

PRESS RELEASE

Issue date: Thurs 11 Jun 2015



PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST UNVEILS 'SPIDER' ROOM AT NEW BROMLEY PHYSIO CENTRE

Paralympian David Weir CBE was special guest of honour at the official opening of The Wooden Spoon Spider Therapy Room at the newly opened Freddie Farmer Foundation physiotherapy centre this week.

The Freddie Farmer Foundation charity based off Elliott Road, Bromley South welcomed David and charity representatives from Wooden Spoon Kent to formally open the room which boasts state of the art equipment to help mobility for children with cerebral palsy and serious mobility problems.

The equipment includes two Universal Exercise Units (UEUs), otherwise known as the 'spider' which is formed by elastic ropes and a harness that create a web to support children and allow them to exercise in any position.

The new centre is the result of a three-year fundraising campaign which saw hundreds of people take part in activities such as climbing mountains, triathlons, cycles, parachute jumps and a 70s disco-thon raising over £400,000.

The centre's charity officer, Karen Smith, said: "It is very exciting for everyone involved with the charity to finally see the new centre open.

"We hope to help many more disabled children to reach their full potential and to benefit from the intensive physiotherapy programmes that we run here from our new home in Bromley.

"I would like to say a big thank you to David Weir and Wooden Spoon for their support, I hope they enjoyed the day."

Paul Shrubsall MBE, chairman of Wooden Spoon's Kent Region which donated £25,000 towards the cost of creating the therapy room, said: "Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of rugby, supports projects that benefit physically, mentally and socially disadvantaged children and young people under the age of 25 in UK.

"When we heard about the work the Freddie Farmer Foundation was doing to create a centre to help disabled children in Bromley we were delighted to help, it's the realisation of a dream.

“We’ve watched this charity grow for a number of years and to be able to help is a great privilege for us. We wish them lots of luck for the future, supporting disabled children in London and the surrounding areas.”

The Freddie Farmer Foundation physiotherapy centre opened in April and it’s the only independent centre of its kind in South East England that provides intensive physiotherapy programmes for disabled children across the region.

The centre supports disabled children aged 3–16 years with cerebral palsy, developmental delay/co-ordination disorders and other non-progressive neurological disorders and syndromes.

For further information about the Freddie Farmer Foundation and/or to book an initial assessment please contact charity officer Karen Smith on 020 8313 3707, email karen@freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk or visit the website www.freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information, image or interview requests, please contact Carol Ann Walters on 020 8289 0460, 07780 703 600 or email carol@cawpr.co.uk

ABOUT FREDDIE FARMER FOUNDATION

The Freddie Farmer Foundation physiotherapy centre opened in April 2015 to provide intensive physiotherapy programmes for disabled children. The centre is one of a handful of independent UK therapy centres offering specialist equipment and therapeutic exercises, supporting disabled children from all over London and the South-east.

To find out more about Freddie Farmer Foundation, please visit www.freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk

ABOUT WOODEN SPOON

Wooden Spoon, the children’s charity of rugby, is a grant-making charity founded in 1983. They focus on providing funding to organisations across the UK that give support, treatment or respite care to children with disabling or life-limiting conditions or who are living in areas of severe social deprivation. Every single penny a regional volunteer group raises for Wooden Spoon stays in that community and funds causes and projects local to them.

To find out more about Wooden Spoon, please visit www.woodenspoon.org.uk.