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PRESS RELEASE

Health Trust is one of the first in England to pick up Investors in People Gold Award

BLACKPOOL, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has become the first NHS organisation in the North West of England to receive a Gold award from Investors in People (IIP) for being a good employer and improving its standards for staff.

The hospital's work around developing, training and supporting staff has been commended and its improvements recognised. The Trust has moved up directly from the basic award standard to a gold award within 12 months which is a remarkable achievement.

The Trust's Director of HR Nick Grimshaw said: "Less than one per cent of the current 35,000 organisations recognised as Investors in People have achieved Gold Status, highlighting how significant this award is.

"This award is a huge boost to the Trust and the staff who work here, as it recognises the work we all do to make this a great place to work. We really want staff who work here to feel valued, recognised and developed to their full potential. As one of the largest employers in the local area with around 4,500 staff, we know how important it is to look after our workforce and to build a great team spirit.

"We invest a lot of time and resources to ensure our staff are supported and motivated to the highest level possible, and embrace IIP as a very useful tool to help us achieve this. Its common sense, flexible approach means that we can use it on a very practical level to support continuous self-assessment and improvement."

The Trust was praised for its culture of continuous development, its high level of stakeholder involvement and consultation, effective and visible leadership and the quality of its staff.

Investors in People is a national organisation which sets out recognised standards for employers to help improve their performance.

For an organisation to receive IIP Gold status it must achieve a minimum of 126 evidence based requirements beyond the basic Standard, which requires less than 40 criteria to be met.

Organisations who achieve IIP Bronze, Silver and Gold status represent the top one per cent of recognised IIP organisations.



Nick Grimshaw

For further information about this Press Release, please call Derek Quinn, Communications Manager, on 01253 306941 or email derek.quinn@bfw.h.nhs.uk

Notes to Editors:

Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust became a Foundation on December 1st 2007 and wishes to strengthen its links with the community it serves through the Foundation Trust Membership scheme for members of the public. For more information, or to apply, please telephone the Membership Officer on 01253 306875 or visit the Membership Section on the Trust's website: www.bfw.h.nhs.uk