

**How to look good naked: Local employees get bare chested
for The Sick Children's Trust
Sponsored Chest Shave Raises Valuable Funds for The Big Move Appeal**

Gok Wan would be proud today, as local DHL employees did their bit for charity by having their chests shaved for The Sick Children's Trust. The charity runs Eckersley House – the 'Home from Home' based at St James' University Hospital in Leeds.

Eckersley House has provided accommodation for the families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at St James Hospital in Leeds for the past 16 years – but that is about to change. St James's Hospital is moving its children's wards to the Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) to create a paediatric Centre of Excellence. Sadly this means by July of next year Eckersley House will no longer be needed in its present location – but much needed at the LGI.

The Sick Children's Trust needs to raise £1.8 million to move Eckersley House from its current location at St James's Hospital to the LGI and building work on the new house begins in September – so the race is on to raise the money!

Denis McCarthy, Service Centre Manager at DHL comments: "We've had such fun fundraising for this worthwhile charity and the company is even going to match the funds we've raised. We know it will go towards helping with this big move".

The employees learnt about Eckersley House through Jane McHale, who manages the home.

Vicki Smith, Regional Fundraiser at Eckersley House, adds: "We couldn't do without the help of local people in our mission to raise enough money to move Eckersley House. This will add to our total and continue to help hundreds of families of sick children in years to come".

For more information on the campaign please contact Vicki Smith, Regional Fundraiser on 0752 5424406 or email is vicki@sickchildrenstrust.org

Release ends

Press enquires: please contact Jennifer Middleton on 01757 268283 or email jennifer@lemonzestpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

The Sick Children's Trust was founded in 1982 by two paediatric specialists Dr Jon Pritchard and Professor James Malpas. They believed that having parents on hand during hospital treatment benefited a child's recovery.

Today we have seven 'Homes from Home' at major hospitals around the country where families can stay free of charge, for as long as they need whilst their child is undergoing treatment – Eckersley House being one of them. There is a growing demand for our 'Homes from Home' as children must increasingly travel long distances to get the specialist treatment they need.

In essence, The Sick Children's Trust ensures that the very basic of all medicines has a chance to work; family love and support. We ensure that mum has a private room to cry, dad can get some much needed sleep, and siblings are cocooned in love and not left out. But most importantly, we help families to stay close by to their sick child at all times making a real difference to their recovery.

To date we have helped more than 30,000 families.

To run the 'Homes from Home' we rely entirely on voluntary donations; and need to raise £1million this year to keep them open.