



# Impact Newsletter

Winter 2022



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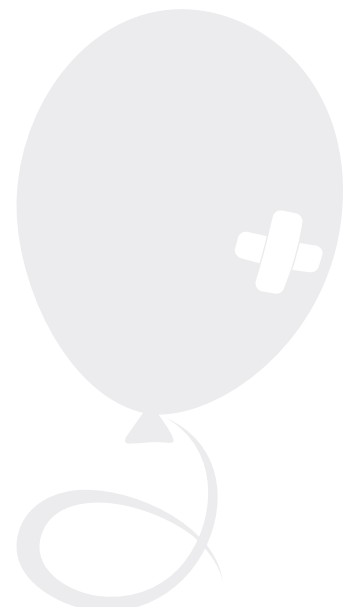
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# Foreword

**I'm delighted to welcome you to our latest Impact Newsletter. Each new issue brings with it an opportunity for us to shout about the amazing impact you've had across our hospitals.**

This year, our magnificent Children's Hospital celebrated its 160th birthday. Whilst we marked this huge milestone, we also reflected on the hospital's incredible history and were once again reminded how integral our charity has been since day one. From gifts in kind - such as donations of time, toys, cots and medical equipment - to game changing sums of money which were vital to keep the hospital going, it is abundantly clear how, from the very beginning, fundraising has been at the heart of our hospital. Something that still very much rings true today, both at the Children's as well as the Women's.

With this in mind, we wanted to highlight how invaluable your financial support is and the real-life difference charitable donations have across our hospitals. Simply put, you enable our hospitals to transform lives. Your kindness translates into improved care for our patients and families by enabling the purchase of life-saving pieces of equipment as well as home comforts. Each and every donation has a real ability to change our patients' lives for the better and, for that, we will be eternally grateful.

It was also an incredibly exciting summer across our hospitals as you will find out on the

following pages, but also for the city we call home. The spotlight well and truly shone on Birmingham with the arrival of the Commonwealth Games and we were delighted to see our city come to life. A number of our amazing supporters took part in the Queen's Baton Relay and we played host to one of the Perry the bull mascot statues outside our Children's Hospital which brought a number of visitors, new and old, to see it. The Children's Hospital also kick-started the final leg of the official Queen's Baton Relay, passing through the hospital on route to the Alexander Stadium for the Opening Ceremony.

When Perry left, we welcomed a monumental 14ft balloon dog sculpture, created by artist Whatshisname, to the front of our Children's Hospital thanks to our friends at Castle Fine Art. The permanent installation has helped us on our mission to make the entrance more child-friendly and welcoming. Our Women's Hospital entrance has also had a refresh and now proudly displays our prestigious purple heart corridor, highlighting our top charitable supporters who have made it their mission to support our women, babies and families. I hope you can pop along sometime soon to see it and maybe even spot yourself.

As we look to a fresh new year, which we know also brings lots of uncertainty and worry about the impact of the cost of living crisis, I would like to say another huge thank you for your ongoing support. You ensure our hospitals can continue being at the forefront of what is possible in terms of medical breakthroughs as well as patient experience. Thank you for helping us to transform lives.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Brider', written in a cursive style.

**Mark Brider**

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

# Four Priority Areas

Our charities have been of paramount importance to our hospitals since their inception.

From 1842 (for the Women's) and 1862 (for the Children's), each hospital's foundations lay within charitable donations and fundraising. An ethos which remains steadfast today as we proudly help our hospitals deliver exceptional care and treatments beyond what the NHS alone can provide. Our support reaches all corners of our hospitals, with a particular focus on these four priority areas:



## Patient and Family Experience

Our patients and families are at the heart of everything we do, so making sure they receive the best experience possible is of the utmost importance. Charitable funds go towards providing bedside entertainment and funding roles dedicated to making each stay as relaxed as possible for everyone.



## Developing Hospital Environments

We fund projects to ensure our hospitals are inviting and safe. This includes updating tired wards and replacing outdated furnishings, to creating calm and relaxed spaces where staff, patients and families can take time away from the hustle and bustle of the hospitals.



## Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

As centres of excellence in paediatric and women's healthcare, we're committed to ensuring we provide the latest and most innovative technology and equipment to help our colleagues provide the best care and treatments possible.



## Research, Learning and Innovation

Our hospitals are leaders in their fields, steering pioneering research to better the future of women, babies, children and families across Birmingham, the West Midlands, nationally and beyond. Charitable funding has delivered some of the most advanced research in childhood diseases and women's healthcare, as well as funded programmes to support staff education.

# 2021/22 Performance

Thanks to the incredible generosity and hard work of our supporters, we've been able to spend over £3.5million to help boost patient and family experience, improve our hospitals' environments, purchase new and innovative equipment and fund groundbreaking research.



## Topline Impact for 2021/22:

Patient and Family Experience	£1,081,000
Developing Hospital Environments	£123,000
Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances	£1,929,000
Research, Learning and Innovation	£462,000

## Impact split:

Patient and Family Experience

Developing Hospital Environments

Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

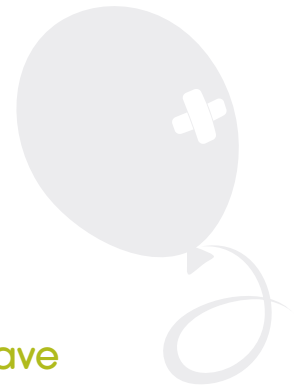
Research, Learning and Innovation



We couldn't have such a fantastic impact without your support. This money has gone on to fund some amazing and life-changing projects and for that, we are forever thankful.



# Patient and Family Experience



We're dedicated to making sure our patients and families have the best possible experience at our hospitals, from the minute they walk through the doors to the moment they leave.

## Tannoy System

When patients visit our hospital for outpatient appointments, they often find themselves in a busy waiting area with lots of background noise, which can make it difficult for them and their parents to hear when their name is called. This is especially true for patients with hearing impairments.

We learnt families were regularly mishearing their name, resulting in them feeling disappointed and frustrated. Nurses also had to shout to be heard over the noise, which made the child feel anxious ahead of their appointment.

To improve patient experience, charitable funds have paid for a new tannoy system in our main Outpatients Department. Since its arrival, families have reported they now feel more relaxed and able to play while they wait, as they know they will hear their child's name being called no matter where in the department they are.

The speed at which families now get up once hearing their name also means there are less delays to the running of clinics.

This new system has also limited the risk of patients missing appointments.

## Haematology And Oncology Games

We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of young cancer patients to our inaugural Haematology and Oncology Games this summer, supported by our charity, to demonstrate the benefits sport can have on health and recovery.

Our children and their families gathered at King Edward's School in Edgbaston to try their hand at a range of activities including hockey, footgolf, canoeing, climbing, orienteering and boccia.

We also held a smaller session in the courtyard of Waterfall House at our Children's Hospital for our oncology inpatients as well as those attending outpatient clinic. For many, it was their first chance to leave the ward in weeks and brought some much-needed distraction and fun.

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. However, patients and families often feel they're not able to participate in these activities for many reasons, including the fear of fatigue and injury.

The games helped to show them sports can be accessible and provided an idea of the resources available to them.

## Patients Strut On The Catwalk

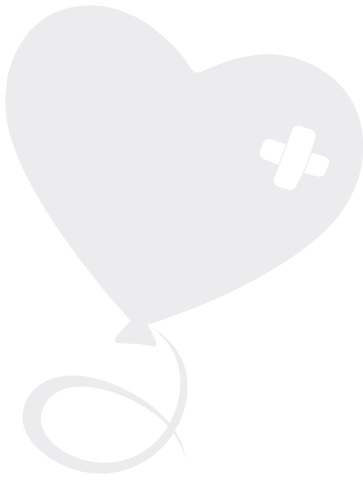
Twenty patients from our Children's Hospital took their turn strutting their stuff on the catwalk at an adaptive clothing fashion show, supported by our charity.

People with physical disabilities often find themselves at a disadvantage when shopping for clothes, with mainstream high street stores not catering for their needs and specialist retailers creating unflattering and unstylish garments.

This is what led Ms. Andrea Jester, Consultant Plastic Surgeon at our Children's Hospital, to get in touch with the School of Fashion at South and City College Birmingham to see if its students could support with a special fashion show.

The show not only uplifted and empowered her patients, but also raised awareness of the need for more adaptive clothing within the fashion community.

One of the patient models who took to the runway was 15-year-old Evie Jones from Shrewsbury (pictured on the right), who had her left foot amputated after developing sepsis. She said: *"Naturally I have my ups and downs as well as insecurities about my disability. However, being part of this fashion show was a turning point for me and made me want to celebrate my differences."*



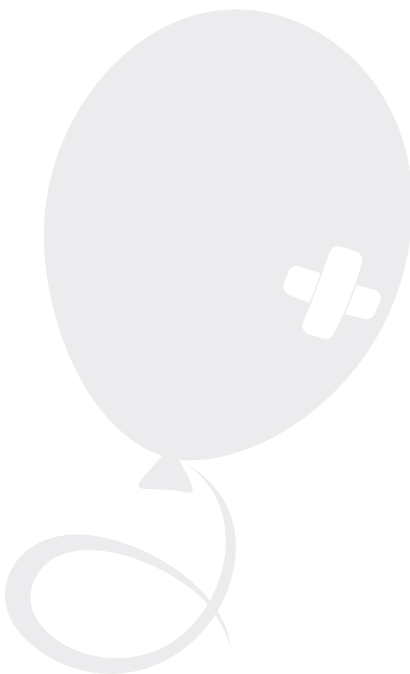
## Singing In The Wards

Music and entertainment is a big part of daily life at our Children's Hospital and something our charity has always supported.

During the pandemic, much of this activity was paused to keep our patients safe, but as restrictions lifted we were pleased to welcome back the wonderful Singing Medicine and Rhythm Time teams to our wards again.

These sessions, funded by our charity, use a holistic approach to recovery through music.

Both teams work with our sick kids to support and enhance their wellbeing through singing-play, as well as getting our patients moving and supporting their speech and general development. Our kids absolutely love them.



*A patient enjoying the Haematology and Oncology Games in the Waterfall House courtyard*



*15-year-old Evie models at our adaptive fashion show*



*Our patient enjoying a Singing Medicine session*

# Developing Hospital Environments

How our hospitals look and feel has a big impact on the experience of our patients and families, which is why we're committed to developing spaces that put them at ease and make them feel comfortable.

Over the past six months we've been able to transform several spaces across our two hospitals, thanks to the generosity of our fantastic supporters.

## Birth Suite Gets A Refurb

Charitable donations have helped overhaul the Birth Centre and induction of labour suite at our Women's Hospital.

The £30,000 refurbishment saw new flooring, wall panelling and furniture added, including reclining chairs and cots. The changes have been well received by staff and women as they previously felt the environment was unwelcoming and needed investment. As a result, patient experience has dramatically improved and the environment is more comfortable, allowing ladies and their partners to be more independent whilst waiting to birth.

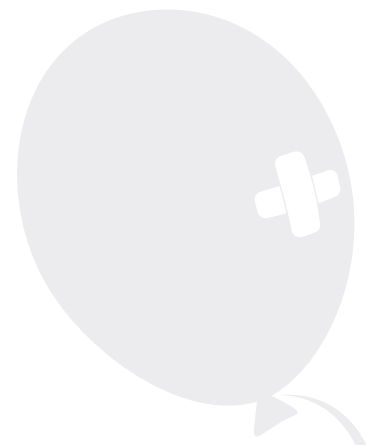


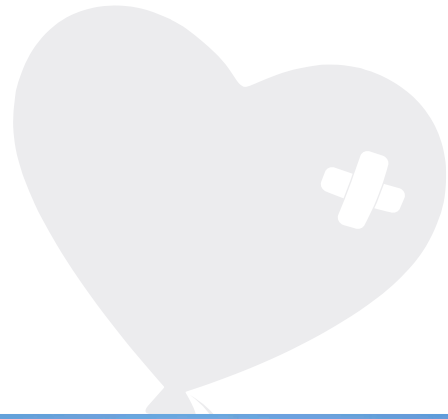
## Women's Hospital Wellbeing Igloo

Hard-working colleagues at our Women's Hospital can now take time to relax and recoup, thanks to a new health and wellbeing area which has been partly funded by our COVID-19 Rapid Response fund. The area includes an outdoor igloo, where colleagues can get some fresh air and be close to nature – important for good mental health – as well as soft furnishings, lavender diffusers and motivational artwork.

Staff wellbeing rooms have also been upgraded to include massage chairs, relaxation pods and new kitchen accessories.

The reaction from colleagues has been wonderful and there are lots of plans in place to expand the area, host wellbeing and art-therapy sessions and put into place more ideas from the staff themselves.





## Magical Journeys Project In Full Flow

Conversations with patients, families and visitors highlighted a need to improve the navigation around our Children's Hospital, in particular within Waterfall House, home to our Paul O'Gorman Children's Cancer Centre and Rare Diseases Centre.

Thanks to our charity, the 'Magical Journeys' project has seen the introduction of new, vibrant and clear directional signs in lift lobbies as well as fun artwork in stairwells. Both now easily lead visitors of all ages and languages to their destinations, as well as creating a more child-friendly and welcoming environment. It also encourages those who are able to take the stairs.

The project, which saw patients, families and staff work together with artists to create the inspired designs, also introduced new window graphics on Ward 19 for our stem cell patients, who need to be kept in isolation due to the sensitivity and high-risk nature of their treatment.

The new artwork offers them a colourful and engaging piece of art to enjoy during their stay. Similar artwork is in progress on Ward 18.

The project has also expanded to update Waterfall House's exterior courtyard area, which will soon be embellished by a new sculpture made from recycled materials, exploring and implementing the idea that artwork can also be used as landmarks for navigation.



## Meet Our Stretching Balloon Dog

We recently unveiled a brand-new art installation in the form of a monumental red balloon dog outside our Children's Hospital for our patients, families, visitors and staff to enjoy.

The 14ft tall sculpture was created by artist Whatshisname, otherwise known as Sebastian Burdon, and was generously gifted to the hospital by long-term charity partner and supporter Castle Fine Art.

One in a collection of four similar pieces, 'Stretching Balloon Dog' is based on polish-born Sebastian's own pets and has arrived at the hospital following acclaimed exhibitions in Oxford and London's Covent Garden.

The aim of Sebastian's canine creation is to spread joy and happiness by mixing party balloons with the natural yet hilariously exaggerated and mischievous behaviour of dogs.

The giant, bright-red, yoga-posing sculpture is a welcome addition to the Children's Hospital's main entrance, helping to instantly create an inviting and relaxed environment. Our kids absolutely love him and his arrival has had a huge impact.

# Impact in Action: Haematology and Oncology Games

## Our charity supported our Children's Hospital's first Haematology and Oncology Games for patients.

The games showcased a number of different sports, from canoeing to climbing, with the aim of demonstrating the benefit sport can have on their health and recovery.

Former patient, 12-year-old Amelia Eldred (pictured bottom left on the opposite page), found being active massively helped her. Amelia was diagnosed with osteosarcoma of the left femur – a tumour in her left leg bone. She had been having pain in her leg, particularly at night, but it wasn't until she had an x-ray after fracturing it the tumour was discovered.

It was a tough time for her, especially as she was such an active girl, enjoying ballet and tap dance regularly.

Amelia was an inpatient at our hospital for 10 months for intensive treatment and struggled to do physical activities because she was unable to put weight on her leg. She was eventually told the best option for her recovery would be to have an amputation.

She worried she'd never be able to walk again, but surgeons were able to perform a rotationplasty, an innovative operation which resulted in her ankle joint now

functioning as her new knee. After being fitted with a prosthetic leg, there was no stopping her.

Amelia's first goal after finishing her treatment was to dance, which she started again with the support of her crutches. As her confidence in using her prosthetics has grown, so has her list of activities. The use of a blade means she can now run and an adapted trike has allowed her to cycle.

She is now back doing the hobbies she loves including dancing, trampolining and cheerleading.

She credits these activities as supporting her in her recovery, both physically and mentally, and was a champion of the games and the message it spread to other children receiving treatment.

Amelia said: "People tell you to stay positive but that can be hard, so I tried to focus on what used to make me happy, like my dancing, and once I was able to do that again I was excited about the future.

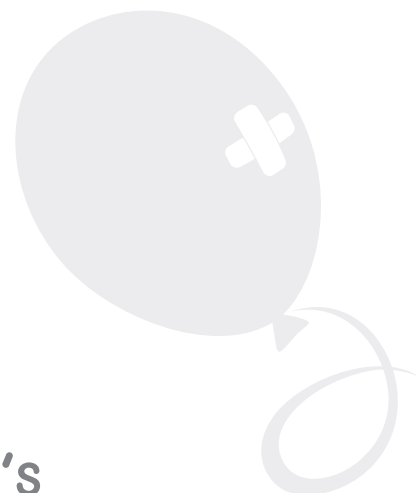
"The games were great, because they were able to show patients there's no reason they can't be normal kids and try exciting activities.

*It was a fun and welcoming experience and I hope it encourages other kids to do more sport."*

Helen Woodman, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Haematology and Oncology at our Children's Hospital, and one of the organisers of the games, added: "We were so happy to be able to host our inaugural games with the support of the charity.

*"When a child has an illness such as cancer, families rightfully want to do all they can to protect their loved one. But, when the child is well enough, sport can do wonders for their wellbeing. Being active is essential to their ongoing care, rehabilitation and long-term health.*

*"These games acted as a taster for our families, to showcase just what is on offer to them, and encourage them to explore sports when they feel ready."*





*Patients, including Amelia, taking part in the Haematology and Oncology Games*

# Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

Ensuring our staff and patients have access to the latest and most innovative equipment is something we're hugely passionate about. As well as bettering the services we can provide day-to-day, equipment advances allow our expert doctors, midwives and nurses to deliver less invasive treatments in a more effective and efficient way.

## Transforming Our Laparoscopic Theatre

Thanks to charitable donations, our Children's Hospital's original laparoscopic theatre will soon be receiving a makeover.

Our expert 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.

These surgeries require the most state-of-the-art equipment. But, unlike the theatre inside our newer clinical building, Waterfall House, the laparoscopic theatre in our main hospital is 10 years old and in urgent need of investment.

The new theatre will allow our surgeons to continue performing miracles right across our hospital.

A £50,000 appeal was launched and the target reached in a matter of months. Along with support from the Trust, the theatre is now set to receive its transformation. Money raised from the appeal has allowed the purchase of cameras, monitors and lighting, which will improve the surgeons' ability to deliver critical, video-assisted surgery to our

patients using instruments that measure no more than 3mm in width.

Using such tiny tools has many benefits to patients, including reduced post-operative pain as well as less scarring, thanks to the smallest incision on the outside. It also means patients get home to their families faster, often in less than 24 hours compared to what previously would have been three days.

This investment allows our surgeons to continue pioneering new and innovative procedures, currently not available to all our patients as we didn't have the permanent technology to support it.

Mr Max Pachl, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, said: *"I'm delighted we're on our way to creating our brand-new laparoscopic theatre. When our surgery opened 10 years ago, it was one of the very first high-definition laparoscopic operating suites for children in the UK.*

*"The equipment we've been using all this time is still the same today, yet the technology has moved on. Without investment some of our most vital procedures would have become impossible, meaning patients would have been forced to travel to other*

*hospitals further away. I'm so pleased this now doesn't have to be the case.*

*"Once the new theatre is up and running, the ultra-high-definition quality TVs will allow us to continue operating with greater accuracy, precision and safety than ever before."*

## Octopus Visual Field Analyser

Thanks to an incredible gift from a generous donor, we were able to purchase an Octopus Visual Field Analyser machine for our Children's Hospital's Eye Department.

The machine tests how well a patient can see using their peripheral vision, checking to see if they have any blind spots. This test is essential for children with glaucoma or neurological problems to check their condition hasn't spread or is progressing at a worrying rate.

Children with glaucoma lose peripheral vision before they lose central vision if their eye pressure is not controlled. Peripheral field loss is often the first presenting sign and can lead to early detection and prevention of further loss of vision.

It is a similar story for patients with neurological problems. The Octopus Visual Field Analyser is essential



Octopus Visual Field Analyser in use



to detect subtle early neurological changes which can help make management decisions about a child's condition and prevent loss of vision. It also helps to give a broader understanding of what a child can see, which is important for families and teachers to understand so they can maximise the patient's learning and rehabilitation.

Until the new equipment was purchased, the team were relying on a 30-year-old machine to complete the same test. Once top of the range, the now discontinued appliance was outdated and, due to it no longer being on the market, parts that weren't working were difficult to replace and not readily available.

Since the purchase of the Octopus Visual Field Analyser, the test is now much faster to complete making it a lot easier and less-tiring for unwell patients. It is also automated so the same test conditions can be repeated again and again, meaning it's much easier for clinicians to monitor the progression of diseases more accurately.

We're incredibly grateful to the wonderful donor who made the purchase of this machine possible.

### **Intraoperative Ultrasound Scanner**

Our Children's Hospital is one of the UK's leading paediatric neurosurgical centres, performing more than 550 operations a year.

Thanks to charitable donations, we were able to purchase a brand-new piece of equipment which has helped to improve outcomes for patients receiving treatment from our highly-acclaimed neurosurgical team.

The new intraoperative ultrasound scanner is used predominantly in brain tumour, epilepsy and hydrocephalus operations, but its application also extends to surgeries for brain haemorrhage, infection, blood vessel diseases, spinal tumours and spina bifida. The scanner informs the surgeons of the precise location of the abnormal tissue during surgery.

In addition, as the operation progresses, it provides live, real-time information about the tumour, vessels and anatomical structures surrounding it. This additional information allows the surgical team to modify the procedure accordingly to improve outcomes.

The purchase has meant the team can be more confident in achieving the surgical aims, be it a complete resection of a brain tumour or accurate placement of a brain catheter, reducing neurological risks to patients.

As a result, charitable donations have drastically improved outcomes for patients, reduced surgery time and the rate of return to theatre, as well as decreased a patient's time in hospital post-surgery.

Mr William Lo, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon, said: *"The new intraoperative ultrasound scanner has transformed the way we perform brain and spine surgeries. The area we operate on is dynamic and changes throughout the procedure and the high-quality, live images allow us to maintain safety, precision and efficiency. Thanks to our generous donors, we've been able to drastically change outcomes for our brave patients."*

*"Acquiring our own intraoperative ultrasound scanner, and developing our expertise in it, means we continue to be at the forefront of providing comprehensive neurosurgical services to our children."*



*Lottie whilst  
in hospital*

# Impact in Action: Lottie's story

The brand-new intraoperative ultrasound scanner at our Children's Hospital can be used mid-operation, allowing surgeons to check and assess the progress of their work in real time. This means patients can stay under anaesthetic in theatre so surgery can continue if necessary, reducing the need for further operations and therefore speeding up recovery.

One brave patient who has already benefitted from this innovative piece of equipment is Lottie.

When Lottie developed a continuous headache, fever and pains in her neck, her mum Sarah feared she might have meningitis. The staff at their local A&E department initially suspected the normally bright, energetic 12-year-old was suffering with a migraine or virus.

However, over the course of the following week Lottie's condition continued to deteriorate and she began to struggle to walk and talk. Eventually a blood test showed high levels of infection and she was admitted to hospital in Warwick. She began treatment for suspected bacterial meningitis until a CT scan revealed an infection of the sinuses and a subdural empyema - an intracranial infection - at which point she was transferred as an emergency to our hospital.

Lottie had an MRI which showed that in addition to the empyema, there were also abscesses in her brain.

*"I had convinced myself Lottie had meningitis, which is obviously something all parents dread,"*

remembers Sarah, *"but when the consultant came to tell us it was actually much worse, our whole world just fell apart."*

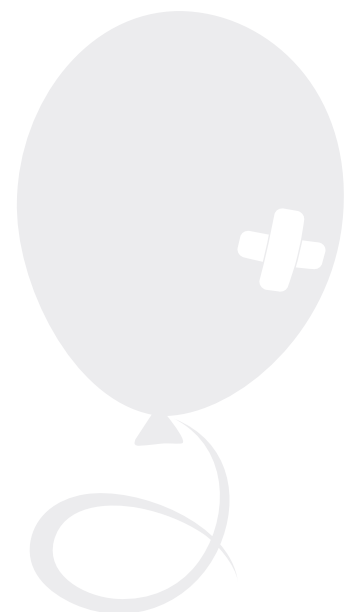
The life-threatening infection meant Lottie required immediate brain surgery. *"She was whisked into the operating theatre where she received an eight-hour operation,"* continued Sarah. *"Those were the longest hours of my life, but thankfully the brilliant surgical team were able to drain the infection and save her life."*

Unbeknownst to Lottie and her family, the neurosurgical team had just taken delivery of the new intraoperative ultrasound scanner. Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon, Mr William Lo, used the new piece of equipment to accurately identify the location of Lottie's empyema and abscesses and adequately drained them using real-time images obtained during the operation.

Unbelievably, after being so ill, Lottie made a speedy recovery following her surgery. *"We knew as soon as she asked for a baked potato with beans she was getting better,"* laughs Sarah. Lottie can't remember much about her ordeal, which was the result

of an undiagnosed sinus infection. Thankfully, she recovered quickly and, inspired by the wonderful donors who funded the kit that helped to save her life, she decided to raise funds to say thank you to Mr Lo's team. She raised over a staggering £42,530.

Lottie added: *"I feel very lucky the doctors and nurses were here for me when I needed them. I'd also like to say thank you to the people who funded the equipment. Their kindness and generosity helped me through the worst time of my life and will go on to help so many other children."*



# Research, Learning and Innovation

Charitable funding supports breakthrough research projects to better the future for generations to come.

## Partnership Creates Next Generation Of Leaders In Childhood Cancer

We're delighted to announce we've joined forces with University of Birmingham and The Azaylia Foundation in the UK's fight against childhood cancer.

Our partnership has collectively committed over £560,000 to co-fund two, fully-funded clinical PhDs in paediatric oncology, helping to create the next generation of leaders in childhood cancer.

Five new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed every day, yet it receives less than 3% of all cancer research funding. This much-needed investment will provide expert clinicians, under the title of the Azaylia Childhood Cancer PhD Fund, the opportunity to complete groundbreaking, world-class research into the early diagnosis of childhood cancer and more importantly, find new and gentler treatments to improve survival rates.

Professor Pamela Kearns, Professor of Clinical Paediatric Oncology at University of Birmingham and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: *"We're delighted to have funded the first two Azaylia childhood cancer clinical PhD scholars in paediatric oncology, thanks to an outstanding gift of over £280,000 from The Azaylia Foundation, which has been match-funded by University of Birmingham and Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity. Parents always want to know, 'why did my child get cancer?' and 'can you cure my child?'. We are now in a*

*strong position to extensively research the answers to these questions."*

Mark Bridger, charity CEO, said: *"Research into childhood cancer is essential to improve survival rates and discover safer treatments. It's an honour to partner with both our friends at University of Birmingham and The Azaylia Foundation to co-fund these much-needed paediatric oncology clinical PhD roles. Our collaboration will help create the next generation of leaders in childhood cancer and positively change the experiences and outcomes for our brave patients and families."*

Dr Anindita Roy, a trustee for The Azaylia Foundation and Associate Professor of Paediatric Haematology at the University of Oxford, added: *"Paediatric oncology clinician scientists are rare. The Azaylia Childhood Cancer PhD Fund is a hugely positive step in facilitating change as now those who have seen first-hand the devastating realities faced by young cancer patients will be able to take their insights and ideas into the laboratory and then back into clinical practice."*

The launch of the Azaylia Childhood Cancer PhD Fund celebrated the one year anniversary of The Azaylia Foundation, a charitable organisation created by Ashley Cain and Safiyya Vorajee following the tragic passing of their daughter, Azaylia Diamond Cain, of leukaemia in April 2021.

The Azaylia Foundation's immediate ambition is to help fund up to 10 clinical PhDs across the UK within two years.

## Birmingham Women's Health Global Research Programme

Our charity is pleased to have launched the Birmingham Women's Health Global Research Programme. Its aim is to promote research and education for the improvement of general women's health and for gynaecological cancer specifically.

The programme is currently in the recruitment phase and is open to senior members of staff with research experience employed by Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust or the Pan-Birmingham Gynaecological Cancer Centre. Projects could include clinical trials, laboratory and clinical experimental medicine, hypothesis-driven data collection, tissue banking and qualitative studies or the dissemination of research to shape practice.

## West Midlands Regional Children's Tumour Registry

Charitable donations have helped fund the Registry Manager role for the West Midlands Regional Children's Tumour Registry (WMRCTR). Established at our Children's Hospital in 1984, it's one of only three specialist paediatric cancer registries in the UK.

The registry has been vital in underpinning epidemiological, pathological and aetiological studies and has been involved in establishing incidence rates and trends in childhood cancer across the region.

The registry brings together a wealth of clinical data and evidence which both

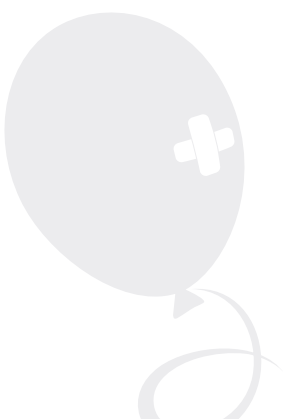


demonstrates and pays testament to the improvements in cancer care for children across the region. From the beginning of the registry until now, there has been an improvement in survival rates for children with cancer from 25% in the 1960s to over 85% today.

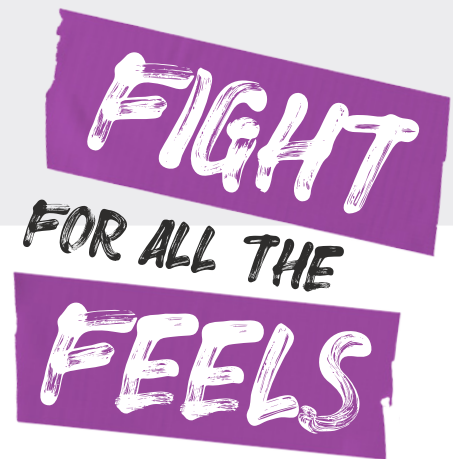
The registry has played an important role in supporting this remarkable journey, allowing teams to advance their knowledge and understanding of childhood cancers, leading to numerous research developments and publications which have ultimately contributed to the development of more effective treatments and improved outcomes.

Research output off the back of the registry has contributed to the understanding of cancer risk across the West Midlands. It has also helped recognise new cancer syndromes, identify underlying genetic abnormalities and evidence of higher cancer risk in ethnic minorities, maximising survival rates and quality of care for these patients.

The role of the Registry Manager, since 2011, has been to maintain the detailed and meticulous records added to the registry by a team of dedicated registration staff.



# Our Latest Appeals and Campaigns



## Brilliant Feedback For Our Peer Support Workers

Our Fight For All The Feels charitably-funded mental health peer support workers are having a huge impact on the communities they're supporting.

Since the programme was established, Forward Thinking Birmingham (FTB), our Trust's unique mental health service for children, young people and young adults, has employed seven peer support workers in full and part-time positions within its Early Psychosis Team.

Another three have been appointed within FTB's Eating Disorder Service. One final peer support worker has been employed within FTB's Community Mental Health Hubs. The intention is to fulfill 20 posts (full and part-time).

Our peer support workers are all aged between 16 and 24 years old and come from the same communities and backgrounds as the young people they're supporting. Many of the roles have been filled by young men, an audience typically one of the hardest to reach, meaning it has opened up a fresh route in for young people to access and engage with the service.

The programme allows the peer support workers to sit alongside clinical teams, providing patients and families with a sense of understanding and hope that can only come from a peer who has walked in their shoes and learned to thrive.

The peer support workers are available as a direct point of contact for young people at every stage of their mental health journey – from referral, throughout treatment and during the discharge period.

Initial reports show the peer support workers have had a positive impact on patients and delivery of care. Patients have reported individual one-on-one sessions with the workers have positively impacted their recovery.

The roles have added further structure to a patient's recovery pathway, as talking with a peer is motivating and increases engagement in care. The time the workers have spent with patients has helped build their confidence to complete everyday tasks that had previously caused great distress, such as getting on a bus, attending group meetings and even getting a job.

The programme is now serving as a blueprint to be rolled out across the UK. Its impact has been shared with providers contracted through Birmingham City Council, partners of University of Birmingham and with those connected to the programme's training partners. The university is also exploring the potential for peer support workers to be embedded into its mental health student support services. In turn, FTB will then model its success with three other Birmingham-based universities.

Furthermore, anecdotal feedback from clinicians and patients has shown the peer support programme has improved support for patients' social recovery and engagements, improved support for carers and also improved staff morale as peer support workers free up valuable clinical time.

**To find out how you can continue to support the brilliant work of our peer support workers, visit [fightforallthefeels.org](http://fightforallthefeels.org).**



*Kirsty Stapledon, a peer support worker with our Eating Disorder Service*

## Patients Benefit From Virtual Reality

Over the past year, we've been funding the trial use of virtual reality (VR) headsets during minor medical procedures to help children deal with the stress and anxiety they can cause.

Virtual reality uses computer simulation to enable children to interact with an artificial visual environment which can be anything from walking with dinosaurs to flying through outer

space. Delivered via a headset, VR can distract patients from pain and anxiety and in some cases can replace the need for sedation or anaesthetics.

Starting with an initial 10 headsets, the trial has shown VR has huge benefits both for patients and families as well as our staff, saving time, money and most importantly ensuring our children are relaxed,

happy and able to deal with a range of otherwise difficult procedures. Following its initial success, we are now seeking to raise £105,000 to lease our own headsets to support patients across our hospital.

**To find out how you can support this project, get in touch with our team (contact details can be found at the back of the newsletter).**



## Ground Broken On Woodland House

Work has begun on our brand-new bereavement centre at our Women's Hospital, Woodland House.

Woodland House will be a standalone support centre, the first of its kind in the UK in a hospital setting, where families facing the unthinkable can come together to process the significance of their loss away from the hustle and bustle of busy wards. Thanks to our kind supporters and donors, we have raised enough money to officially break ground on the site where Woodland House will be.

The sod-cutting ceremony was attended by some of our bereaved families, who have been instrumental in the shaping of Woodland House, along with some of our key supporters who have helped to make this centre possible. They were joined by colleagues at the hospital, who have championed the need for

better aftercare for families going through this tragic experience.

Our proud hospital Chief Executive, Sarah-Jane Marsh, welcomed all the attendees before the first shovel went into the ground. She said: *"This is a momentous day for our hospital and we will be eternally grateful to everyone who has donated and allowed us to make our vision for Woodland House a reality.*

*"As a society, we have been silent on the subject of pregnancy and baby loss for too long and our bereaved families deserve better. Woodland House is a force for change, championing improved bereavement care locally, nationally and internationally, and we are exceptionally proud to be the first hospital in the NHS recognising and honouring loss in this way."*

Building works are anticipated to be complete in autumn 2023.

When finished, Woodland House will feature separate and private access from the hospital.

It will boast bespoke counselling rooms, a private garden, a large communal lounge area for support groups and a family room with its own private access and garden. It will also have a private and sensitive viewing room for families returning to see their baby, offering them the opportunity to spend time with their loved ones in comfort and serenity.

Fundraising will continue for Woodland House, a 100% charitably funded resource, as building starts and beyond to make the centre a home away from home where bereaved families can forget about their surroundings.

**Stay up-to-date on the latest news about Woodland House at [bwh.org.uk](http://bwh.org.uk).**



(L-R) Senior Bereavement Midwife, Alison Rea, Charity CEO, Mark Brider, Trust CEO, Sarah-Jane Marsh, Lynette Parkes and Leon James

# Impact in Action: Matthew's story

Being in hospital is an incredibly worrying time for our sick kids and their families. Unsurprisingly, this anxiety can mean our expert doctors and nurses sometimes struggle to perform simple procedures such as take bloods, change dressings, insert a cannula, put in stitches or relax patients ahead of surgery or anaesthetic.

A number of successful trials across our Children's Hospital has proved using virtual reality (VR) technology can significantly decrease stress levels and reduce discomfort during minor medical procedures.

A child can be instantly transported into a lifelike, three-dimensional world where they can – for a short period of time – forget about why they're in hospital and the medical procedure they're about to receive.

Our patients said they didn't realise the procedure had happened, and the experience of using the VR headsets was 'really fun'. Parents too were overwhelmingly positive and incredibly relieved, adding it was reassuring to see their child looking relaxed and it was 'a great way to make procedures less daunting'.

These pilots have also shown how virtual reality can meaningfully improve clinical outcomes too, including quicker and safer completion of procedures and treatments, less medication, increased compliance to treatment and care plans and shorter stays in hospital.

## Meet Matthew

One of our young patients who has benefitted from using VR is eight-

year-old Matthew. Matthew has colitis, a painful and debilitating condition that causes inflammation of the digestive system. He needs to visit us every four to six weeks for infusion treatment in which medicine is delivered via a cannula into his bloodstream. For Matthew, who also has autism, hospital visits have been incredibly difficult.

Matthew's mum, Bella explains: *"Matthew's condition means regular treatment is vital, but for a long time even getting him through the hospital door was a huge challenge. He found the whole experience terrifying. When he knew he had an appointment he'd become so anxious he'd resist getting into the car, which meant we were always late. In hospital he'd kick and scream at the staff and often needed sedation before anyone could get near him to insert the cannula tube. The stress impacted directly on his condition and made it worse. It was horrible for everyone, especially Matthew."*

Thankfully, help was at hand in the shape of Emma from our play team who worked with Matthew on strategies to cope with his anxieties. *"Emma built a wonderful, trusting relationship with Matthew and suggested using virtual reality*



Matthew has benefitted from our VR headsets

as one way of helping him get through his treatment," says Bella.

*"It's hard to explain what the use of VR has meant for Matthew. It's like the difference between night and day," says Bella. "Emma used a mindfulness setting which transported him to a beach with waves breaking on the sand. He was completely absorbed and the nurses were able to insert his cannula in a matter of minutes. VR has totally transformed his hospital experience and the fact he is so much less anxious also means his condition has improved."*

The use of VR can have huge benefits for patients, families and our staff, saving time, money and most importantly ensuring that our children are relaxed, happy and able to deal with a range of otherwise difficult procedures.



# Help Us Transform Lives

It's only thanks to you we're able to help transform the lives of our patients. If you'd like to continue making a huge difference to our hospitals, here's a few ways you can get involved.

## Give Monthly

A monthly donation allows us to plan how we can support our patients and families for months to come. No matter how big or small, every pound makes a huge difference. Sign up to donate monthly today at [bwh.org.uk/donate](https://bwh.org.uk/donate) or [bch.org.uk/donate](https://bch.org.uk/donate).

## 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.

## Leave A Gift In Your Will

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

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 email away from beginning your charitable journey.

## 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](https://bwh.org.uk/events) or [bch.org.uk/events](https://bch.org.uk/events).

Our Children's Hospital 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:



Emma and Matthew

## Birmingham Women's Hospital Charity:

☎ 0121 333 8506  
✉ [fundraising@bwh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@bwh.org.uk)  
🌐 [bwh.org.uk](https://bwh.org.uk)

## Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity:

☎ 0121 333 8506  
✉ [fundraising@bch.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@bch.org.uk)  
🌐 [bch.org.uk](https://bch.org.uk)

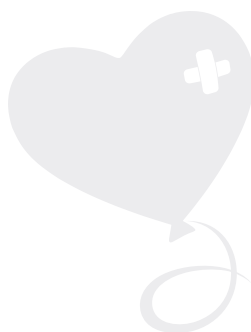


# Our Donors and Supporters



It is with grateful thanks to you we have 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 £5,000 for our charities, but we also extend an enormous amount of gratitude to everyone who donated anything at all to support our fantastic hospitals.

## Thank you



- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- Max Ali
- Amazon Ltd
- Aston Villa Foundation
- The Azaylia Foundation
- Azets
- Barclays HGM Ltd
- Baron Davenport's Charity
- The Beefy Boys
- Bristan Group Ltd
- Mr Broster
- The Bullion Room
- CAF - Give As You Earn
- Cawley House
- Charities Trust
- The Charlie Ramsey Research Fund
- Lucy Chatting and Carter the Brave
- Ms Clarke and Mr Clives
- The Cook & Wolstenholme Charitable Trust
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- Festus Fearon
- FP McCann
- Ben and Robin Francis
- Lottie Fascina
- John Frawley
- The G J W Turner Trust



We would also like to thank the following visionary supporters who left us a gift in their will in 2021-22:



- The Garfield Weston Foundation
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- The Grimmitt Trust
- Gymshark
- Aisha Hamzah and Jo Matthews
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