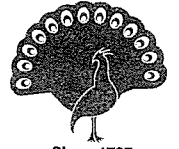


News Letter



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NATURAL HARMONY: Deborah Sloan, flute, and Alfie Lloyd, French horn, at the launch of the Ulster Youth Orchestra summer concerts
See page 11 Picture: Bernie Brown

Royal is blamed for baby's MRSA

THE mother of a newborn baby who contracted the superbug MRSA last night blamed the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Niamh Armstrong from west Belfast believes her baby son Rossa Taylor became ill as a result of being in the hospital, although doctors have questioned this. They insist that it is highly unusual for young children to get the infection. The little boy was readmitted

BY KATE CHAMBRÉ

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to the hospital just days after being discharged after his birth.

Last night Dr Tony Stevens, medical director with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, defended the standard of hygiene at the hospital and suggested that the baby could have contracted MRSA in his

local community.

But Anne Armstrong, Rossa's grandmother, said this was definitely not the case.

She said: "What I would like the Royal to do is get their finger out and clean the place."

Her daughter Niamh last night said she was "completely stressed out" when she found out that her son had contracted the superbug.

"I didn't know what way it was going to affect him

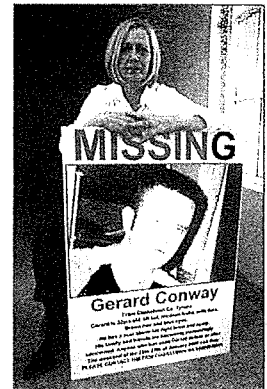
because you just hear of elderly people having it," she said.

When asked how she thought Rossa contracted MRSA she said: "Through the hospital. The state the hospital is in - it's filthy, the floors are stinking. I had to ask for my sheets to be changed off the bed."

Rossa was diagnosed with the bug after developing a "sticky eye" three weeks ago and is now being treated at home.

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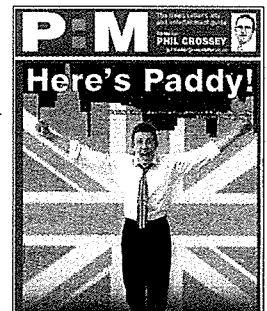


Mum offers
£100,000
reward

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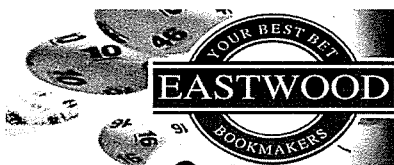
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