



Impact Newsletter

Summer 2023



Contents



Foreword

Charity CEO, Mark Brider

Four Priority Areas

How charitable funding benefits our hospitals

2022/23 Performance

The impact of your donations

Patient and Family Experience

Where charitable money has enhanced our patients' and families' experience

Developing Hospital Environments

Transforming wards and departments to help put families at ease

Impact in Action

Changing Places

Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

Improving technology across our hospitals

Impact in Action

Alexandra's Story

Research, Learning and Innovation

Pioneering research made possible through charitable funding

Our Latest Campaigns and Appeals

iMRI, Enjoy Arts, Woodland House and Waterfall House

Impact in Action

Changemakers

Our Donors and Supporters

Recognising our top donors and supporters

Help Us Continue to Make a Difference

How you can help us transform lives



03

04

05

06

10

12

14

16

18

20

23

24

26

Foreword

Mark Brider
CEO of Birmingham Women's
and Children's Hospital Charity



I'm delighted to introduce our latest issue, which proudly shares the recent, incredible impact you've had across our two hospitals.

Your invaluable friendship, love and generosity has allowed us to go ever further for our women, babies, children and families and in our last financial year, thanks to you, we were able to deploy over a fantastic £7.6million across all our services.

This substantial sum has allowed us to improve patient experience, invest in new equipment, revamp tired and outdated wards and champion our researchers to continue testing new and different ways to improve the health and outcomes for our patients.

Over the coming pages, we hope to thank and inspire you by demonstrating your impact. It's our role to bring the magic to our hospitals, so that every patient, family and member of staff feels valued and supported by our charity – and thanks to you, we've really been able to transform lives.

Since our last issue, we've launched our brand-new capital appeal to raise £1.5million to bring an intraoperative MRI (iMRI) scanner to our Children's Hospital. We have until summer 2024 to raise the money for this state-of-the-art piece of equipment which will transform the lives of children and young people requiring life-changing brain tumour or epilepsy surgery.

We are the only dedicated paediatric hospital in the UK without an iMRI scanner and our investment in this technology is essential to give our expert neurosurgeons 'live' information about a tumour, right when they need it most.

We're delighted this appeal has received support from some of our region's top business leaders and companies, who have formed a visionary network, called Changemakers, for our

Children's Hospital. With a passion to be part of a collective change for good, in the first year, our Changemakers have committed to support the iMRI appeal and have already collectively pledged £400,000 towards this much-needed equipment.

We know you will continue to support us with this latest appeal and we're incredibly thankful to everyone who has already donated.

Over at our Women's Hospital building work is well underway for Woodland House, our bespoke baby loss bereavement centre which, once open, will set a new standard of bereavement aftercare, both nationally and internationally. The building is going up apace and we look forward to seeing it open for operational use later this year.

You may have spotted our Trust has recently appointed a new Chief Executive Officer. Matt Boazman had been interim CEO following Sarah-Jane Marsh's departure, after 15 years, to take on the role of NHS National Director of Urgent and Emergency Care and Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the NHS.

Matt's permanent appointment means he has superseded Sarah-Jane as one of our charity trustees, continuing the really important link between our Charity Board and Trust, which supports our mission to deliver maximum impact across all our services.

Over recent months we've also recruited a number of new trustees, who bring additional expertise and experience to our board and who are all united in their passion to help us drive forward our ambitious growth strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Sir Bruce Keogh for his dedication as our previous

Chair of trustees. Sir Bruce has stepped aside after four impactful years but has left a legacy which has seen us elevate the support our charity offers our hospitals. Under Sir Bruce's helm we continued to push boundaries and improve standards of excellence in research, treatment and care.

Sir Bruce has now handed the reins to Rob Nagra who has been a huge supporter of ours for over 10 years. Rob joined our board of trustees in January 2015 and is incredibly passionate about his new role, as Chair, and excited to make an impact on the thousands of women, babies, children, young people and families treated across our hospitals every year.

I must also say one final huge thank you to Ruth Lester OBE, who has decided to stand down as a trustee following six incredible years. Ruth was a pioneering plastic surgeon at our Children's Hospital for over 30 years but has recently retired to allow her to spend more time with her grandchildren.


Looking forward, the next 12 months is set to be even more promising as we continue to work closely with our clinical colleagues to transform patients' lives, giving them all the best chance to fulfill their potential.

We are on a mission to raise even more money than ever before, but we are confident we will reach this milestone by continuing to inspire our community and wonderful friends like you.

Your vital support helps us do more and deliver the biggest impact for every patient across our two, world-class hospitals and we could not continue without you. Thank you.


Four Priority Areas

Thanks to you, we help our hospitals maintain world-class status by ensuring they deliver exceptional care and treatment beyond what the NHS alone can provide. To do this, we focus our efforts across four priority areas:



1 Patient and Family Experience

From celebrating special occasions, such as Easter and Eid, to day trips, home comforts and entertainment on the wards, charitable donations help us make life-lasting memories for our patients and families during their time in hospital.




2 Developing Hospital Environments

We're driven by a passion to make our hospitals warm and welcoming. This sees us continue to update tired wards and replace outdated furnishings, to create calm and soothing spaces where our patients and families can feel safe and our staff proud to work.



3 Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

It's vital our medical staff have access to the latest and most-innovative equipment to provide life-saving care, new treatments and less invasive procedures. Charitable donations allow our incredible doctors, nurses and midwives to constantly be at the forefront of what is possible.



4 Research, Learning and Innovation

Charitable funding has allowed our researchers to deliver internationally recognised studies into childhood diseases and women's healthcare. We're committed to encouraging the next great idea, championing our researchers to accelerate and advance medical breakthroughs and pioneer change.

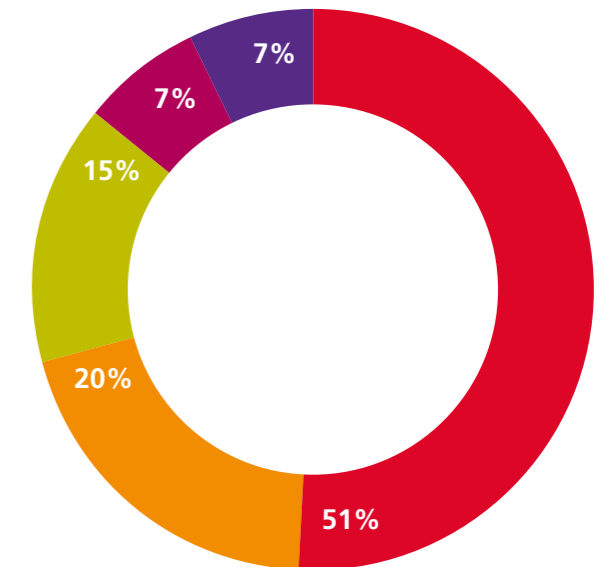
2022/23 Performance

The incredible generosity of our supporters allowed us to invest over £7.6million* in our hospitals last year.

Impact in 2022/23:

Developing Hospital Environments	£3,925,000
Research, Learning and Innovation	£1,515,000
Patient and Family Experience	£1,112,300
Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances	£562,800
Staff Education and Welfare	£539,600
Total Spend	£7,654,700

Impact Split:



* Based on first draft 22/23 accounts. Figures may vary from final published version



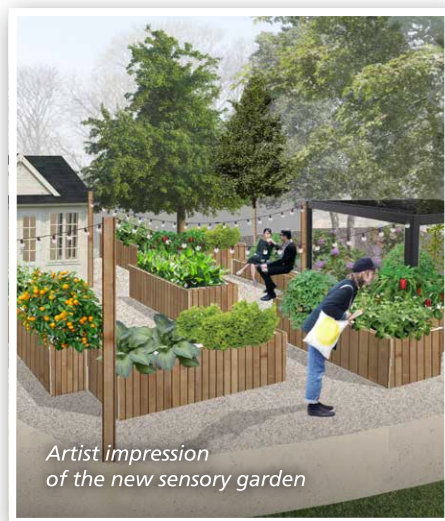
This year we've delivered some truly transformative projects.

Our impact couldn't have been possible without your ongoing generosity, love and support. Our patients, families and staff will be forever grateful. Thank you.

Patient and Family Experience

Making our hospitals less daunting for patients of all ages helps ensure our families have the best possible experience with us, from the minute they walk through the doors to the moment they leave.

Green Space Renovation At Parkview



Artist impression of the new sensory garden

Thanks to a transformative grant of £200,000 from NHS Charities Together, 10,000 square metres of unused outdoor space at Parkview, our Trust's youth mental health inpatient unit, is set to be overhauled.

Parkview cares for critically ill adolescents and young people struggling with a mental illness. This much-needed investment will create a therapeutic green space, including a sensory garden which will help combat stress and anxiety, a grassed area, an existing woodland, areas for outside therapy and a dedicated staff area.

The investment comes after NHS Charities Together launched a new 'Greener Communities Fund' with environmental charity Hubbub, funded by proceeds from the Starbucks five pence cup charge which has been in place since 2018.

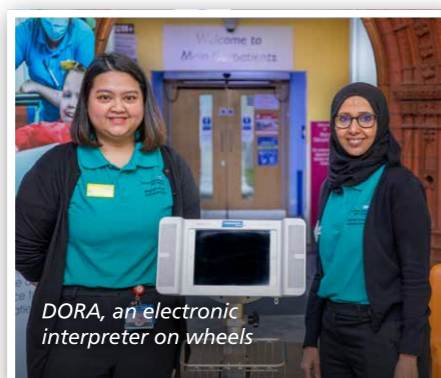
Patients at the 34-bed unit have repeatedly asked for a better outdoor space as the current space is limited, unsafe and largely inaccessible.

Once complete, the existing area will be totally transformed meaning patients and families, and for the first-time family pets, will be encouraged to meet outdoors, where they can play and have more normalised family interactions.

The current meeting spaces within the unit can feel quite clinical and often lack privacy. Family engagement in a more positive open area will not only support patients while at Parkview, but also ease their transition back home.

The work is planned to be complete by autumn 2023.

Language Support Services



DORA, an electronic interpreter on wheels

Thanks to charitable funding, our Interpreting Services Team was able to trial the use of DORA, an electronic interpreter on wheels which uses

FaceTime technology to provide language support to patient and families across our two hospitals.

Committed to ensuring our children, women and families receive excellent communication throughout their patient journey, the easy to use, portable device helps translate where English isn't a family's first, or best spoken, language. It covers 240 languages and offers 36 of these, including British Sign Language, via a video call, allowing patients or families to receive live translation 24 hours a day.

DORA has been praised for its ease of use, championing the improved experience of allowing doctors, midwives and nurses to understand and respect cultural differences.

The technology also received acclaim from doctors, who used the technology to assist them in gaining patient and parental consent, thereby enhancing their ability to make decisions quickly in important situations.

During the trial, DORA also assisted in a life-saving emergency helping a family understand the interventions of our clinical teams at a crucial time.

Following the initial 12-month charitable investment, our hospitals have since purchased 25 DORA machines making us the first NHS Foundation Trust in the UK to introduce interpreting on demand.

Exercise And Physical Activity Therapist



Inpatient Reece loved being part of the games

Being physically active and participating in sport and exercise should be natural for children and young people. However, clinical colleagues within our Children's Hospital's Haematology and Oncology Department have identified our cancer patients are less active than their peers.

Evidence suggests over 60 per cent of childhood cancer survivors do not meet the recommended exercise guidelines and following their diagnosis and treatment are at an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression and secondary cancers.

Sport plays a vital role in the physical, social and psychological wellbeing of our patients and is essential to their ongoing care, rehabilitation and long-term health. That's why, with the support of charity funding, our Haematology and Oncology Department has created the new role of Exercise and Physical Activity Therapist, filled by Harry Elliot.

Harry said: "Keeping active pre, during and post treatment can have significant physical, mental and psychological benefits. I'm honoured to have been appointed as the hospital's first Exercise and Physical Activity Therapist, working specifically within haematology and oncology.

"The purpose of my role is to educate patients and families on the advantages of staying fit during

treatment, to help reduce side effects and remove any fears or barriers about exercising while living with a diagnosis.

"The intention is to support patients to complete an eight to 12-week exercise programme, targeted to their needs, which helps keep them active and develops their confidence outside of the hospital. This will give them an overall improved quality of life."

One of Harry's first activities was to support with our hospital's second haematology and oncology games, also supported by our charity.

He said: "Our second haematology and oncology games were not only a great taster for our patients, allowing them to try lots of new and different sports, but it also helped get our young people out of their beds and put a smile on their faces."

One inpatient who took part in the games was 13-year-old Reece, who was diagnosed with Burkitt lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, nine months ago. For him the games offered some much-needed escapism from the ward. As mum, Donna, explains: "Before Reece's diagnosis he was incredibly active and loved swimming and dodgeball, but all of that had to stop. We have to visit the hospital regularly for treatment and often for long periods and so to be able to get out of his room and get some much-needed fresh air, this experience has been invaluable.

"He's absolutely loved taking part in the games and has thrown himself into trying all the different sports on offer. The whole experience has done wonders for his mental health and offered a chance to release some pent up energy and clear some mental tension. It's really boosted his confidence and we're very thankful to have been given the opportunity to get involved."

Mental Health Youth Club

Over £6,000 has supported a variety of youth club activities for long-term patients at Parkview.

Patients are, on average, admitted for four months, but in some cases this can be much longer. The clinic is therefore constantly looking for a range of high-quality activities to keep young people engaged and stimulated.

The funding has allowed youth workers to run 'Fitness for Mental Health' sessions where young people can learn new skills and take part in workshops led by external facilitators, such as musicians, theatre groups and artists, to enhance the existing informal educational opportunities already provided. It's also purchased arts and crafts equipment, cooking activities and games.

Importantly, our young people were consulted about how the money should be spent. This led to improvements also being made to the ward environments, with young people personalising areas to their own, as well as their peers', tastes and needs.

This simple act of empowerment has enabled the clinical teams to move beyond a 'provider-client' model to one in which young people feel encouraged. It's also equipped them with life skills such as communication, negotiation and budgeting.

With such a wide range of engaging activities now on offer, along with the added benefit of decision-making included, youth workers have reported higher participation by our young people, as well as positive outcomes in terms of moods and coping.

Residentials For Children With Inherited Metabolic Disorders

Children with an inherited metabolic disorder, which requires strict dietary treatment, are often socially disadvantaged as they need to severely restrict their protein intake. They're typically unable to eat 80 per cent of normal foods.

Social events involving food, such as childhood birthday parties, can lead to isolation and feelings of rejection, as many school friends and peers fail to understand the reason for their dietary treatment.

As a result, we've funded a number of weekend retreats in the West Midlands giving our Children's Hospital metabolic patients the opportunity to meet others with the same condition.

The children were grouped together based on their age and where they were in their journey.

The focus for the younger group was to educate them on their understanding of their dietary condition, making them more independent with calculating their daily protein intake and the importance of protein substitutes.

For the teenagers it was about supporting them as they transitioned into adult care. Crucially, these weekends were held with the adult hospital transition team, enabling our young people to meet those who will eventually take over their care.

The funding of these weekends is incredibly important. They not only provide a safe space for every child and young person to share their difficulties and challenges of living with a lifelong dietary condition, but they also allow understanding and caring friendships to be formed.

Supporting Women Who Have Experienced Stillbirth



A new clinic at our Women's Hospital has been launched to support families who've previously experienced the devastation of stillbirth or pregnancy loss.

The Rainbow Service, led by Dr Leo Gurney, cares for pregnant women who have previously suffered a loss, ensuring they receive additional specialist support and supervision.

Becoming pregnant after a stillbirth or neonatal death is an incredibly daunting prospect. Around half of all stillbirths are unexplained, leaving parents feeling powerless in a following pregnancy to prevent it from happening again.

Parents often have to endure the distress of having to explain their previous loss to health professionals over and over again.

Thanks to charitable donations, Dr Gurney and his team were able to set up the specialist clinic and purchase a Volusion E8 ultrasound scanner to be used exclusively to support these women.

This now ensures parents can be seen by the same consultants and midwives for each visit in a private space away from the main scanning department, helping to improve their care and experience during what is often an unsettling and emotionally demanding time.

Eye Care Liaison Officer

The Eye Department at our Children's Hospital cares for thousands of children every year from Birmingham, the West Midlands and beyond for a wide range of conditions, including nationally commissioned services like retinoblastoma and paediatric ocular oncology.

Thanks to charitable donations, we have funded a bespoke Eye Care Liaison Officer to support patients diagnosed with conditions causing sight loss.

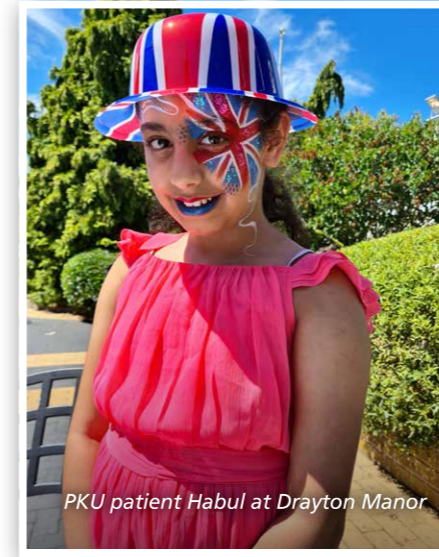
Our new Eye Care Liaison Officer, Talia Treen, provides critical emotional support, information and guidance to our visually impaired patients, and their families, from diagnosis and throughout treatment, making both the clinical and non-clinical journey a lot smoother.

This nurturing role offers much-needed comfort to families affected by sight loss at what is typically an emotionally overwhelming time.

Talia works with patients and families to improve morale, identify their needs, access information relevant to them and lessen the emotional load by helping them make informed choices which enable and empower them to maintain independence.



Drayton Manor Fun Day For PKU Patients



For the second year, we've been able to treat 80 PKU patients to a hospital-organised trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park.

Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a rare but potentially serious inherited disorder. Diagnosed at a newborn heel prick test, it affects about one in 10,000 babies born in the UK.

Our bodies break down the protein in foods, such as meat and fish, into amino acids, which are the 'building blocks' of protein. Any surplus amino acids are then broken down further and removed from the body. Patients with PKU cannot break down the amino acid phenylalanine, which then builds up in their blood and brain. This can lead to brain damage.

For many of our Children's Hospital PKU patients, their strict, low-protein diet greatly impacts their mental health as they often feel isolated.

The day trip included rides, face painting, entertainment and games, as well as specially catered low protein lunches and cakes.

It is invaluable for our patients to socialise with others living with the same diagnosis, as part of a rare but fun day out, without worry they'll be sick from the food provided.

Exploring New Ways To Support Our Adolescent Mental Health Patients

Charitable donations has allowed our youth mental health service, Forward Thinking Birmingham, to team up with Xploro, an award-winning health platform, to improve support for our adolescent mental health patients.

Xploro uses augmented reality, gameplay and artificial intelligence to deliver information to patients, in a way which makes them feel empowered and informed whilst having fun at the same time.

Avatars of the patient's own medical professionals, a mood diary and 3D augmented reality interactive models of hospital environments, equipment and processes all feature. It also uses language and scenarios patients understand and are familiar with to help reduce stress and anxiety, improve clinical outcomes and to help patients better self-manage their own healthcare.

Our patients, families and mental health professionals will be consulted to ensure the content is age-appropriate before the platform is launched before the end of 2023.

The Gift Of Time

Volunteers have been supporting our hospitals since their creation over 160 years ago. We're proud to still have a group of dedicated individuals who devote their own personal time to offer help, entertainment and guidance to patients and families during visits. This all-important resource allows our expert medical staff to focus on providing the best care and treatment.

At our Children's Hospital, volunteers help keep sick kids entertained in our A&E department, reassuring families and offering a much-needed distraction while they wait to be seen.

They can also be found inside the main hospital assisting with wayfinding to ensure patients and families get to their appointments on time.

In addition, they often take on the role of providing additional resources to the clinical teams to ensure patients and families receive the best experience possible. The introduction of five play and recreation volunteers has proven to be hugely successful, helping to keep patients entertained across the wards.

Over at our Women's Hospital, volunteers put together and deliver infant feeding packs to new parents and specialist breastfeeding support volunteers help new mums who wish to breastfeed. We also have an army of knitting volunteers who dedicate their time to knitting and selling their wares to benefit our hospital's Neonatal Department.

Volunteers also play a key role within our youth mental health service. Charitable funding has enabled the employment of a Youth Engagement Officer and a Volunteer Services Co-ordinator who have set up a new programme to support patients and staff at our community hubs as well as our inpatient clinic, Parkview.

Charitable support helps provide volunteers across our Trust with minimal expenses, such as travel, and allows our Patient Experience Team to recognise and thank them for their generous work.



Developing Hospital Environments

How our hospitals look and feel plays a big part in the overall experience of our patients and visitors, which is why we're constantly listening to feedback and transforming spaces to help put them at ease.

Baby Clinic Transformed With Fantastic Murals

The Baby Clinic at our Women's Hospital has been transformed into a bright and welcoming space for parents, toddlers and babies thanks to funds raised by one of our corporate supporters.

The clinic, which cares for premature babies until they reach the age of two years old, was in desperate need of a refresh. It is now a colourful marvel for our families to enjoy as they wait for appointments. All outpatient consultation rooms and office areas within the clinic have received the much-needed makeover.

The incredible designs featuring farmyard, space and underwater themes, are thanks to local artists Daniel and Adam, known as Mural Trader.

Feedback on the artwork has been fantastic, from patients as well as staff. We're so thankful to Hortons Estate for its fundraising to allow this project to happen, as well as Mural Trader for their creative designs.



New artwork has transformed our Women's Hospital's Baby Clinic



The new-look gamma camera room

Radiology Gamma Camera Room Transformation

Thanks to generous donations and support from our charity partners, the radiology gamma camera room in our Children's Hospital's Radiology Department is now a fun and bright place to be.

Ahead of a gamma camera scan, patients are injected with radioactive tracers which highlight the area of the body colleagues are trying to image. This process can be quite traumatic for patients, with children often feeling anxious, upset and daunted to enter the gamma camera room.

To help put patients at ease, we've transformed the space thanks to colourful murals and artwork on the walls. This has made it more welcoming and provided points of interest for children to look at ahead of their scan.

Plus, new equipment including TV screens and interactive projectors have been installed, helping to distract youngsters during their procedure. This has helped put their parents' minds at ease and made appointments a lot less scary and more straightforward.

Scan this QR code to learn more about the transformation of the room from Joanna Dias, our Nuclear Medicine Lead Technologist.



Tasmin Butt (left), Family Coordinator for Parent Accommodation and patient mum Sana Raja in the new-look space

Parent Accommodation Improvements

Offering a free-of-charge lifeline for parents and carers of an incredibly poorly child, or for those who've had to travel long distances, the parent accommodation at our Children's Hospital is a caring and comforting place where families can retreat for reflection and relaxation.

Thanks to donations from several kind-hearted supporters, totalling £118,000, including a generous gift in a will, we've been able to make three significant changes to our parent accommodation, outside our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

Firstly, the previous accommodation wasn't suitable for parents requiring wheelchair or easy access. We've totally transformed one of the spaces to create a large, single room with disabled access, complete with wet room.

This has now allowed us to house families with additional needs, as well as wheelchair-bound new mothers with their critically unwell baby, in comfort and dignity.

We've also refurbished and refreshed all other bedrooms.

Having a sick child and facing the reality of losing a loved one is incredibly traumatic. Families across our Children's Hospital desperately needed a space where they can emotionally recharge.

So secondly, an under-utilised office space has been converted into a new relaxation room, so parents can properly take some time out. This is predominantly used by families on our Paediatric Intensive Care Unit but is also open to families from across the hospital, not just those staying within our parent accommodation, on a referral basis.

The relaxation room, which boasts comfortable furniture, soft lighting, calming artwork and a water feature, also doubles as a family area, offering a much-needed space for siblings to have time with their parents away from the hospital bedside. This has helped reduce the consequences of ongoing separation of the family unit. This relaxation room will benefit 600 families each year.

Finally, we've reconfigured the Midwife's Room our parents use when staying with us and purchased some new wall art. The new furniture now allows couples to sit next to each other making it more suitable for staff and families to have face-to-face interaction at difficult times. The new Midwife Room will impact 260 families at our Children's Hospital every year.

Impact in Action: Liam Cuts The Ribbon On A Brand-New Changing Place

Thanks to this inspirational youngster and his family, we recently cut the ribbon on a brand-new Changing Places accessible toilet for patients and families.

Eleven-year-old Liam has been a patient at our hospital since 2016 after being diagnosed with leukaemia. During his treatment, doctors identified he also had a rare but serious condition called encephalitis, which left him with a lifelong brain injury.

The nature of Liam's condition means he and his parents, Andy and Kerry, now visit our hospital up to 30 times a year, for treatment from a wide team of specialists including our neurology, orthopaedic and upper limb service.

Identifying our disabled toilets weren't good enough for patients like Liam, with no suitable turning space for his wheelchair, sinks without adjustable heights and lengthy waits for a hoist to be located from around the hospital, dad Andy raised his concerns.

Andy's suggestions to improve were listened to and we now have a brand-new Changing Place inside Waterfall House, which has been part-funded by our charity.

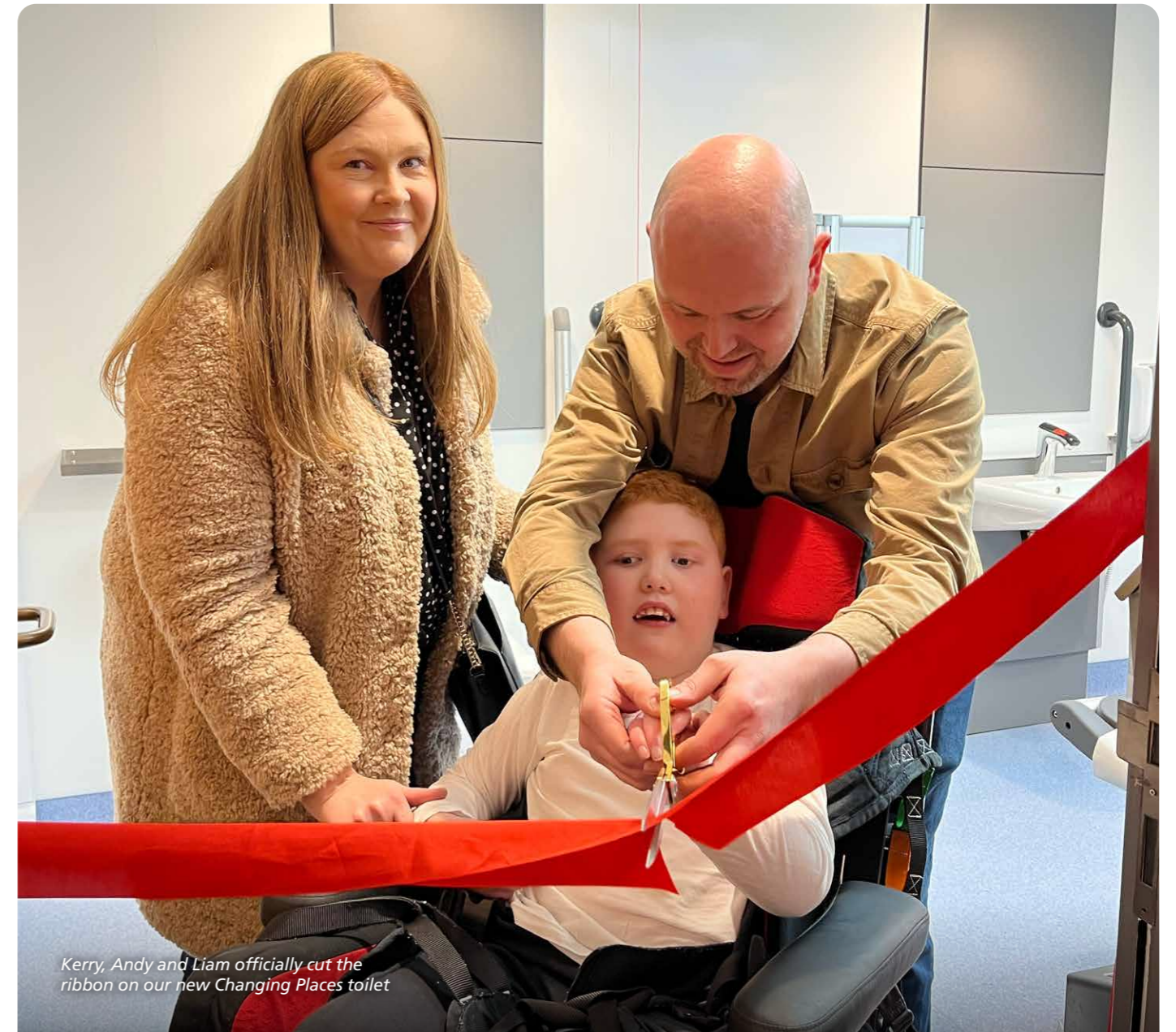
Andy said: *"We're delighted with the new space. It's a game-changer for Liam. Every day he faces challenges, but he can now go to the toilet with dignity when he's at the hospital."*

Andy and his wife Kerry were consulted at every step of the child-friendly refurbishment by our patient experience team and were involved in all decisions, including the choice of designs for the feature wall and ceiling, alongside our young person's advisory group.

Andy added: *"We've always previously felt isolated, but this new Changing Place will make a huge difference to Liam and other families like ours."*

"To finally have the dedicated space he needs, the same as every person should have, is incredible. We will be forever grateful our suggestions to improve were listened to."

Our first official Changing Place sets a new standard for us and we're now looking for other spaces around the hospital, which can be changed in the future to help even more families like Liam's.



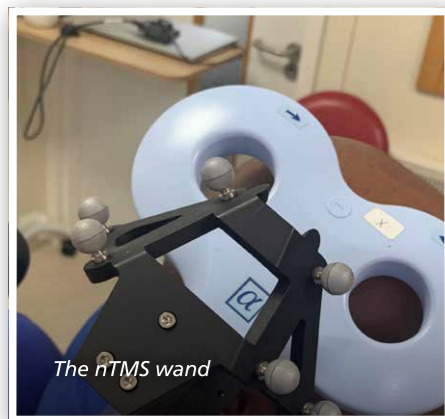
Kerry, Andy and Liam officially cut the ribbon on our new Changing Places toilet



Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

Charitable donations are vital to fund the latest and most-innovative equipment to help our doctors, nurses and midwives provide outstanding care. We continually strive to fund the most advanced and up-to-date medical equipment and support groundbreaking techniques.

Neurophysiology navigated Transcranial Magnetic Stimulator (nTMS) System Upgrade



The nTMS wand

Thanks to gifts from a number of donors, we've been able to help fund a huge upgrade on a state-of-the-art piece of neurophysiology equipment used to treat patients at our Children's Hospital who require brain surgery, helping to make it even more effective.

The equipment called a navigated Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (nTMS) system is primarily used on patients struggling with severe epilepsy or brain tumours.

nTMS is a completely safe, non-invasive and pain-free technology which lets our neuroscientists electrically stimulate the patient's brain using a wand.

The equipment also includes an EEG (electroencephalography) cap, which features electrodes which sit on the patient's head and record brain activity.

Both are used to map critical areas of the brain's function, such as movement, language and sensory abilities.

The vital information obtained is then used to determine if surgery is a viable option for the child and, if it is, allows our surgeons to plan a procedure that will protect brain function as much as possible.

The ability to use this technology is truly life-changing.

Language is a key area the neurophysiology team test in depth. It is especially important for elective surgery, like epilepsy, when surgeons and families weigh up the risks of operating, such as any adverse effect on their speech, and whether these outweigh the benefits.

To assess language, the team give patients various tasks and instructions, and whilst those are being completed, the team are able to observe where in the brain there is a response and how the brain changes, and then place a marker within the patient's own brain MRI.

As each task is completed, the team collects more and more data, and then brings it all together to create a full picture.

The team can then create a 3D map or model of the brain, which can predict and localise which part of the patient's brain is more active when using language, so surgeons can minimise the risk to language when operating.

The original nTMS system, which was also charitably funded, was purchased in 2020.

The first EEG cap featured 64 electrodes, but thanks to these latest generous gifts, we have been able to purchase a new, upgraded system, which now features 128 electrodes, providing enhanced and better-quality diagnostics.

The increased sensitivity of the equipment also opens the use of this technology to more children, who were otherwise ineligible to have this type of assessment.

We are one of only a few hospitals with access to this technology, and the only one using this kit to complete such in-depth language assessments.

Improving Middle Ear Hearing Tests

The Audiology Department at our Children's Hospital offers an extensive range of hearing assessments for children from birth to 16 years old. Each test is adapted accordingly to the patient's needs to give an accurate diagnosis.

To help the audiology team test for glue ear, a condition common in children which can cause temporary hearing loss, charitable funds have purchased two portable tympanometers allowing patients to now be tested on the wards or following surgery in theatre.

Previously, inpatients would either have had to be moved to the Audiology Department in Main Outpatients or go without the test if they were too poorly to move around the hospital.

A tympanometer is an instrument used to measure middle ear function. The purchase of these two specialist pieces of kit, one of which has a high frequency option which is vital for babies, has benefitted 15-20 patients a week. It has also sped up how quickly patients are diagnosed, improving experiences and treatments.

Ear, Nose and Throat Equipment Advances

The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department at our Children's Hospital is one of the largest in the UK, providing care for a variety of conditions from ear infections and neck lumps to profound deafness and major congenital malformations of the head and neck.

Every year the busy department receives around 9,500 outpatient visits and performs around 2,500 operations. In addition to its outpatient service, it also cares for patients across the hospital.

Over £35,000 has helped fund two vital pieces of equipment to improve care and treatment on the wards.

This includes a mobile, compact video endoscopy which now allows clinicians to examine babies on wards across the hospital. Prior to its purchase, if a baby was experiencing breathing difficulties it had to be brought to the clinic for review. This investment has therefore dramatically improved patient and family experiences and removed unnecessary stress or anxiety by allowing poorly babies to remain on a ward.

The department has also purchased a newer, state-of-the-art scope which is easier to handle and boasts razor-sharp images, with outstanding focusing abilities. Images captured by this new scope allow ENT consultants to communicate better with other clinical colleagues and gives parents a better understanding of their child's condition.

Both of these vital pieces of equipment have enhanced patient experiences, over and above what was previously being delivered.

Milk Warmers For Tiny Babies On Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Thanks to charitable donations totalling over £12,800, 12 special milk warmers have been purchased for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at our Women's Hospital.

These high-tech milk warmers supply body temperature milk to tiny babies, ensuring newborns receive gently and safely warmed human breast milk. This reduces the incidence of necrotising enterocolitis, a serious illness in which tissues in the intestine become inflamed and start to die. This life-threatening bowel condition affects premature babies and has high rates of mortality, reflux and apnoea.

The hospital previously had two milk warmers on loan, but they needed to be returned earlier this year.

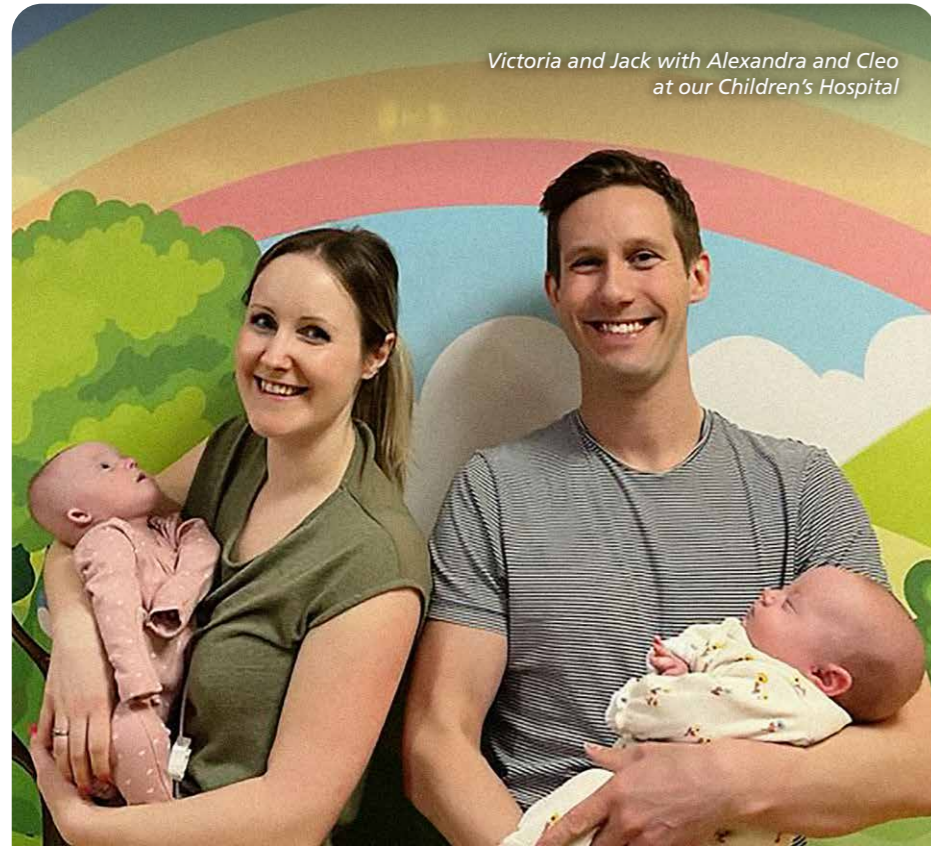
The two trial warmers totally transformed care for babies, reducing the need for surgery and medication as well as the length of stay in hospital for parents with newborn babies. They also helped reduce treatment costs.

The machines have been fitted in all 11 of the unit's clinical rooms, with the twelfth now located in the milk kitchen so babies are able to receive body temperature milk at every feed.

This has also reduced infection risk, stopping midwives having to leave the room six to eight times a shift to warm milk.

The use of these machines has and will continue to greatly transform the care newborn babies receive at our hospital.





Victoria and Jack with Alexandra and Cleo at our Children's Hospital

Impact in Action: Operating on tiny babies in our upgraded Laparoscopic Theatre

Alexandra's Story

Thanks to our charity, we've upgraded the Laparoscopic Theatre at our Children's Hospital, where surgeons deliver life-saving laparoscopic (keyhole surgery in the abdomen) and thoracoscopy (keyhole surgery in the chest) operations on some of the sickest children from across the UK.

The purchase of new cameras, ultra-high-definition monitors and lighting has enabled our surgeons to operate with greater accuracy, precision and safety than ever before.

One patient who has benefitted from the upgraded theatre is eight-month-old Alexandra, who spent the first five-and-a-half-months of her life in hospital.

Alexandra and her twin, Cleo, were both born with oesophageal atresia with tracheo-oesophageal fistula (OA-TOF). OA is a rare condition where the oesophagus (food pipe) has not formed properly. It does not connect to the stomach, but is instead abnormally connected to the trachea (windpipe), meaning food is unable to pass from the mouth to the stomach.

Unfortunately, OA-TOF cannot be diagnosed antenatally. The twins were born at 27 weeks and weighing just 790grams. It was then doctors discovered their condition.

Both girls required immediate surgery to repair the problem, which they had in Bristol at two-days-old. As Cleo only had a short gap between her oesophagus and stomach, surgeons were able to reconnect the two for her, which fixed the problem.

For Alexandra, however, her gap was a lot longer, meaning she would need further surgery. In the meantime, a tube was placed in her throat to suction her saliva.

Alexandra was then transferred to our Women's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she spent a

month, before she was moved to our Children's Hospital.

The condition of long gap oesophageal atresia is one of the greatest surgical challenges that exists in medicine today. Not only is the surgery technically difficult in a small baby, but the consequences of failure can be disastrous. Our surgeons knew the operation would be an incredibly complex one and they spent months planning. They used various investigations to calculate the exact gap between the top and bottom parts of the oesophagus.

They aimed to use thoracoscopy (keyhole surgery) to locate the top and bottom parts of the oesophagus and then to carefully place traction stitches in the oesophagus to literally 'stretch' the oesophagus to make it longer.

They knew this was potentially a very dangerous operation, but adding to its complexity was the discovery Alexandra's aorta (the body's largest artery) was on the wrong side of her body and positioned in the way of the two ends of her oesophagus. The distance from the oesophagus to the aorta was the width of a human hair. Even a millimetre mistake could spell disaster.

At four-and-a-half months old, Alexandra received the first of two operations in the newly upgraded theatre to reconnect her oesophagus and stomach. With the latest instruments, 4K screens and state-of-the-art facilities, surgeons had the best quality ultra-high-definition visualisation of Alexandra's anatomy, which was critical for this operation.

With such excellent imaging they were able to painstakingly dissect the oesophagus safely away from the aorta using 3mm instruments. In the first operation surgeons delicately separated the oesophagus from the aorta and placed fine sutures in the oesophagus to stretch the two ends.

Alexandra then lay sedated and ventilated in the hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit for five days whilst the ends gently stretched. She returned to theatre once more, where the stretched ends were sewn together using a tiny thread which is barely visibly to the human eye.

She returned to intensive care to heal. After an anxious five day wait for her family, Alexandra had a swallowing assessment using special x-ray equipment to see if the surgery had worked.

Finally, her parents were given the news they had been waiting for – Alexandra's operation had been a complete success and she had a new oesophagus and could swallow on her own at last.

She was able to go home a month later.

Mum, Victoria, said: "It's been an incredibly tough journey. For Alexandra to finally have had the surgery and be well enough to come home feels like a dream. We're so grateful for the wonderful care she's received at each hospital.

"There's still a long way for her to go, as she has lost the instinct to feed through her mouth, which she is slowly relearning. In the meantime, she is feeding through a gastrostomy. Both twins will need lots of support, so the Children Hospital will be somewhere we'll be visiting regularly for many years to come."

Mr Suren Arul, Alexandra's consultant paediatric surgeon, said: "None of this would have been possible without the cutting-edge technology we have in the upgraded laparoscopic theatre operating suite. It has allowed our hospital to be one of the premier units in the country for performing state-of-the-art minimally invasive surgery for children of all ages with a range of different conditions."



Consultant paediatric surgeon, Mr Suren Arul with Alexandra and Cleo

Suren Arul FRCS
Paediatric Surgery

Research, Learning and Innovation

Research allows our hospitals to pioneer life-changing and life-saving care and treatments, to better the future for generations to come.

Global Research Fund – Projects Into Gynaecological Cancer

Following last year's launch of our Women's Hospital Global Research Fund, we're delighted to share we're currently funding four studies into the treatment of ovarian cancer, the fifth-leading cause of death from cancer amongst women.

1. Integrating Liquid Biopsies Into The Management Of High-Grade Ovarian Cancer

Although most patients initially respond to chemotherapy for treating ovarian cancer, the majority will become resistant to it and will relapse within two years.

Unfortunately, there is currently no reliable test to accurately monitor a treatment's response or to detect early signs of disease relapse.

To address this, the Global Research Fund is helping researchers develop a new genetic blood test which can detect fragments of DNA secreted by cancer cells.

The project will determine whether this test could be used to monitor for resistance to treatments or early cancer relapse so appropriate treatments can be administered promptly to improve patient outcomes.

2. Prospective Study Of Intraoperative Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) To Treat Advanced Ovary, Fallopian Tube And Peritoneum Cancers

Clinical trials in other countries have demonstrated the additional survival benefit of administering heated chemotherapy (HIPEC) into the stomach after complete surgical removal of ovarian cancer.

HIPEC in ovarian cancer has not been evaluated in the UK, although its use in expert centres (including Birmingham) is supported.

Birmingham has one of the best ovarian cancer survival rates in the UK and HIPEC has the potential to improve this further. The Fund is supporting a study in which data from 25 patients receiving this technique will be carefully collected. Evaluation on risks to patients, safety of implementation as well as benefits will all be monitored to further investigate the efficiency of HIPEC in ovarian cancer cases.

3. Pilot Study For Secondary Cytoreductive Surgery In Patients With PARP-I Maintenance

Trials have shown removing tumours in a patient where ovarian cancer has returned, significantly prolongs survival rates when all the cancer can be removed.

However, this data was collected before the new anti-cancer drug, PARP inhibitors, were available.

Researchers don't yet know whether the impact of surgery on survival would be the same for those patients treated with these new drugs.

It's important for a patient not to receive unnecessary surgery if it's unlikely to improve their survival rate, so this new study will help define the additional value of surgery in women with relapsed ovarian cancer.

It will also collect data from patients whose ovarian cancer has returned with operable tumours and have received PARP inhibitors. It will then compare their outcome to women who don't receive surgery at all.

4. Characterisation Of The Steroid Metabolome In Mucinous Ovarian Cancer

Mucinous ovarian cancer, characterised by cells that are large and filled with fluid, accounts for three per cent of all women with ovarian cancer.

This cancer responds poorly to chemotherapy and currently, few successful treatments exist.

Previous research identified steroids in mucinous ovarian cancer are dysregulated and researchers now want to fully understand how the steroid hormones function.

If the investigation confirms the project's initial findings, the results will lead to the development of a large international study to accurately diagnose, monitor and treat women with mucinous cancer using steroidomics effectively.

Improving Care For Children With Bronchiectasis

A research study into the correlation between quality of life and outcomes for patients with bronchiectasis has begun at our Children's Hospital, thanks to charitable funding.

Bronchiectasis is a rare, long-term chronic condition where the airways of the lungs become widened, leading to a build-up of excess mucus which can make the lungs more vulnerable to infection.

Children with bronchiectasis suffer from significant morbidity due to frequent chest infections, which can result in a decline in lung function, as well as need for regular hospital visits and daily treatments to keep them well.

Currently, our hospital's specialist respiratory multidisciplinary team cares for 116 of these patients, many of whom live in the most deprived areas in the West Midlands.

The research study, conducted by our team who is recognised regionally and nationally for providing quality clinical care and conducting research, will formulate a quality-of-life

questionnaire based on one that already exists for patients with Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD), a closely related condition.

The proposed questionnaire will help measure the impact bronchiectasis has on both social and clinical domains in a valid, reliable, age-appropriate and informative manner.

The results will go on to improve treatments of both bronchiectasis and other respiratory diseases, as well as provide insights into how the quality of life of these patients can be supported and improved to further benefit their condition.

Hysteroscopic Classification For Endometrial Polyps

Charitable funding is enabling research to take place at our Women's Hospital into the use of hysteroscopy, a convenient and accessible outpatient test, to detect the nature of endometrial polyps.

Endometrial polyps are highly-prevalent structural abnormalities found in the uterus. Removal of these polyps has traditionally been recommended to treat symptoms of abnormal uterine bleeding or infertility.

Data is currently lacking to support the idea a polypectomy – a highly invasive and often painful treatment which regularly requires a general anaesthetic and long recovery periods – is effective in alleviating symptoms or offering a solution.

However, the need to remove polyps for further examination to rule out potential malignant or premalignant tissue is still a necessity, which is why this research has been developed to find a less invasive, safer way of diagnosing the nature of endometrial polyps.

Currently, to diagnose endometrial polyps, a hysteroscopy is conducted. While its use for diagnosis is foolproof, its efficiency for determining the nature of a polyp – whether it's likely to be benign or not – has received little attention.

This upcoming research will look at the accuracy and reproducibility of using a hysteroscopy to evaluate the nature of polyps which can then go on to inform clinical decisions.



Our Latest Appeals and Campaigns

Scan to find out more and watch our appeal video



iMRI Appeal



In March, we launched our £1.5million iMRI Appeal to bring leading-edge intraoperative MRI (iMRI) technology to our Children's Hospital.

Our hospital is home to one of the largest paediatric neurosurgical centres in the UK, but we are the only one without an intraoperative iMRI scanner.

An MRI becomes intraoperative when it has the specialist technology needed to allow the scanner to move to a patient on an operating table, or a patient to the scanner.

The benefit of an iMRI is it allows surgeons to obtain 'live' and up-to-date information about the brain and the position of a tumour.

Currently, a child is put to sleep and an MRI brain scan is taken to obtain the images needed by our neurosurgeons ahead of surgery. Once these images have been analysed, the child is given another general anaesthetic and the surgeons complete the operation.

During the surgery, the brain will change shape. This means the pre-operative imagery becomes outdated, leaving surgeons at risk of not removing all the tumour.

Within three days of the operation, the child is put back to sleep again (for a third time) for a subsequent MRI scan to assess whether the surgery was a success. If the MRI reveals some of the tumour has remained, the surgeons evaluate whether a second operation is required or whether to keep the tissue under review, causing additional stress for our patients and their families.

Occasionally, our surgeons consider carrying out an off-site intraoperative MRI. When this happens the child is put to sleep and the surgery started. Midway through the operation the child, still anaesthetised, is moved from the operating theatre on the second floor of the Children's Hospital to the ground floor to receive an MRI scan.

If the scan confirms the tissues have been cleared the child is woken. If the scan shows some tumour remains, the child is moved back up to the second floor to return to theatre.

An off-site intraoperative MRI adds unnecessary, agonising hours to the process. This extra time could be avoided if we had our own bespoke iMRI scanner.

By making our iMRI Appeal a reality we will be able to improve surgical outcomes for our patients, eliminate follow-up scans, vastly reduce the need for a second operation - sparing patients and families from another lengthy procedure and unnecessary stress - reduce a patient's time in hospital and increase our neurosurgical team's capacity to perform additional operations.

Find out more about our iMRI Appeal by visiting bch.org.uk/imri or scanning the QR code above.

Five Years Of Waterfall House

It's been five years since our state-of-the-art building, Waterfall House, home to our Paul O'Gorman Children's Cancer Centre and the UK's first paediatric Rare Diseases Centre, opened its doors for the first time.

The building itself was only made possible thanks to our incredible supporters, who helped us raise £7.65million collectively across our two appeals; the £3.65million Star Appeal to open the Rare Diseases Centre and the £4million Children's Cancer Centre Appeal to help make our new oncology centre a reality.

During this time, Waterfall House has welcomed a number of exciting visitors, including HM The Queen who unveiled our fantastic Roald Dahl-inspired windows, kindly designed for us by Sir Quentin Blake and funded by charitable donors.

Back in 2019, the outside courtyard hosted a private gig from pop-rock band The Vamps, thanks to the band's lead singer, Bradley Simpson, a brilliant supporter of our charity, who donated a piano for our patients to enjoy.

Waterfall House serves as a reminder of the real-life impact charity money has on our hospital and just how endless the possibilities can be.

This state-of-the-art building has enhanced the experience for our oncology and rare diseases patients, as well as our staff and will continue to do so for many years to come.



Pop-rock band The Vamps

Work Progresses On Our Baby Loss Bereavement Centre

We broke ground on our Women's Hospital's standalone bereavement centre, Woodland House, last summer after reaching the £3million appeal target.

Since then our building contractor, BSN Group, has been busy working to clear and level the site, adding a retaining wall, laying the foundations and connecting a private corridor from the maternity unit and much, much more.

As a result, our first-of-its-kind baby-loss bereavement centre is fast becoming a reality in front of our eyes and with good progress being made, we anticipate it will be complete late autumn.

If you would like to follow the build, you can visit: bwh.org.uk/woodland-house-build, where we are regularly adding new pictures of the construction site's progress.



The steel framework going up for Woodland House



Theatre troupe Oily Cart performing to patients on our Oncology Ward

The Power Of The Arts

There is overwhelming evidence arts and creative projects can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of patients, families, visitors and staff, as well as being hugely important to improve the hospital and enhance a patient's experience. This is why we're proud to be fully funding an arts programme, benefitting both of our hospitals, called Enjoy Arts.

It's widely recognised art eases patient anxiety and stress, which in turn can reduce the length of a patient's hospital stay, as well as the need for painkillers. A colourful or bold space is also known to boost staff morale, increase communication between patients and carers and improve the hospital environment, creating an overall more positive experience.

Enjoy Arts aims to do this through art in all its forms across our two sites to create inviting, relaxing and less clinical spaces, which allow patients and families to feel relaxed and comfortable during their time with us.

It also engages with local artists to give them the opportunity to express their talents in an area that will be appreciated by so many.

In addition to musical arts programmes such as B'Opera, opera for babies and young children, Giggle Doctors and Singing Medicine, through Enjoy Arts we've also recently funded productions such as Oily Cart, an accessible storytelling session, upgraded tired and outdated areas and started to improve our signage across our Children's Hospital to aid patient and visitors' navigation through our corridors.

We've also upgraded the artwork within our Women's Hospital's infant feeding room on NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) and are also embarking on a photography project within the hospital's antenatal clinic to ensure the imagery on the walls is reflective of our patients.

If you'd like to help us continue to inspire, engage and entertain our patients and their families through Enjoy Arts visit bch.org.uk/arts.

Impact in Action: Changemakers

Top Business Leaders And Companies Come Together To Transform Lives

Business leaders and companies from across the Midlands have come together to transform the lives of sick kids at our Children's Hospital.

Whanau Advisory, a consultancy which helps build high-growth companies, founded by Gymshark Non-Executive Director Steve Hewitt, The Rigby Foundation, established by entrepreneur and founder of the Rigby Group Sir Peter Rigby and leading recruitment firm Pertemps are just some of the well-known

names who have formed our visionary Changemakers network.

With a passion to be part of a collective change for good, the Changemakers have committed, in the first year, to support our newest fundraising appeal, already pledging £400,000 to help bring an intraoperative MRI (iMRI) scanner to the hospital. You can read more about the appeal on page 20.

CEO, Mark Brider, said: "We are delighted to have brought together this group of philanthropists, leaders and businesses who have a shared passion for making a positive impact on the younger generation. With their collective business experience, resources and

extensive networks, we know we can drive more pioneering projects at our hospital, which will further support our brilliant team of doctors and nurses as they care for over 90,000 young patients every year."

Other Changemakers include the Francis family, led by Ben Francis, founder and CEO of Gymshark, who is also Patron of Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital Charity. They are joined by other Midlands-based businesses, including Redbrain, Azets, DSM Demolition, Thomas Franks Ltd, as well as Alan Lusty, CEO of adi Group, and his family, plus many more. A full list of all Changemakers is available on our website bch.org.uk/changemakers.



Our founding Changemakers



Gifts in wills are an incredible way to invest in the health of future generations. Big or small, each special gift helps us to continue to innovate, by investing in the latest, life-saving treatments and equipment, or by creating exciting and comfortable family-friendly spaces. We would like to thank the following visionary supporters who left us a gift in their will in 2022/23:

- Valerie Barnish
- Iris Dewkes
- Philip Edward Ewington
- Stanley Gilbert
- Mrs Doris Irene Grady
- Peggy Hirst
- Thomas Christopher Horne
- Clare Humphries
- Margaret Kinnear
- Beryl Lamb
- Kevin John Maun
- Janice Mary Morgan
- Dorothy Helen O'Malley
- Mary Peplow
- Pauline Beryl Ivy Smith
- Rosemary Jean Stokes
- Ronald Keith Timmins
- Doris May Ward
- Carol Ann Ward
- Peggy Wickens

Our Donors and Supporters



It is with grateful thanks we've been able to achieve everything we have in the last financial year. These names recognise those of you who have gone above and beyond raising over £7,000 for our charities. We also extend an enormous amount of gratitude to everyone who donated anything at all to support our two fantastic hospitals.

Thank you



- adi Group
- Amazing Feet Running Club
- Amros Golf Event Management
- Azets
- Baron Davenport's Charity
- Birmingham Women's Hospital Knitting Group
- Birmingham Women's and Children's Vital Services
- BSN Group Ltd
- Calor Gas
- Carter the Brave
- Castle Fine Art
- CLEFT
- Collection4Clothes
- Connexions Consulting
- Druids Heath Golf Club
- Emma Hill and The Magic of Milly
- Experienced Energy Solutions
- EY
- Friends and Family of Annabel Greenhalgh
- Game on Sports Therapy
- Gymshark
- Hafele UK Ltd
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- JRA Ltd
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- Lyreco UK Ltd
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- Matalan - West Midlands Region
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- Miller Homes - West Midlands Region
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- Mr and Mrs Edwards
- Mr Andrew Reeve
- Mr E Broster
- Mr Guirish Solanki
- Mr J Addison
- Mrs C Dunn
- Mrs Jean Jefferies
- National Running Show
- NHS Charities Together
- Our House Rave
- Pertemps
- Phenna Group
- Phoebus Software Limited
- PKA Legal Ltd
- Presley Adams and Family
- Primark
- Redditch Golf Club
- Seren Price
- Sigma Financial
- St Francis Group
- Talbots Law
- Team Eleri
- Team Florence River
- Tesco
- The Abley Family
- The Azaylia Foundation
- The Bullion Room
- The Davis Family
- The Entertainer
- The Fox at Shipley
- The Francis Family
- The Loppylugs and Barbara Morrison Charitable Trust
- The Lusty Family
- The Marok Family
- The Rigby Foundation Charitable Trust
- The Saintbury Trust
- The Sanders Family
- Timmy Stott and Ammie Clift
- Wates Construction
- West Bromwich Building Society
- West Midlands Trains
- Whanau
- WSP UK



Help Us Continue to Make a Difference

Our hospitals transform the lives of women, babies, children and families across the UK and beyond, but they can't do the amazing things they do without you.

Whether you're an individual looking to raise money for us, a business who has chosen our Women's Hospital as its charity of the year, or a trust who wants to support a specific project at our Children's Hospital, we're just a phone call or an email away from beginning your charitable journey.

Want to help make a difference right now? Here's a few things you can do to support our amazing hospitals, staff, patients and families.

Make A Donation

Whether you're able to give £5, £500 or £5,000, a single or regular, monthly donation allows us to support our patients and families where it's needed the most. Find out more at bwh.org.uk/donate or bch.org.uk/donate.

Leave a Gift in Your Will

Help us write the story for future generations by leaving us a gift in your will. You will be joining visionary supporters who have been writing our hospitals into their wills for over 160 years. To help us better the care for years to come, visit bwh.org.uk/gifts-in-wills or bch.org.uk/gifts-in-wills.

Our office is open between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. To get involved or to speak to our team, please use the following numbers and email addresses:

Birmingham Women's Hospital Charity:

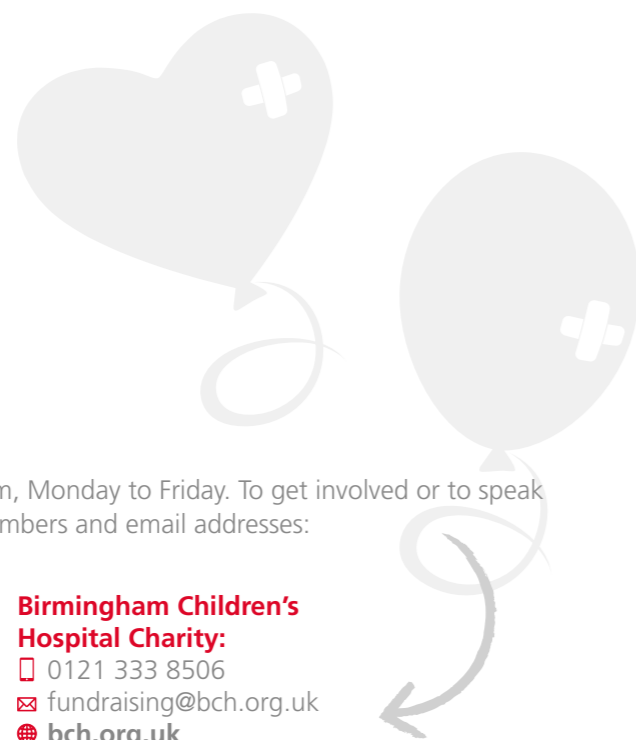
☎ 0121 333 8506
✉ fundraising@bwh.org.uk
🌐 bwh.org.uk

Sign Up To An Event

Whether you fancy taking on a challenging trek, running a marathon or cycling across the length of the country, we have an event for you. We offer a number of charity places for some of the best events across the UK, or you can sign up to complete one of your own. Find the perfect challenge for you at bwh.org.uk/events or bch.org.uk/events.

Register For Payroll Giving

Payroll Giving is a smart, simple and tax-effective way to give straight from your pay cheque every month. By signing up to Payroll Giving, you can make every payday even better by knowing your payslip is helping support our fantastic hospitals. Get in touch using the contact details below to find out more.





Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital Charity
5 Rowchester Court, Whittall Street, Birmingham B4 6DH
A registered charity in England and Wales

Registered Charity Number 1160875

