials to produce an enhanced set of security cards for 35 staff and dozens of volunteers attending Zoë's Place in Middlesbrough.

The charity, just a couple of miles from the site, cares for some of the sickest children in the region and their families.

The upgrade to the passes – based on a design used at Wilton – will strengthen security at the Crossbeck House facility in Normanby.

Since 2004, Zoë's Place has used the 250-year-old former convent building to help more than 350 children aged 0-5 with life limiting and life threatening illnesses and their families.

The only baby-specific facility of its kind in the North East, it offers palliative, respite and end of life care for families, but is currently facing a battle to maintain provision because of cuts to its funding in recent years. It is now more reliant than ever on support from businesses and individual donors in the wider Teesside area.

Paul Smith, IT systems analyst programmer for Sembcorp, spent company and some of his own personal time adapting the site security cards and was thanked by staff during a special visit to the hospice.

Elaine Dunning, Corporate Fundraiser at Zoë's Place, said: "Every penny we save is a penny we can put towards the care of our children in these difficult times and we are immensely grateful to Sembcorp for helping boost the security of our facility in this way."

Said Paul: "The staff at the facility are an inspiration. They do tremendous work on behalf of the people of Teesside and beyond and it was a pleasure to help them in this way."



Crossbeck House – home to Zoë's Place Baby Hospice