

Date: 9 August 2013

Communications Department

Tel: 01225 82 5849/5799/6230

RUHcommunications@nhs.net

www.ruh.nhs.uk

Media Release

Pantomime comes to RUH children's ward

Pantomime is coming early for the young patients on the children's ward at the Royal United Hospital. On Monday 19 August, at 10am, the children will be enjoying a performance of Sleeping Beauty, staged by the Starlight Children's Foundation, and performed by The Panto Company.

Four actors will dance, dazzle and sing for the young patients, who will have a chance to shout "He's behind you!" from the safety of the hospital ward. Families and staff will also be sharing the fun.

Jo Powell, Play Specialist at the RUH, said, "It is known that entertainment and play can significantly improve a poorly child's hospital experience and that it helps to distract them from their illness and treatment. Starlight is a fantastic charity and each year we look forward to the arrival of the Starlight summer panto and the fun and laughter it brings our young patients."

Hayley Bryant, who plays Fairy Nuff in Sleeping Beauty, said, "Starlight's summer panto is designed to be really engaging and entertaining for the children and we hope that the performance at the RUH gives the patients there a good dose of fun!"

Ends

There will be a photograph opportunity at 10am. Please contact the communications department to arrange.

Notes for Editors

The pantomime is just one way that Starlight brings fun, laughter and distraction to poorly children across the UK. The charity also grants once-in-a-lifetime wishes to children with serious and terminal illnesses. For more information on Starlight Children's Foundation, visit www.starlight.org.uk

The Cast:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lewis Jobson | The King and Giggles |
| Joe MacCabe | Prince Galland, Prince Hero and Megus |
| Hayley Bryant | Fairy Nuff |
| Kayleigh Ashdown | The Queen and Aurora |

