

If you go down to **A&E** today...

...You're sure of a big surprise – well that is if you're a young child who requires a procedure in *North Tyneside General Hospital*. For as part of a national scheme to comfort sick or injured children the hospital's young patients will receive a teddy bear.

Teddies for Loving Care (TLC), is a scheme which is backed by local Freemasons and from December young children that attend the *Emergency Care Department* and require a procedure will be given a *TLC* teddy.

Any procedure that is carried out on the child will also be performed on the teddy, like: slings, plasters, dressings. If a child requires admission or theatre the bear goes with them!

Mr Leslie Stobbs, *Treasurer TLC* said: "We are delighted to be organising this scheme



with *Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust*. Masons from North Shields, Wallsend, Whitley Bay, Shiremoor and Seaton Delaval are taking part and holding social events, raffles etc to raise money to fund the scheme. The project originated in

Essex and aims to give comfort to any child who has to come to the *Emergency Care Department*."

Elaine Henderson, *Matron*, said: "This is a great idea which will help to take children's minds off what is happening to them by making them focus on the teddy. We'd like to thank all the local Masonic groups who have raised the money for this scheme, which will make a difference to children visiting the department at a time of stress and anxiety."

The bears were delivered by Leslie Stobbs and Jim Brown, *Fundraiser TLC* and they also brought with them a 'big brother' bear which they also donated to the department.

PHOTO: Getting some TLC (L to R): Deborah Gillie *Senior Sister Emergency Care Centre*, Elaine Henderson *Modern Matron*, Wendy Smith *Paediatric Nurse Emergency Care*



*Wishing you and your family
a very Merry Christmas and
a happy, healthy New Year!*